



Upcoming Events

January 13 & 14; 27 & 28, 2011
Gas Five-Year OQ Workshops
Register/more information: [Here](#)

January 19 — 21, 2011
Superintendent & Foreman's Workshop
Register/more information: [Here](#)

January 31 — February 4, 2011
Electric Metering Workshops
Register/more information: [Here](#)

February 9 — 10, 2011
IAMU Winter Meeting, Ramada Tropics Resort, Des Moines

March 2 & 3, 2011
Advanced Water Treatment & Distribution Workshops

March 7 — 8, 2011
Iowa Water Conference, Scheman Center, Iowa State University
More information: [Here](#)

April 4 — 8, 2011
Gas "Boot Camp" Workshop

April 27, 2011
Gas Fire Control Workshop

Geothermal heat pump training from Energy Center



The Iowa Energy Center has announced that a Geothermal Heat

Pump Systems IGSHPA Accredited Installers Training workshop will be held at the Iowa Energy Center's Energy Resource Station in Ankeny February 8-10.

The three-day course will prepare participants to design and install geothermal heat pump systems for residential and light commercial projects. They will also be able to qualify for accreditation to become an International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) accredited installer and will receive a full set of IGSHPA training and reference materials.

More information is available at www.energy.iastate.edu.

Winter Meeting will feature political analyst Goldford



◆ IAMU announces the association's 2011 Winter Meeting, "Cold Weather...Hot Topics," February 9-10. After bad weather forced cancellation of the gathering last February, the event will return at a new location, the Ramada Tropics Resort & Conference Center, I-80/35 & Merle hay Road, Des Moines.

The meeting will get underway with special guest speaker **Dennis Goldford, Professor of Politics at Drake University and well-known political commentator used by many media outlets, including KCCI-TV in Des Moines.** Goldford will offer his thoughts on "The Political Landscape" and set the tone for the legislative and regulatory theme of the conference.



Professor of Politics and political analyst Dennis Goldford will speak at the Winter Meeting.



Other opening day highlights include a panel discussing the value of your municipal utility; IAMU Legislative and Regulatory Counsel Julie A. Smith with an expanded legislative update; and dinner followed by "Municipal Utility Jeopardy," which will offer fun-filled utility questions and answers.



The Ramada Tropics Resort, which boasts an indoor water park, will host the Winter Meeting for the first time.

Day two will include a morning of Round Table "Pick Six" sessions, where attendees will choose a total of six topics of interest (presented in 30-minute blocks) from a pool of ten subjects offered in two rounds. Lunch and the annual business meeting (including results of the recent IAMU member survey) will also be presented.

Associate member vendors will be on hand both days.

The utility registration fee for IAMU members is \$125 per person. A hard copy registration form has been emailed (the form can be faxed or mailed), and online registration with the IAMU web site will be available later this week. The conference registration deadline is February 4. **A special conference room rate of \$55 at the Ramada Tropics is available only through January 14** – make your reservation now.

For more information contact IAMU at 800-810-4268.

Cedar Falls Utilities noted for employee wellness plan



◆ Known for running a tight ship with service to its customers, IAMU member Cedar Falls Utilities (CFU) is now receiving national recognition for empowering its employees through a wellness program that is yielding great results.

In a recent story, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls *Courier* reported that rising health care costs spurred the utility to step up its employee wellness efforts in 2007, and it received a community wellness grant. When the grant expired, CFU employees missed the activities and health-related information they received. So, utility management decided to continue with a program. It was honored by the Wellness Council of America with its gold level Well Workplace Award in 2009.



CFU's in-house fitness center includes numerous pieces of exercise equipment for employees to use; and classes and other informational outlets offer instruction in many health and fitness techniques. Staffers receive points for wellness efforts and are offered cash incentives. In the coming year, an internet portal to a wellness program from the Mayo Clinic will be available.

The in-house program allows CFU employees to save money by being able to stay in good shape at no cost – and the utility has seen a great reduction in workers compensation claims as a result. Reportedly 75 percent of CFU's 200 employees participate in wellness efforts.