

ACE Board approves \$400,000 distribution

Revenue return program has provided nearly \$2.8 million to ACE communities

ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy, is distributing \$400,000 to its 75 member communities through ACE's revenue return program.

Through the program, the ACE Board of Directors may vote to return revenue to its member communities. The board approved the distribution at its January board meeting. Since forming in 1998, not-for-profit and community-owned ACE has returned nearly \$2.8 million back to its Nebraska member communities. The funds are used in various ways to benefit each ACE member community.

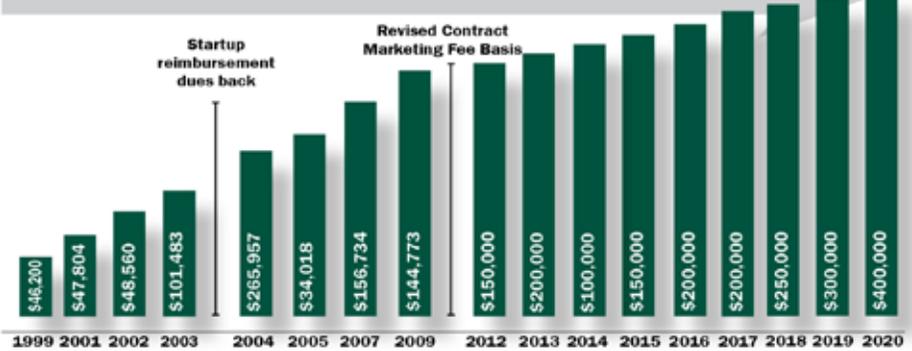
"The revenues returned to Nebraska communities are a reflection of consumers supporting ACE," said Beth Ackland, director of gas operations for ACE. "Through the years, ACE has shown a great track record of providing competitive rates for natural gas while also returning revenue back to Nebraska communities. It is a win-win scenario for Nebraskans."

Nebraska communities formed ACE to provide competitively priced natural gas while retaining local control and keeping more revenue in Nebraska's ACE member communities.

ACE staff is currently signing up customers during a pre-enrollment period for the Nebraska Choice Gas program. The program's traditional two-week selection period is set for April 10-23. Selections may be made

ACE Distribution Returns by Year

Total: \$2.78 million to Nebraska ACE Communities



Recent projects funded with ACE revenue...



online using ACE's Web site (www.ACEenergy.org). Selection forms will be mailed out to all eligible customers prior to the start of the two-week

selection period. More information about ACE and its role in the Nebraska Choice Gas program is online at www.ACEenergy.org.

Register online now at NMPPenergy.org

NMPP ENERGY 2020
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

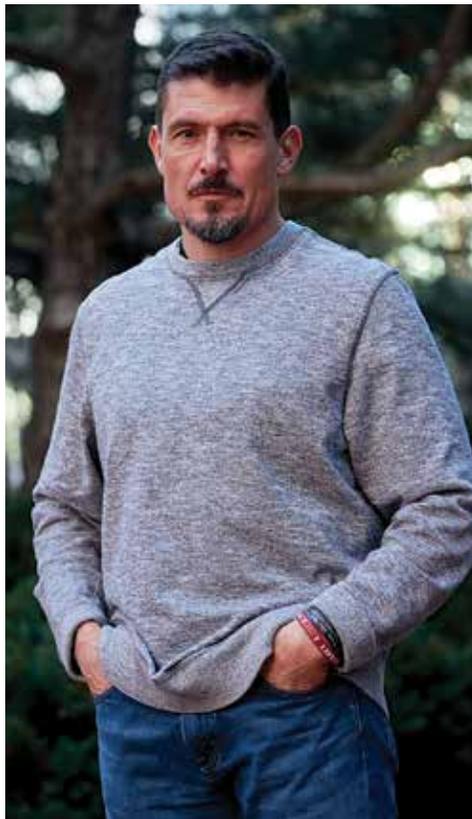
nmpp
ENERGY

NMPP | MEAN | NPGA | ACE

March 24-26, 2020

The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

Lincoln, Neb.



Keynote Speaker

Paranto brings story of heroism, leadership to Annual Conference

Kris Paranto, an American hero from the Benghazi attack, will be the keynote speaker at the 2020 NMPP Energy Annual Conference.

Paranto served as a U.S. Army Ranger in the 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment and private security contractor who was deployed throughout South America, Central America, Middle East and North Africa. He was part of the Central Intelligence Agency's Annex Security Team that responded to the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi.

Paranto's story is told in the book "13 Hours" written by Mitchell Zuckoff and in the 2016 major motion film with the same title.

Plan to attend – Register NOW!



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By Bob Poehling,
Executive Director



This Month at NMPP Energy

Below is a list of a few of the activities and workstreams that occurred during the past month at NMPP Energy on behalf of member communities:

Nebraska Municipal Power Pool

- Rate study work included West Point, Kimball, Grand Island, Crete, Curtis, Wisner, and Stromsburg in Nebraska and Sergeant Bluff, Iowa and Lamar, Colo.
- Preparations were made for the distribution of the annual Typical Bill Survey for electric, water and sewer rates for more than 150 participating utilities.
- PowerManager training was held for users in Terrytown, Tecumseh, Fort Calhoun and Litchfield in Nebraska.
- Staff is preparing for the upcoming Power-Manager refresher courses to be held later this year.
- NMPP staff participated in the Midwest Municipal Utilities Legislative Update meeting with regional utility representatives including from Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Iowa.
- Staff assisted with a review of recertification for Alliance, Neb., Economic Development Certified Community designation. Paperwork must be resubmitted every five years to maintain certification.
- Preparations are underway for the 2020 NMPP Energy Annual Conference, set for March 24-26 in Lincoln, Neb.

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

- Member visits included the communities of Delta, Fleming, Holly and Julesburg in Colorado and Fairbury, Falls City, Mullen, Pender and Kimball in Nebraska.
- Meeting, training and conference opportunities for staff included a Leadership Development Workshop, various Southwest Power Pool meetings, Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, Public Power Generation Agency Board of Directors meeting.

- NMPP/MEAN utility training sessions were held in Sidney, Broken Bow and Lincoln on a variety of topics. The next round of training sessions will be held in March.

National Public Gas Agency

- Staff attended the Gas Supply Track of the American Public Gas Association's Winter Conference, which included a market outlook, hedging discussion and a panel on the state of prepaid natural gas agreements.
- NPGA held its quarterly board meeting on Feb. 13 at NMPP Energy. Among action taken included the Board approving the City of Walsenburg, Colo., as an NPGA member effective April 1, contingent on timely approvals by the City. The Board also voted to suspend its hedging policy and continue to revisit the policy at future board meetings.
- Staff met with Northern Natural Gas Pipeline representatives to receive updates.

Public Alliance for Community Energy

- Direct marketing efforts continue during the Choice Gas pre-enrollment period. ACE staff has been marketing through direct mail and e-mail and processing delegation agreements.
- The ACE website is undergoing updates in preparation for the two-week Choice Gas selection period which runs April 10-23. The website is also serving as a tool to provide active price quotes during the early enrollment period.
- Staff is preparing and distributing educational tools for communities that requested materials regarding ACE and the Choice Gas program.
- Training and customer-assistance materials are being reviewed and updated. As the Choice Gas program continues to evolve, so too do the materials required to educate the public.
- A meeting was held with ACE's third-party call center representatives to go over program changes and administrative details.

A Career of Service...

Tim Sutherland to retire from NMPP Energy after 28 years

After 28 years with NMPP Energy, Tim Sutherland recently announced his plans to retire March 15 as director of wholesale operations from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska.

His retirement caps a professional career dedicated to serving municipalities through the NMPP Energy organizations. During his years at NMPP Energy, he served multiple roles, including leading three of the four organizations at various times.

Sutherland started his career with NMPP Energy in 1991 as a member services representative and progressed to several management roles with the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool and ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy. As director of retail utility services, he oversaw all services of NMPP and activities of ACE's participation in the competitive Choice Gas program. He also had a brief stint as director of Essent Services, which provided telecommunication services to members before legislation was enacted that led to the organization disbanding.

Prior to joining NMPP Energy, Sutherland's career included stops working at an electrical and water supply company and as utility superintendent in Imperial, Neb., serving on the NMPP Board of Directors and various committees for NMPP and MEAN.

Through his years and roles at NMPP Energy, Sutherland fondly remembers the cooperation between public power utilities.



NMPP Energy photo

During his career at NMPP Energy, Tim Sutherland served in a variety of roles, including leading four different organizations.

“One of the best things about public power is that people share in public power,” he said. “As a utility guy and an employee of NMPP I’ve never ever run into a situation where I couldn’t find somebody to help me if I asked for help. They were all willing and they’re all experienced. Generally speaking, someone has

already solved the problem that you are facing.”

Sutherland is proud of many accomplishments of the NMPP Energy organizations during his career, including the development and growth of member

See ‘SUTHERLAND’ on page 5

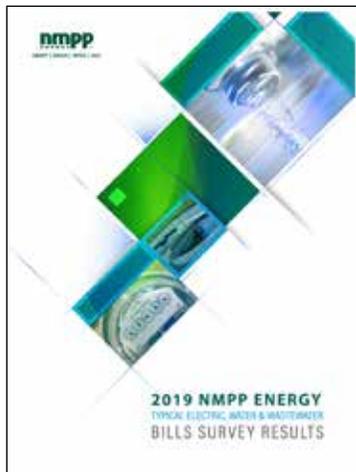
Typical Bill Survey completed

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP) recently completed its annual Typical Bill Survey for participating members and non-members. This is the 36th year NMPP has conducted the survey, which includes electric, water and wastewater retail rates.

There were 145 utilities participating in the electric bill survey and more than 150 utilities participating in the water and wastewater bill surveys. Participants provided billing information for rates effective through December 2019.

The electric survey results are arranged by Rate Service Classes. The typical bills include the appropriate "Production/Energy Cost Adjustment" (PCA/ECA) and Franchise Fee, when applicable.

The composite statistics presented reflect ranking of typical bills by utility for each rate service class and usage level.



The survey includes an alphabetical listing by utility and their membership affiliation. The survey is prepared by NMPP's Engineering Services staff.

Electronic copies of the survey were emailed to participating utilities. Hard copies of the survey are available for \$16 for NMPP Members and \$25 for non-members. Contact Thanh Le at (402) 473-8244 or tle@nmppenergy.org.

NPPD's Pat Pope announces plans to step down

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) President and Chief Executive Officer Pat Pope recently announced his plans to step down after more than 40 years with NPPD.

He expects to remain available to assist with the leadership transition and to work on a couple other projects. His tenure as president and CEO is the second longest in the 50-year history of NPPD.

According to an NPPD news release, it is expected the NPPD Executive Committee will recommend hiring Tom Kent at the March NPPD Board of Directors meeting. Kent currently serves as NPPD executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Pope began his career with NPPD in 1979 as an electrical engineer and held several positions through the years.



Pat Pope

Sutherland: A career of service

Continued from page 4

services, the outsourcing of the ACE Choice Gas selection period call center as well as working with a MEAN Ad Hoc Committee to successfully modernize MEAN's rate structure a few years ago.

"It was the members that did it," he said. "That committee did an amazing job of working together. It was a great group of people."

Sutherland and his wife Gretchen plan to stay in Lincoln during retirement, traveling to spend time with their three kids and seven grandchildren spread across three states along with some occasional fishing and hunting trips.

As Sutherland's career winds down, he recalls the five cultural elements developed at NMPP Energy a couple years ago: Member

Driven, Service Driven, Economic Value Driven, Values Driven, Staff Driven.

"I feel I've lived these elements throughout my career," he said. "Working with the huge number of different individuals and their unique personalities has been challenging yet ultimately very rewarding. Being a part of all that at NMPP Energy is the best work of life."

MEAN officers, Executive Committee members for 2020-21

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) elected officers for its board of directors for fiscal year 2020-21 at its annual meeting in January.

Those re-elected to one-year terms as officers of the MEAN board of directors beginning April 1 were:

- Tom Goulette, city administrator/utility superintendent, **West Point**, Neb., chair
- Tom Ourada, city administrator, **Crete**, Neb., vice chair

• Darrel Wenzel, chief executive officer, **Waverly** (Iowa) Utilities, secretary/treasurer

The board acts as the final authority on rates and charges to MEAN long-term, total requirements participants.

The board consists of designated representatives from MEAN's wholesale power participant communities in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and Iowa.

Four representatives were

elected as at-large Executive Committee members:

- Bill Hinton, electric superintendent, **Kimball**, Neb.
- Doug Schultz, city administrator/clerk/treasurer, **Curtis**, Neb.
- Adam Suppes, electric superintendent, **Delta**, Colo.
- Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, **Sidney**, Neb.

ACE officers, Executive Committee members for 2020-21

The Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) elected Board of Director officers and at-large Executive Committee members for fiscal year 2020-21 at the ACE board annual meeting in January.

Those re-elected as Board of Director officers for a 1-year term beginning April 1 were:

- Andrew Devine, city administrator, **Albion**, Neb., chair

• Jeremy Tarr, electric superintendent, **Broken Bow**, Neb., vice chair

• Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, **Sidney**, Neb., secretary/treasurer.

Those elected to the at-large Executive Committee were:

- Nancy Kopejtko, city clerk/treasurer, **Atkinson**, Neb.
- Doug Schultz, city administrator/clerk/treasurer, **Curtis**, Neb.

• Randy Horst, village board chairperson, **Gurley**, Neb.

- Dale Wilkinson, city council representative, **Neligh**, Neb.
- Mitch Lamm, city administrator, **Burwell**, Neb.

The Executive Committee assists governing the organization between board meetings as necessary.

NPGA officers, Executive Committee members for 2020-21

The National Public Gas Agency (NPGA) elected officers for its board of directors for fiscal year 2020-21 at its annual meeting in February.

Those elected to one-year terms as officers of the board of directors 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.

The board works to develop operational strategies and guides the agency in securing reliable and low-cost natural gas for NPGA member communities.

All three will also serve on the NMPP Energy Joint Operating Committee, which includes the officers from the four NMPP Energy organizations.

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

Air Regulation Consulting (airregconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
NAQS Environmental Experts (naqs.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

Utility/Community

Dogwood Energy	Columbia, Md.
EnergySolutions, Inc. (energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Hometown Connections, Inc. (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
GenPro Energy Solutions (GenProEnergy.com).....	Piedmont, S.D.
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
Sol Systems (solsystems.com).....	Washington, D.C.
Solomon Corporation (Solomoncorp.com).....	Solomon, Kan.

Computer/Technology

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

Engineering

Exponential Engineering Company (exponentialengineering.com)	Fort Collins, Colo.
Halker Consulting (Halker.com).....	Centennial, Colo.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (jeo.com)	Wahoo, Neb.
Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (ldbeng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.
Olsson (Olsson.com)	Lincoln, Neb.
Shermco Industries (Shermco.com)	Omaha, Neb.

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

Community Broadband Action Network (broadbandaction.com)	Indianola, Iowa
River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com)	Centennial, Colo.



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NEWSLETTER

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Employment Opportunities

Water/Wastewater Operator I

The City of **David City**, Neb., is accepting applications for a full-time water/wastewater operator. Primary duties include the operation and maintenance of the municipal water and wastewater systems and treatment facilities. Candidates should have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, and two years of experience relating to construction, maintenance and repair. Education may substitute for work experience. Application and job description available online (www.davidcityne.com) or at 557 N. 4th St. (P.O. Box 191), David City, NE 68632. Submit applications to address above or to ckeller@davidcityne.com. Questions? Call Clayton Keller at (402) 367-3135. Applications accepted until filled. EOE.

City Administrator

The City of **Gering**, Neb., (Pop. 8,000) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of city administrator. The current city administrator is retiring Dec. 31, 2020 after serving the community for more than 12 years. The City of Gering currently has a \$34M budget; 85 full-time employees, and 150 part-time/seasonal employees; the City of Gering is a full-service city including electric utility, city-owned convention center and golf course. The city is a growing regional trade center in Western Nebraska, and a twin city area with total community population of 25,000. Qualified candidates must possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a closely related field, with a master's degree preferred. Candidates should also have at least five years of profes-

sive municipal supervisory/management experience in overseeing all phases of municipal government, with an emphasis on professional team leadership, effective communication, public relations, financial management, planning/development and possess the ability to carry out council policies and strategies and work with department heads and staff. The salary range for this position is regionally competitive and depends upon background and qualifications of the successful candidate. DOQ + car allowance and benefits. The City will negotiate an employment agreement and offers an attractive benefit package consisting of health, dental, vision, and life insurance, flexible spending account, health savings account, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay and retirement. Send application, resume, work history, and references in a sealed envelope marked "City Administrator applicant" to the Mayor of Gering at P.O. Box 687, Gering, NE 69341. Position will remain open until filled. Application, and job description is available online at www.gering.org EOE.

Skilled Utility Worker

The City of **Arapahoe**, Neb., is now accepting applications for a skilled utility worker. Water and Sewer Operators license helpful but not necessary. Must be physically capable of strenuous work. A CDL would be beneficial, and knowledge of running heavy equipment is a must. Please stop by the City Office or email the City at arapcity@arapahoenebraska.com to request an application. Deadline is March 20, 2020. EOE.

Complete job descriptions are posted at www.nmppenergy.org

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