

ACE Board approves distribution

ACE communities
to share \$300,000

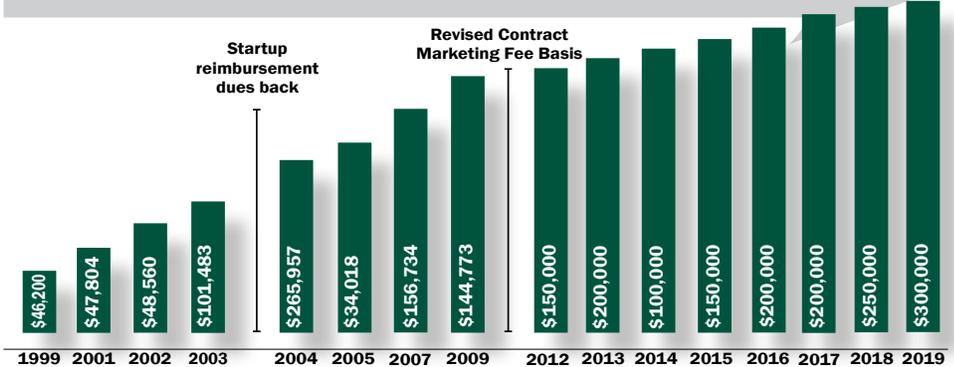
The ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy) board of directors recently approved distributing \$300,000 to the 72 Nebraska member communities of the not-for-profit, community-owned natural gas supplier.

Through ACE's revenue return program, the ACE board of directors may vote to return revenue beyond the cost of operating the organization to its member communities. The board approved the distribution at its board meeting earlier this year.

Since forming in 1998, ACE has returned more than \$2.3 million back to its Nebraska member communities. The funds are used in various ways to benefit each ACE member community.

ACE Distribution Returns by Year

Total: \$2.38 million to Nebraska ACE Communities



Nebraska communities formed ACE for the primary purpose of providing competitively priced natural gas while retaining local control and keeping more revenue in Nebraska's ACE member communities.

The Nebraska Choice Gas program 2019 selection period is set for April 12-25. Selections may be made online using ACE's Web site

(www.ACEenergy.org) or by phone at (800) 454-4759. Selection forms will be mailed out to all eligible customers prior to the start of the selection period. Early signup pricing is also available by calling ACE at (800) 454-4759. Learn more about ACE and its role in the Nebraska Choice Gas program at www.ACEenergy.org.



Courtesy photos



ACE funds recently were used in Nebraska to help fund a recreation trail in Albion, a public transportation bus in McCook and a Veterans Memorial in Kimball.

Understanding what the term ‘100 percent renewable’ means

There is a growing push for cities and businesses across the country to strive to use 100 percent renewable energy.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2017 approved a resolution supporting a 100 percent renewable energy goal by 2035. Businesses such as Coca-Cola, BMW Group, Bank of America and others have committed to be 100 percent renewable. Budweiser unveiled a commercial during this year’s Super Bowl to announce its beer is being brewed by 100 percent renewable (wind) energy.

But what exactly does being “100 percent renewable” really mean from a technical standpoint? Renewable energy from resources such as wind and solar aren’t available all the time to produce energy, so how is a city or business able to claim to be 100 percent renewable?

The answer lies in financial arrangements as opposed to the actual energy received from the operation of the electric grid.

To understand what being “100 percent renewable” means, it helps to have a basic understanding of how the electric grid works.

To ensure reliability, electric grid operators must maintain a proper balance in matching electric load to electric demand at all times. Renewable energy resources such as wind and solar are inherently intermittent. To respond to this intermittency,

Energy Education 101

NMPP Energy’s Energy Education 101 is an ongoing series of articles focusing on energy-related topics with the goal of providing straightforward information to help provide a better understanding of the energy that powers our modern society.

Series articles can be found at NMPPenergy.org by clicking on the “Energy Education 101” link.



other resources are required to maintain a proper balance of electric load and demand.

If a city or business (assuming its hooked up to the U.S. electric grid) claims to be 100 percent renewable, what they are indicating is they have made financial arrangements to purchase the equivalent electric load output from renewable energy resources equal to their business or city’s electric demand over a certain period of time. Being connected to the electric grid, they are receiving electricity produced from whatever generating sources are on the grid – this includes natural gas, coal, nuclear and other forms of electric generation.

Once on the electric grid electricity produced by renewable sources is no different from electricity produced from other generating sources. In other words: An electron is an electron once produced. Electrons produced by renewable resources are mixed with electrons produced by more traditional baseload resources. This mix of electricity is then transmitted throughout the grid serving electric demand with no distinction on a business or city’s renewable claims.

Knowing this concept helps in understanding the current limitations of renewable resources, the importance of baseload resources to maintain a reliable grid, as well as the phrase of being “100 percent renewable” – as it relates to a financial arrangement rather than from an operational standpoint.

NPGA elects officers for 2019-20

The National Public Gas Agency elected board officers for fiscal year 2019-20 at its Annual Meeting in February in Lincoln, Neb. Those elected to one-year terms beginning April 1 were:

- Chris Anderson, city administrator, **Central City**, Neb., chair;
- Bob Lockmon, utility superintendent, **Stuart**, Neb., vice chair.
- Randy Woldt, utilities superintendent, **Wisner**, Neb., secretary/treasurer;

All three were re-elected from the previous fiscal year. All three will also serve on the NMPP Energy Joint Operating Committee, which includes members from the four NMPP Energy organizations.

Information shared on strategies and opportunities

The Board also heard a presentation from Susan Reeves, chief financial officer of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia and chief executive officer of Main Street Gas. Reeves provided an update on the Public Gas Partners Pool 3 project, which includes some NPGA members, as well as information on pre-pay gas strategies and opportunities.

Member fee waived and budget approved

In response to a preliminary fiscal year change in net position the Board approved waiving its member fee for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends March 31. The Board also approved the 2019-20 budget.

State legislatures in full swing

The Midwest is undergoing an energy revolution and NMPP members are engaged in the generation conversation. By the time of printing it will be week seven in the Iowa Assembly, the 40th day in the Nebraska long legislative session and half-way through the Colorado and Wyoming regular legislative sessions.

In this month's column I'll try to capture a sense of the rebellions, the counter revolution, the new leaders, and a sampling of vision in power theories.

We first welcome former Iowa State Senator Chaz Allan as the new executive director for the Iowa Utility Association and announce that Tri-State Generation and Transmission recently named Duane Highley as its new chief executive officer. May they both have courage and wisdom.

Legislative bills regarding wind and solar electric generation topics are being considered in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming. Iowa has HF 193 by Rep. Jeff Shipley addressing new energy facilities of 500 kilowatts or greater to be installed at least 2,500 feet away from residential property. Nebraska has LB 155, a priority bill on the floor which would prohibit the right of eminent domain if related to privately developed renewable energy

generation. On the pro renewable side, Colorado's HB 19-1003 would allow community solar gardens to increase from two megawatts to 10 megawatts and Wyoming HB 0120 is providing a tax exemption for storage of energy production equipment prior to installation in the state.

* * *

Since we live in the land of food and farmers several states are taking a keen interest in climate change. We are closely watching LB 283, a bill by Nebraska Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks bill that will allocate the University of Nebraska up to \$250,000 to develop an evidence based, data driven, strategic action plan for the state to address climate change.

* * *

Bills in the Iowa and Nebraska legislature address the removal process of elected officials. NMPP supports the reform of legislative measures that inserts "for cause" whenever there is a removal of a board, city council or elected official from a board such as the HF 261 in Iowa and LB 415 in Nebraska. Nebraska Sen. Curt Friesen, the author of LB 415, hopes his bill prevents recall efforts of elected officials simply because someone disagrees with their decisions.

* * *

Finally, NMPP supports and thanks Nebraska Sen. Tom Brewer for introducing LB 212, which would allow longer telephone conference calls for all public bodies in public meetings and allow more video or telephone conference calls for MEAN and NPGA and LARM (League Association of Risk Management). Please call your Nebraska senator to support this bill on the legislative floor. LB 212 would save money and increase safety for members that would have to travel long distances to meetings.

* * *

Chris Dibbern is general counsel of NMPP Energy. Contact her at cdibbern@nmppenergy.org or (800) 234-2595.

Legislative Notes



By Chris Dibbern

In Memoriam — Corrinne Pedersen

Corrinne Pedersen, a long-time employee at NMPP Energy, passed away Feb. 8 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Corrinne worked at NMPP Energy for 26 years until her retirement in 2015. She was known for her unwavering dedication to NMPP's member communities and her can-do attitude. She had the ability to always seek out the silver lining in difficult situations and had a wonderful gift of being able to cultivate enduring friendships with people who had views widely disparate from her own.

Corrinne served as the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce executive vice president from 1978 to 1989 before becoming the manager of community and economic development for NMPP Energy in 1989. As part of her duties, she worked with NMPP's member communities in many capacities and coordinated NMPP Energy's Annual Conference.



In addition to her full-time positions, she actively served as the consumer representative on the Nebraska Board of Nursing and she chaired the Nebraska Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Board.

Corrinne is survived by her husband, William (Bill); son, Kirk and wife Grace in Claremont, California, and daughter, Karen and husband Mark in Manhattan, Kansas. She will be truly missed by countless others whose lives she touched.



NMPP Energy photo

Training sessions kick off in Sidney

Several utilities from the region participated in a training session in January in Sidney, Neb., as part of NMPP's restructured training program, which holds utility training on various topics at three locations in Nebraska from late January through March.

NMPP Energy's Annual Conference is fast approaching!

Register NOW!



Registration Form *(Clip and mail to: NMPP Energy, 8377 Glynoaks Drive, Lincoln NE 68516)*

Municipality/Firm Name: _____

Name(s): _____ Title(s): _____

Street/PO Box: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

One complimentary registration will be given to an elected official with every paid member registration.

Elected Official Name: _____

Fee & Payment Options

Registration Fee	Member/Champion Rate# _____ @ \$150 ea. = _____
<i>Fee includes: pre-conference workshop, all programs, breaks, breakfasts, lunch and banquet</i>	Non-Member Rate.....# _____ @ \$275 ea. = _____
	Additional Banquet Tickets# _____ @ \$45 ea. = _____
	TOTAL PAYMENT DUE: \$ _____

_____ *Planning to attend Pre-Conference A-Z Infrastructure Workshop March 26.*

_____ *Planning to attend first night reception.*

Payment Enclosed
 Please Bill Me
 To Pay Electronically via ACH, contact Laurie for instructions - 800.234.2595

LATE REGISTRATION: After Mar. 1, 2019 registration will be \$175 each for members/champions.

TO BOOK LODGING: Go to nmppenergy.org, click on "Annual Conference" link and then click on the "Book a Room" link.

You can also call Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel 333 So. 13th St. Lincoln NE 68508 at 1-888-236-2427. Group rate: \$90+tax. (Cut off date 3/12/19 for group rate. Group name: NMPP 2019 Annual Meeting. Group Code: MPP.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email Laurie Keiser at lkeiser@nmppenergy.org.





THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHAMPION BUSINESS

JK Energy Consulting has decades of experience

JK Energy Consulting, LLC (JKEC), located in the historic South Haymarket District in Lincoln, Neb., provides independent, objective advice to consumers and producers of energy. JKEC was founded in 2009 by John A. Krajewski, P.E., who serves as president and sole owner. John has more than 27 years of experience in the utility industry and has worked with many NMPP Energy member communities in Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and Wyoming.

JKEC has served more than 60 clients in seven different states, including municipal utilities,

www.jkenergyconsulting.com

rural public power district, a state regulatory commission and end-use customers. Primary services provided include municipal cost of service and rate design studies, power supply planning, wholesale rate design, and regulatory affairs. Mr. Krajewski has been an expert witness on local, state and federal utility issues.

John has personally managed more than 65 electric cost of service studies over the last 27 years, as well as natural gas, water and wastewater rate studies. He is an expert in regional transmission

organization matters and serves as a representative on the Cost Allocation Working Group of Southwest Power Pool, representing the Nebraska Power Review Board. He has managed power supply planning studies for more than 25 utilities and completed numerous integrated resource plans as required by Western Area Power Administration.

For more information about JKEC, visit www.jkenergyconsulting.com or call John at (402) 440-0227.

For a complete listing of NMPP Energy Champion Businesses, see page 7

Employment Opportunities

Village Clerk/Treasurer

The Village of **Utica**, Neb., is seeking a full-time person to fill the appointed position of Village clerk/treasurer. This position is responsible for preparing and maintaining official municipal records, preparing for Board meetings, utility billings, animal licensing, payroll, budgets, audit preparation, correspondence, scheduling, grant writing, economic development, assisting the Planning and Zoning Commission and coordinating with other departments. EOE. The applicant must be able to work well with the public. Experience with QuickBooks and Microsoft Office software is preferred. Competitive pay based on experience and certification. Job description and applications are available at the Village Office. Email: uticanebraska1@gmail.com; phone: (402) 534-4237.

Electric Lineman

Would you like to live in a family-oriented community? Wall Lake, Iowa has an opportunity for you. Wall Lake is in a transition period with our current electric superintendent getting closer to retirement. We are looking for a lineman to oversee our electric distribution rebuild.

To submit an ad
NMPP members can advertise job openings for free in the *Essent* newsletter and on the NMPP Energy Web site. E-mail Kevin Wickham at kwickham@nmppenergy.org.

Along with our electric distribution rebuild our lineman apprentice needs supervision and hours to attain his lineman certificate. If this interests you and you meet the basic requirements (listed below) please call Chris at (712) 664-2216.

The position requires basic knowledge of practices, methods, equipment, and tools used to maintain and repair an electrical distribution system. Graduation from an accredited vocation school or equal experience is a positive but not required. Duties include but are not limited to: installation of metering equipment at customer site and installing, maintaining and repairing customer services which will include responding to outage reports, tree trimming, street lighting repair, and

some high voltage troubleshooting. Applicant must have or have the ability to attain at minimum a Class B CDL and must be able to handle the physical demands of the job such as bending, kneeling, standing for extended periods, and working in all types of weather. Job will require the ability to respond to outages on an on-call basis. Applicant will be subject to a pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol testing.

Wall Lake is located five miles from beautiful Black Hawk Lake in Lake View Iowa and is only 30 minutes from Denison, Storm Lake, and Carroll. Wall Lake is a progressive community that owns natural gas, electric, garbage, water, and wastewater utilities so the applicant would be asked to assist with these utilities as required.

Utility General Manager

The City of **Wahoo**, Neb., is searching for a utility general manager. Located just 30 minutes north of Lincoln and 30 minutes west of Omaha, Wahoo is situated in one of the best locations in Nebraska.

See 'EMPLOYMENT' on page 8

Support NMPP member communities through the Champions Business Program

Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy’s effort to provide products and services to members. Consider these businesses when your utility or municipality has a business need. If your business is interested in becoming an NMPP Energy Champion, call Andrew Ross at (800) 234-2595.



Champions Business Directory of Services

Financial

Ameritas Investment Corp. (Ameritas.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
D.A. Davidson & Co. (dadavidson.com/ficm).....	Omaha, Neb.
First National Bank (Firstnational.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
UNICO Group, Inc. and Midlands Financial Benefits (unicogroup.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union (ne-fcu.org).....	Columbus, Neb.
RBC Capital Markets (rbc.com).....	Denver, Colo.

Regulatory/Compliance

Power Plant Compliance (Powplant.com).....	Oketo, Kan.
NAQS Environmental Experts (naqs.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

Utility/Community

EnergySolutions, Inc. (Energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Hometown Connections, Inc. (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
JK Energy Consulting, LLC (JKenergyconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Border States (borderstates.com).....	Fargo, N.D.
NovaTech (Novatechweb.com).....	Lenexa, Kan.
PDS, Inc. (PDSinc.biz).....	Omaha, Neb.
Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory (petl.com).....	Great Bend, Kan.
RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative) (resco1.com).....	Ankeny, Iowa
Solomon Corporation (Solomoncorp.com).....	Solomon, Kan.

Computer/Technology

Proteus (Proteus.co).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Salt Creek Software, Inc. (Saltcreek.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

Engineering

EPSIM Corporation (epsim.us).....	Boulder, Colo.
Exponential Engineering Company (exponentialengineering.com).....	Fort Collins, Colo.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (jeo.com).....	Wahoo, Neb.
Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (ldbeng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.
Olsson (Olsson.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
Power Engineers (powereng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.

Insurance

League Association of Risk Management (larmpool.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
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Legal

Chapman and Cutler, LLP (chapman.com).....	Salt Lake City, Utah
Spiegel & McDiarmid (spiegelmcd.com).....	Washington, D.C.

Telecommunication

River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com).....	Centennial, Colo.
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NEWSLETTER

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Employment (cont.)

With a population of 4,500, the community strives for the small-town appeal but due to proximity to the two largest communities in Nebraska, is able to provide many attractive amenities like shopping, cultural events, with close access to a major airport, I-80 and Amtrak.

The City of Wahoo Utilities, which include electricity generation and distribution, water, sanitary sewer, and natural gas, operate under a Board of Public Works. With an annual budget of \$10 million in expenditures, the general manager is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all four utility systems. In addition, the general manager will work with and report to the city administrator. The City of Wahoo Utilities operate with a staff

of 21 full-time employees and take pride in providing continuity of service and quality customer relations all while maintaining some of the best utility rates in the country.

The City is looking for an individual with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in engineering, public administration, or related degree, or a combination of education and experience in the utilities area. In addition, a qualified individual should have a minimum of five years of experience in a management and supervisory role over multiple utility departments. The ideal candidate should have a working understanding of electricity, water systems, wastewater management, and natural gas distribution, as well as familiarity with engineering principles and the ability to understand financial strategies and reporting for public-owned utility. Of

key importance is the ability to communicate at the highest level, and the skills to provide motivation and leadership to employees, many which have years of experience. Other skills such as construction oversight, experience with technology in the utilities field, and overall people skills will be considered as well.

More information including job description and an organizational chart are available under the careers tab on the City's website: www.wahoo.ne.us. Interested persons should apply by submitting their resume directly to the city administrator at harrell@wahoo.ne.us or to the city clerk at morrow@wahoo.ne.us. The initial review of applications will begin on Feb. 15, 2019 however the job will remain open until filled. Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience for this position.

Complete job descriptions are posted at www.nmppenergy.org

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