



**Upcoming Events**

January 21 — 22, 2010  
January 28 — 29, 2010  
Gas Operator Qualification Workshops, 3-yr. overall evaluation. (Two workshops, same agenda)  
**Register/more information: [Here](#)**

February 1 — 5, 2010  
Complete Watt-Hour Metering Workshop (Basic Feb. 1—3; Advanced Feb. 3—5). **Registration/more information: [Here](#)**

February 9 — 10, 2010  
IAMU Winter Meeting, Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny. **Registration: [Here](#)**

February 17—19, 2010  
Electric Superintendent & Foreman's Meeting. **Registration/more information: [Here](#)**

**IAMU sets power supply workshop for April 7—8**



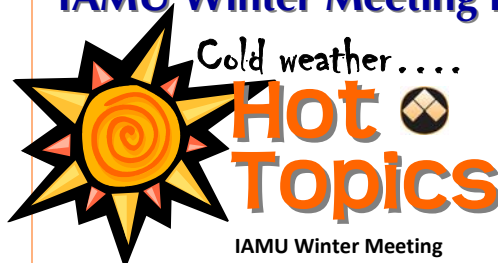
◆ **Mark your calendar for a special IAMU power supply workshop, "Municipal Utilities 2030" April 7 and 8.**

This stand-alone workshop will provide a comprehensive look at power supply and planning and will be a key tool in staying abreast of developments in this important arena.

The workshop will be held at The Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Ankeny. It will begin the afternoon April 7 and will include a banquet and speaker. Sessions will continue through the day Thursday, April 8. A vendor show at IAMU's Training & Office Complex in Ankeny is also planned.

Watch for more information and registration to be available soon.

**IAMU Winter Meeting Feb. 9-10; registration now open**



◆ **Plan now to be on hand for IAMU's Winter Meeting, "Cold Weather, Hot Topics," February 9 and 10 at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Ankeny.**

Once again, the focus of the Winter Meeting will be on legislative and regulatory issues, with guest

speakers presenting topics that are vital to your utility's success among today's ever-evolving political and legal landscape. The meeting will also include a legislative breakfast rally at the State Capitol the morning of February 10.

Highlights of the meeting will include Robert Berntsen, Chair of the Iowa Utilities Board (invited) speaking about rulemaking on interconnection standards; Joy Ditto of the American Public Power Association (invited) presenting an update on federal rules and regulations for electric operators; Bill Simpkins of the Iowa State University Geology Department (invited) discussing Iowa groundwater resources and supplies; a legislative update from Julie Smith, IAMU's legislative counsel; and a look at the next steps for achieving energy efficiency goals from Joel Logan, IAMU's Energy Services Engineer. Watch for the detailed meeting schedule to be released soon.



*IAMU members will again have the chance to meet legislators at a State Capitol rally February 10.*



The registration fee is \$100 per person for IAMU members, with a registration deadline of February 4. To register, click [here](#).

A block of rooms for the conference has been reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott for \$92 per night. Call the hotel at 515-422-5555 and mention the IAMU Winter Meeting.

**Shortened Iowa legislative session is now underway**



◆ **Monday, January 11 marked the beginning of the 2010 Iowa Legislative Session. Lawmakers intend to reduce the session to 80 days, down from the usual 100, in a cost-saving measure.**

That will intensify the work that must be done in order to pass legislation – with the first "funnel week" for bills looming February 8. The adjournment date for the legislative session is projected to be March 31. A number of bills were pre-filed prior to the start of the session and have been approved for public release.

The session will focus on monetary issues, with legislators working to reduce the budget by a minimum of \$500 million. Another key concern of the session will be government reorganization. A legislative interim committee and the Governor's office have made reorganization recommendations that will be included in legislation. Municipal utilities will be working to pass legislation to "fine tune" joint financing language that was passed in 2001. The legislature's web site includes live audio of sessions, along with other features. Access it [here](#).



**Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal**

Watch for IAMU's *Capitol Links* weekly electronic legislative newsletters starting this Friday, January 15. *Capitol Links* is available only to representatives of IAMU member cities and utilities. To add your name to the recipient list, contact Sandy Longfellow, [slongfellow@iamu.org](mailto:slongfellow@iamu.org).

### Regulatory updates now posted on IAMU web site

◆ IAMU members have a new tool to stay abreast of legal and regulatory matters that affect their utilities: Updates will now be posted on the association's web site. IAMU's Legal



Counsel, Amanda James, will prepare the Regulatory Updates on a regular basis. They will feature detailed summaries of both state and federal regulatory items, with electronic links to dockets.

The updates will be available to IAMU members only. Click [here](#); or access the updates via the site's home page via the "Member Services" tab and "Legislative & Regulatory."

### Former IAMU safety trainer Steve Mrstik passes away

◆ IAMU recently learned of the death of Stephen (Steve) Mrstik, a former IAMU safety trainer.



He died January 3 in Cedar Rapids at the age of 59.

In recent years he was employed by Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. A memorial fund has been established, with proceeds to be used to establish a scholarship. More information is available by contacting Gay & Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service in Iowa City at [www.gayandciha.com](http://www.gayandciha.com).

### Tom Allen, past Maquoketa superintendent, retires

◆ Tom Allen, a former electric superintendent at Maquoketa and former IAMU Electric Safety & Training Committee member, has announced his retirement. He most recently worked as an inspector with the Iowa Utilities Board.

## IAMU Safety Group dividend checks being distributed

◆ The IAMU Insurance Trust Committee met on January 6 at IAMU's Training & Office Complex and trustees authorized a \$2.3 million distribution of the Safety Group dividend. The average dividend check is more than \$5,000 (the median amount is \$2,200).



The checks should be a welcome bonus to Safety Group participants, many of which are still facing tough financial times as a result of the recession. Participating utilities/cities will receive notice of the amount of the check from IAMU. Checks and reports will be sent to local agents over the next few days. Where the municipal utility policy is written with those of other city departments, the agent can assist with allocating the dividend by providing the amount of the premium paid by each entity.

The 2008-09 policy year dividend is the second largest in the program's 27-year history.

The Safety Group provides property, casualty, liability, and workers compensation insurance to nearly 450 of IAMU's member cities/utilities.

## Rural communities: take note of AED grant fund

◆ Rural communities may be able to take advantage of a new funding opportunity to purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for use in their cities.



The 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill will increase funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices (RAED) Program. The bill calls for appropriations of \$2.526 million, the highest funding level the program has received since 2005. The program provides funding for rural communities to purchase AEDs and provide training in their use and maintenance. The bill will now go to the President for signing.

Only those community partnerships that are located in or serve areas that are eligible for Rural Health grants may apply for RAED grants. To determine if your community is eligible, or for more information, click [here](#).

## Reminder: OSHA 300A posting deadline is February 1



◆ IAMU members are reminded that they are required to post the 2009 OSHA 300A injury summary by February 1, 2010. All incidents of work-related injuries and illnesses must also be logged within seven days (Form 300) and detailed injury and illness reports for each entry (Form 301) must also be completed.

The 300A summary must remain posted until April 30, 2010. For more information contact IAMU at 800-810-4268.

## Superintendent/Foreman meeting in Feb; sign up now



◆ IAMU's Superintendent & Foreman's Meeting February 17 - 19 will present a detailed look at subjects important to electric utility supervisors.

Professionals from a wide range of disciplines will be on hand to convey important and timely information. Subjects and speakers include: Leadership excellence for today's municipal utilities, presented by Heather Woody, a professional success coach; "Behind The Meter" Wind by Bill Haman of the Iowa Energy Center; energy efficiency for distribution by Ken Rieck, The McCaskey Co.; interconnections, generation and losses by Bill Skubal of Cedar Falls Utilities; a look at GIS from IAMU's Jessica Lillie; OSHA inspections of electric facilities by OSHA's Ken Clausen; DOT rules for load securement, presented by Chris Boswell of the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement; an Iowa Utilities Board update from the IUB's Chuck Seal; and a roundtable discussion.

Registration is available on the IAMU web site. Click [here](#). Registration deadline is February 12.