



### Upcoming Events

**April 29 –30, 2010 Consumer Confidence Report Workshops (various locations). Register/more information: [Here](#)**

**May 5 – 6, 2010 Gas Plastic Pipe Joining/Operator Qualification Workshop. Register/more information: [Here](#)**

**May 18 – 21, 2010 Overhead Electric Workshop. Register/more information: [Here](#)**

**May 26 – 27, 2010 Water Distribution/Leak Detection Workshops. Register/more information: [Here](#)**

### Electric workshop trainer Kevin Hyduk passes away

◆ Kevin Hyduk, who regularly served as an instructor with IAMU's annual Underground Electric Distribution Workshop, died of heart failure April 20.

Hyduk, 57, was in New Orleans for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Transmission & Distribution Conference at the time of his death.



Kevin Hyduk is shown at the 2009 IAMU Underground Electric Workshop.

He worked for 3M Company as a senior account executive, where he was National Salesman of the year in 2007 and 2008. Hyduk was a former member of the Marion City Council, and was instrumental in establishing and supporting the Marion Police Department's K-9 unit. He was a member of the Elks Lodge of Cedar Rapids and Sons of the Marion American Legion.

Funeral arrangements are by Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Marion. For more information, click [here](#).



### Past due accounts fewer, but some officials still worry

◆ The number of past due utility accounts and the average past due amount for 1.8 million customers of Iowa's largest energy utilities were both down compared to last year, according to data recently released by the Iowa Utilities Board. Information collected as of March 31, the day before the end of the Winter Disconnection Moratorium, showed 209,138 past due accounts. This is slightly fewer than 212,309 in the same month one year ago. The average past due bill this year is about \$164 compared to last year's average of \$183.

For those utility customers receiving energy assistance, the trends are similar. The number of energy assistance eligible customers with past due balances this year was 37,474, which is nearly the same as last year's 37,460. This year, energy assistance customers owe an average balance of \$260 compared to last year's average balance of \$297 each.

In total, the amount for past due accounts was nearly \$34.3 million dollars, down from the \$38.8 million last year. The past due account balances of energy assistance eligible customers was about \$9.8 million, down from \$11.1 million a year ago, although the number of households was about the same. During the past five winters, the total number of past due accounts and total amount due for those accounts for the same timeframe peaked in 2008 when 226,670 past due accounts totaled approximately \$40.4 million. The full monthly IUB compilation reports for the past five years are [here](#).

*"We could be looking at going into next winter with significantly less LIHEAP funding, at a time when more people may need it."*

— Jerry McKim, Chief, Bureau of Energy Assistance

Commenting recently on statistics pertaining to utility disconnects and lowans enrolled in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), state LIHEAP director Jerry McKim told IAMU that although there is not much difference in many of the numbers from last year to this year, the landscape has changed in the last ten years, and as is often the case, numbers can be deceiving. McKim said he is worried about a possible record number of lowans applying for LIHEAP help. "We're expecting as many as 100,000 LIHEAP applications by the end of April, which would be a new record," McKim said, adding, "What greatly concerns me is, although some numbers may seem much the same, the plateau from which they spring has been raised – the bottom has risen up," he stated, referring to a trend that he said began in the winter of 2000-01 and has continued, with more and more people applying for LIHEAP assistance than in the past, and more becoming eligible recently due to the sour economy.



McKim also expressed concern about the possibility of the Obama administration cutting funding for LIHEAP. It has been reported that Obama will call for a national LIHEAP budget of \$3.3 billion for fiscal year 2011 – down from \$5.1 billion before. "We could be looking at going into next winter with significantly less funding, at a time when more people may need it," McKim warned.

### IAMU Safety & Training, Energy Services gain hires



Jonathan Roberts

◆ IAMU welcomes two new members of its Training & Office staff: Michael Hall has begun work at IAMU as a Safety Specialist. He will travel the state to present safety and training classes to IAMU members. A native of Waterloo, Michael is a 2009 Industrial Technology graduate of Iowa State University. He enjoys playing Frisbee golf in his spare time.



Michael Hall

Jonathan Roberts has been hired as an intern who will work with IAMU's Energy staff helping with the Whole Town Energy Audit program being implemented in selected IAMU member communities. He is also a 2009 graduate of Iowa State University, where he majored in Industrial Engineering. Jonathan is originally from Arkansas, but spent time in Albia, IA before attending ISU. He enjoys travel, and will also be doing much of that, in addition to office work, with his Energy Audit duties.

## IAMU's Logan talks energy at Brighton special event

◆ An Earth Day celebration at Brighton, an IAMU utility member community, featured a number of speakers and topics pertaining to energy efficiency.



*IAMU's Joel Logan speaks to Brighton residents about their Whole Town Energy Audit.*

IAMU's Energy Services Engineer Joel Logan spoke to the gathering of 90 residents about the IAMU Whole Town Energy Audit program, which Brighton is participating in.

The event included an "Energy Buffet" display of nearly 20 different energy and money saving devices. Each resident was allowed to take home two items for personal use.



*Amy Adrian of the Brighton Horizons Group organized and emceed the event. She's shown here with the Energy Buffet handout items.*



## CLICK FOR CLASSIFIEDS

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- ☐ For Sale
- ☐ Wanted

The IAMU web site is your home for classified ads. Spread the word by posting an ad today. It's free to IAMU utility members! See the classified page by clicking [here](#). Send your ad copy to John Burnett at [jburnett@iamu.org](mailto:jburnett@iamu.org).

## Intended Use Plans for SRF now available for review



◆ The draft Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for Fiscal Year 2011 are now available. Click [here](#).

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Iowa Finance Authority will hold a public meeting May 6, 10 a.m. at the DNR Water Supply Office, 401 SW 7<sup>th</sup> St., Suite M, Des Moines, IA 50309. Comments are invited on the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund IUPs for Fiscal 2011. It is anticipated that the Environmental Protection Commission will act on the IUPs at its June 15, 2010 meeting.

Written comments will be accepted through May 13, 2010, and oral comments may be presented at the meeting. Requests for copies of the IUPs and written comments should be sent to: Patti Cale-Finnegan, State Revolving Fund Coordinator, Water Quality Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 401 SW 7<sup>th</sup> St., Suite M, Des Moines, IA 50309; 515-725-0498, fax 515-725-0348, email [patti.cale-finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:patti.cale-finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov).

## Iowa water quality better, but more work to be done

◆ Despite a continued rating of "poor" on a water quality scale, Iowa is making progress in water quality according to the 2010 State of the Environment report released recently by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).



The IDNR evaluated the health of the state's natural resources in a number of areas, including clean lakes and water quality. In 2009, Iowa streams scored an average water quality index score of 46, landing in the index's "poor" category. Despite that ranking, the 2009 score is a marked improvement over the previous average score of 40. While it's difficult to immediately pinpoint the reasons for the improvement, historic floods in 2008 washed significant amounts of pollutants into Iowa streams, largely impacting that year's score. Since 2000, the water quality index has dipped as low as 38 and reached as high as 47.

The index works by measuring different factors that affect fish and aquatic life, drinking water, recreation and aesthetics. Monitors collect data monthly from 75 sites on major Iowa rivers.

According to the report, in order to improve the statewide scores, Iowa needs to reduce the amount of sediment washing into streams, especially soil from stream bank erosion. More work also needs to be done to reduce runoff by helping water soak into the ground or retaining it in wetlands or ponds.

The full State of the Environment Report is available on the IDNR web site. Click [here](#).

## Culver signs Senate bill that will help protect water



◆ Governor Culver has signed Senate File 2310, the "Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation" act. In November Iowans will vote on a ballot measure on whether a constitutionally protected fund will be created to conserve Iowa's natural resources.

If the measure passes, the bill the Governor signed will ensure that the taxpayer money intended to support parks, trails, fish, wildlife and agriculture lands will be protected.



The measure establishes a new fund to protect and enhance Iowa's water quality. It also creates a natural resources and soil conservation and watershed protection account to receive allocations from the trust fund.

The bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the directors of the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources to make their decisions related to this fund in consultation with other bodies that govern natural resources policies. It provides for strict and comprehensive oversight of any funds by annual audits by either a private accountant or the state auditor, in addition to the heads of three state departments. This committee will submit regular reports to the Governor detailing the management of the fund.

These measures are contingent on Iowans' vote on the amendment, and will take effect in January 2011 if the legislative action proposing the amendment is ratified.