



Upcoming Events

December 1

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Greenfield**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 3

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Denison (a.m.)/
Sanborn (p.m.)**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 4

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Algona (a.m.)/
Osage (p.m.)**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 5

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Dayton**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 8

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Mt. Pleasant**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 9

**Municipal Electric & Gas Utility
Regional Meeting, Maquoketa
(a.m.)/Independence (p.m.)**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

December 10 & 11

**Water Lab Workshops
(two separate workshops)**

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>

High visibility apparel required starting November 24



◆ All IAMU member utilities are reminded that as of today, November 24, 2008, the new federal regulations (ANSI/ISEA 107 – 2004) regarding the use of high visibility safety apparel become effective. As of today, all of a utility's/city's employees who work within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway and are exposed to traffic or construction or maintenance equipment within a work area are required to wear either Class 2 or Class 3 ANSI/ISEA 107 – 2004 high visibility apparel. All Iowa Interstate and primary (state route designation) highways, as well as many county roads and city streets, are federal-aid highways for the purposes of compliance with this regulation.

In addition to utility crews, the regulation also applies to such workers as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews and incident responders (such as ambulance crews and other Emergency Medical Service providers, fire crews, tow truck operators and law enforcement personnel when performing duties such as directing traffic, investigating crashes or handling lane closures or obstructed roadways and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers). It should be noted that new language exempting firefighters, EMS providers and law officers from wearing the high visibility apparel in certain circumstances has just been drafted. For the Interim Final Rule from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), use this link: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27671.htm>.

High visibility safety apparel is divided into three classifications: Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3. It should be noted that original language in the ANSI 107- 2004 regulations required that utility workers should wear Class 3 apparel. These designations were based on the speed of motor vehicle traffic in or near a work area. When the final regulations were published, reference to vehicle speed was dropped – therefore, utility crews may legally wear either Class 2 or Class 3 high visibility apparel, at the discretion of the utility/city. Class 2 apparel is for use in all daylight conditions; Class 3 apparel (which features additional striping on garments' legs and arms) is designed for use in low-light, twilight and nighttime conditions.

Any utility or city still needing information regarding the new high visibility apparel regulations, or contact information for businesses that sell the apparel, should access the Iowa Department of Transportation's web page on the subject: <http://www.iowadot.gov/construction/vests.htm>.

IAMU associate member G and L Clothing carries a full line of high visibility apparel. Contact Rex Coble at 515-883-1277 or rex@gandlclothing.com.

Record Safety Group dividend distribution approved



◆ At their November 19 meeting, members of the IAMU Insurance Committee authorized a record distribution of \$2.46 million. Safety Group participants will receive their share of the distribution in January. Last year's distribution was \$2 million.

The Safety Group program was started 27 years ago. Through the group, 445 of IAMU's 541 member cities purchase their property, casualty, liability, and workers compensation insurance from Des Moines-based EMC Insurance Companies. When losses are lower than the actuarial estimates upon which the discounted rates are based, the group receives a dividend. Over the life of the program, the Safety Group has earned a total of over \$31.6 million.

Insurance Committee members include Leon Rodas (Spencer), Allen Bonderman (Atlantic) and Lori Glanzman (Mount Pleasant). The Safety Group Insurance Advisor and the moving force behind the origin of the group is Bob Jester of Jester Insurance Services.



Leon Lamer to retire from Marshalltown Water Works

◆ After 28 years of leading the Marshalltown Water Works as CEO/General Manager Leon Lamer has announced his retirement, effective December 31.

Lamer has led the water works through many plant upgrades and has had a role in many other utility programs over the years. He is a past president of the Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee and will continue his civic organization work. He is the president-elect of the Marshalltown Rotary Club.

Lamer said he is confident about the future of the Water Works, saying "It's in great hands right now." IAMU members are invited to attend a retirement send-off party December 11, 4 – 7 p.m. at the Fisher Community Building, 709 S. Center St., Marshalltown.



Ted Vorwald, who has announced his retirement from Fairbank Municipal Utilities and IAMU's Water Safety & Training Committee, was honored with a cake at the Water and Wastewater Operator's Workshop. He was joined by his wife Jan.

Budget set, committee appointments as Board meets

◆ The IAMU Board of Directors met on November 21. The Board heard the report of the Independent Auditor for the year ending February 28, 2008 and adopted a draft of the budget for the next fiscal year, which begins in March 2009. A copy of the audit is available to members upon request.

The board approved the appointment of Pat Howey (Aurelia) to the Electric Safety & Training Committee and Brad Robbins (Pleasantville) and Lorne Rich (Mount Pleasant) to the Water Safety & Training Committee.

The Board agenda included discussion of energy policy positions of the association updates on several studies, including the energy efficiency potential assessment and renewable energy potential assessments ordered by the General Assembly.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Brian Geschke (New Hampton), Jim Hoyer (Rock Rapids), Bob Sewell (Milford), Jim Krieg (Cedar Falls), John Bilsten (Algona), Dave Kalkwarf (Marion), Craig Hall (Brooklyn), Darrel Wenzel (Independence); Diane Lucas (Breda); John Hays (Washington); and Pat Stief (Traer).

Logel to retire from MPW; LoBianco named new GM

◆ After 42 years of service at Muscatine Power and Water (MPW), General Manager Jay Logel will retire February 1, 2009. The utility has also announced that Salvatore (Sal) LoBianco will take over the General Manager post.

Mr. Logel started his career with MPW in 1966 and has held various management positions with a wide variety of duties and responsibilities. He was appointed General Manager in 1998, and has held that position since. He has served on IAMU committees and the IAMU Board of Directors, where he was Board President in 2001. He has also served utilities through involvement with the American Public Power Association, Associated Employers Board and the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool. He has also been very active in local community affairs and has served on the Boards of the Muscatine Development Corporation, the Muscatine Chamber of Commerce, the Muscatine Center for Social Action and is currently serving on the Board for Muscatine Unity Healthcare Systems.

LoBianco will become General Manager of MPW January 1, 2009. He has been an employee of MPW for the past 28 years, joining the utility in 1980 as a mechanical engineer. He has served in several capacities over the years, including Manager, Power Generation; Manager, Engineering and Construction; Communications Utility Project Manager; and Director, Telecommunications Development. His most recent position was Director, Generation and Telecommunications.

Record attendance at Water/Wastewater Workshop

◆ The IAMU Water and Wastewater Operator's Workshop made its return November 18 –20, and set a new utility member attendance record of 226. A number of speakers presented the wide array of subjects in the different "tracks" (water treatment, water distribution and wastewater) that the workshop is known for, and many vendors allowed for networking and promotion of products and services. Plan now to be on hand for the next Operator's Workshop in November 17 – 19, 2009.

The Water and Wastewater Operator's Workshop again featured many speakers, including Dave Millard of Brewer Engineering (left), Mike Maguire, Iowa Dept. of Public Health (center) and vendors, including Maguire Iron (right).





SAFE CITY

Fletcher-Reinhardt makes Safe City donation

◆ IAMU associate member Fletcher-Reinhardt Company has donated electric meter sockets for use with IAMU's Safe City.

The equipment will assist IAMU in establishing operating 200 amp electrical service for Safe City's structures, for realistic hands-on training in service installation on residential units.

IAMU thanks Fletcher-Reinhardt Company and their representative Gerald Offill for helping to establish world-class training with IAMU Safe City. For more information on Safe City, and how your utility or company can donate, use the Safe City tab on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org.

Safe City featured in APGA Public Gas News

◆ The November 24 issue of the American Public Gas Association's *Public Gas News* contains a feature story about IAMU's Safe City training facility, written by IAMU Communication Manager John Burnett. To view the issue, visit the APGA website at www.apga.org.

IAMU thanks APGA for its assistance in helping to present Safe City, IAMU's hands-on training

Qwestline EE newsletter available for your utility

◆ Looking for good energy efficiency information for your key commercial and industrial electric and gas accounts? For many utilities and joint action groups, the answer has been an eNewsletter called *Qwestline*.

The newsletter is customized with the sponsoring utility's logo and offers access to interactive energy calculators, an eLibrary of information, and "ask an expert" service. IAMU has made favorable subscription arrangements for members. If your utility is interested and if the service is not already available through your joint action agency, email Joel Logan (jlogan@iamu.org) or Erin Buchanan (ebuchanan@iamu.org) at IAMU, or call 800-810-4268.

IAMU's Eco@Home picks up major publishing honors



◆ IAMU's *Eco@Home* energy efficiency magazine has won a prestigious publishing award. The quarterly magazine, which made its debut in early 2008, was the recipient of a "Silver" Pearl Award from the Custom Publishing Council, in the category of "Editorial, Best New Newsletter." The Pearl Awards are the top honor in what is referred to as "custom publishing." The awards are an international competition, with a total of 614 entrants in all categories for the this year's honors. *Eco@Home* was nominated for the award by Lexicon, a custom media firm based in Des Moines, which coordinates the publication's editorial content.

Eco@Home is available to all IAMU members (and available in other states) for use as a "green" customer communication tool. It can be customized for your city or utility. For more information, visit the *Eco@Home* page on the IAMU website with this link: <http://www.iamu.org/Eco/default.htm>.

"Skip" Collier electric utility course in January 2009

◆ Mark your new 2009 calendar for the next Electric Utility System Operation Short Course, January 21 – 23, 2009 at IAMU's Training & Office Complex.

IAMU is again partnering with Iowa State University to present the workshop, which will be conducted by the highly regarded "Skip" Collier, an expert speaker on the subject of electric utility operations "nuts and bolts." The course is designed for any city or utility employee whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the operation side of the electric utility industry – including those who work in legal services, rate setting, engineering, purchasing, community relations/marketing, customer service, accounting and more.



"Skip" Collier will return to IAMU with his popular electric utility operations course.

A workshop brochure will be distributed, and is also available, along with registration, on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org (click on 'Calendar/Registrations' on the front page). For further specific details about the course, go to: <http://www.utilitytraining.net/euso.html>



Access back issues of the IAMU *Informer* and the *Informer* Story Index on the IAMU website's *Informer* page: <http://www.iamu.org/informer/default.htm>

It may be necessary to download the latest version of Adobe Reader (Adobe Reader 9) to view the IAMU *Informer*. Download it with this link: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

The IAMU *Informer* is an electronic publication of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

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