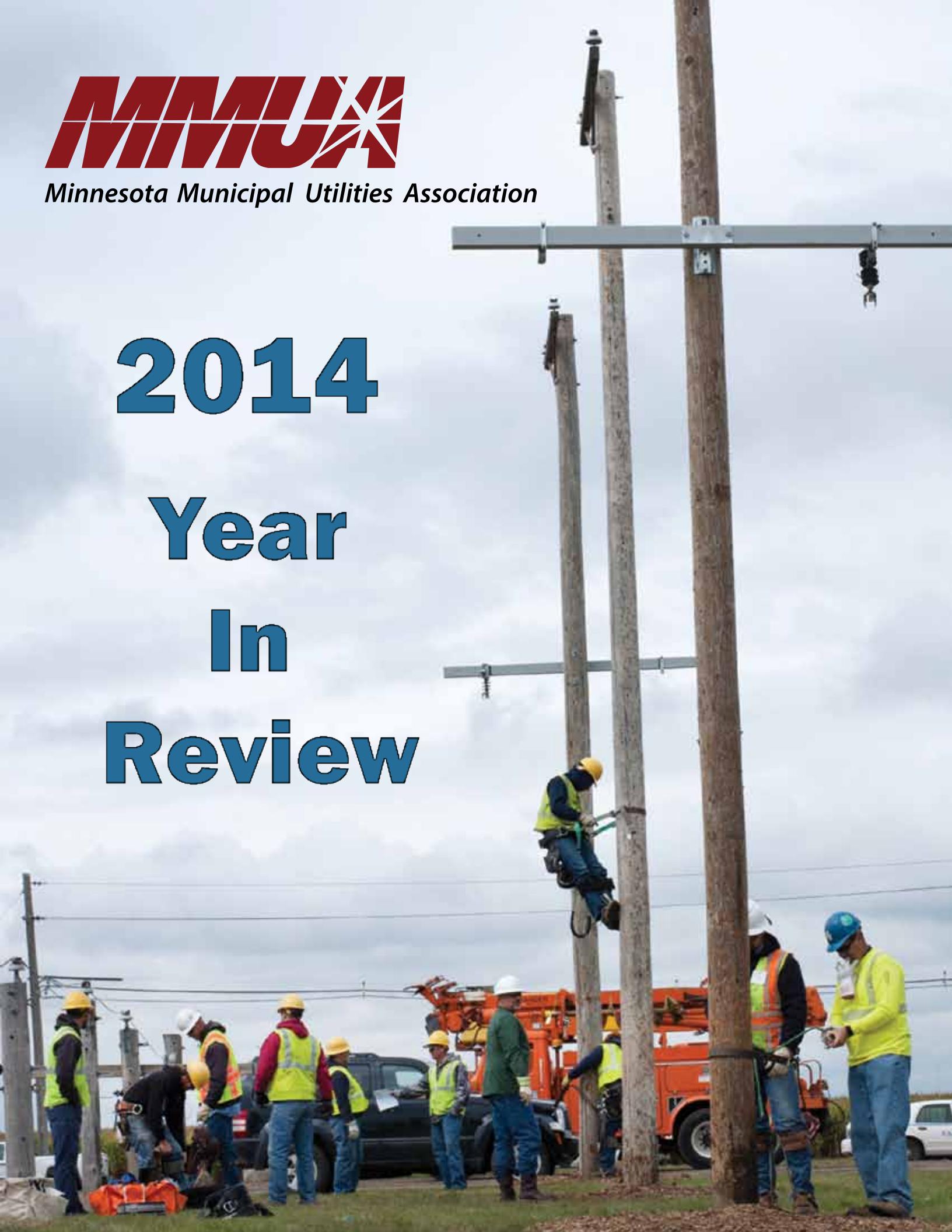




Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

2014 Year In Review



Introduction

Dear Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) Members –
Welcome to our 2014 Year in Review. It was an action packed year, and it's nice to
take a few minutes to look back and see what we've done.
We hope you enjoy this trip down memory lane.

Jack Kegel

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Adoption of a 1,607 page OSHA rule had a profound impact on MMUA training in 2014. This picture was taken at the Overhead School, held at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall.

2014 Timeline

The following 2014 timeline is not exhaustive but does give the reader a flavor of the varied activities MMUA was involved in during 2014:

Jan. 8 – The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the proposed New Source Performance Standards in the Federal Register. This is one of a host of EPA proposals that is to keep MMUA staff scrambling during the year.

Feb. 6 – MMUA Director of Engineering and Policy Analysis Bob Jagusch and American Public Power Association (APPA) staff tag-teamed in testimony to the Environmental Protection Agency at a public hearing in Washington, D.C., on the agency's proposed 'Clean Power Plan.'

Feb. 19-21 – MMUA holds Cross Training School in Marshall.

February – Six municipal lineworkers, from as many member utilities, graduate from Northwest Lineman College. MMUA staff helps students through the program in various ways as desired by the member utility.

March – Grinding cold continues in this historically frigid winter. Many members and their citizens

struggle with an unusually high number of frozen water lines.

March 4-7 – MMUA Meter School, at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The meeting is held in conjunction with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and APPA.

March 10-12 – MMUA leads Minnesota contingent to APPA Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C.

MMUA planned training based on its knowledge of the impending OSHA rule.



Don Harbuck of the Northwest Lineman College (NWLC) was flanked by MMUA's Mike Willetts, left, and Pete Wyffels following a T&O Conference presentation on the MMUA-NWLC apprenticeship training partnership.

April 1 – The Occupational Safety and Health Administration releases a final rule revising its workplace safety standards for workers performing electric power generation, transmission and distribution work. The rule totals 1,607 pages and dramatically impacts MMUA training efforts.

April 1 – Minnesota Public Utilities Commission adopts digital electric service territory map. MMUA staff had worked closely with state staff long before the order to produce the map was given, and helped guide the eventual product.

April 4-5 – MMUA sends a strong contingent to the American Public Power Association Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo in Edmond, Okla. Approximately 50 individuals from MMUA and Minnesota municipal electric utilities attend, instruct and participate in the event. (MMUA will host this event in 2016.)

April 15-17 – MMUA Generation School held in Fairmont and Madelia.

April 23-25 – MMUA Legislative Conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bloomington and legislative offices in St. Paul.

May 7 – MMUA names statewide Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award essay contest winners.

May 13-16 – MMUA Underground School held at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The school is held in conjunction with MREA and APPA.



Mark Erickson of Winthrop, right, passed the MMUA president's gavel to Bill Wroolie of Brainerd, at the summer conference.

June 4 – Last printed MMUA Directory (at least for the foreseeable future) mailed to members. Process underway to migrate this information to new website.

July 30 – EPA holds four public hearings across the country on its proposal to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act (known colloquially as the ‘Clean Power Plan’). MMUA expressed multiple concerns at two of the sessions. Executive Director Jack Kegel and Government Relations Director Bill Black testified at the Denver session, while Bob Jagusch spoke up that same day at the Washington, D.C. session.

Aug. 18-20 – MMUA annual Summer Conference held at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria. The meeting is attended by approximately 293 people.

Sept. 9-12 – MMUA Overhead School held at the MMUA Training Center in Marshall. The school was attended by approximately 67 students, 16 in-

structors and eight MMUA staff members. Regular and associate members supplied 16 bucket trucks and a digger derrick to make the program work.

September – MMUA staff continues working with consultant on development of new MMUA website. Sponsorship package introduced.

Oct. 8-10 and 22-24 – Sessions held, at Central Lakes College in Brainerd and MMUA headquarters, of the FirstLine Supervision management training class.

Nov. 21 – MMUA convenes first meeting of its Solar-Distribution Generation (DG) Task Force. The group’s goal is to further develop the municipal approach to solar, finding a win-win solution for municipal utilities and their customers.

Dec. 9-11 – MMUA holds its Technical and Operations Conference at St. Cloud. The meeting is attended by approximately 190 regular, associate and affiliate members.

Dec. 16-19 – MMUA holds, along with MREA and APPA, its Transformer School at the Training Center.

December – MMUA files comments on EPA ‘Clean Power Plan,’ two more graduate from NWLC program and 12 from FirstLine Supervision. MMUA continues process to replace retired Senior Government Relations Representative Greg Oxley. This process leads to the eventual hiring of Amanda Duerr as government relations representative.



MMUA group at the 2014 APPA Lineworkers Rodeo. MMUA and Shakopee Public Utilities host the 2016 event.

Government Relations

MMUA Government Relations staff represents the interests of municipal utilities before state and federal government entities. Our government relations staff includes Government Relations Director Bill Black and Government Relations Representative Amanda Duerr. We have two excellent outside consultants who assist us in this work—Doug Carnival of the McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn & Lamb law firm on the state level and Michael Nolan, MJN Consulting, on the federal level. Here, we divide our efforts into state and federal reports.



Marshall Municipal Utilities General Manager Brad Roos served as a spokesperson for MMUA at the 2015 Legislative Conference. MMUA could not succeed in its work without the support and involvement of its members.

State Government Relations

In 2014, the Minnesota Legislature convened for its bonding-year session on February 25 and adjourned on schedule on May 17. The session was the last in the long and illustrious career of MMUA Senior Government Relations Representative Greg Oxley. It also marked the passing of the reins of MMUA's government relations program to Bill Black, who had previously assumed the title of Government Relations Director from Oxley.

The MMUA lobbyists had periods of intense activity in what turned out to be an uneventful session. House and Senate DFL party leaders, with hopes of coming out of November elections with their majorities intact, followed DFL Gov. Mark Dayton's advice and pursued a modest legislative agenda. The session was dubbed the 'unsession,' for its emphasis on repealing outdated laws.

Repeal of unpopular tax reforms of previous years and a substantial bonding bill were highlights of the session. Not surprisingly, substantial effort was needed to convince committee chairs that several supposedly innocuous bills would, in fact, virtually uproot Minnesota's regulatory framework. Those misguided initiatives were turned back after considerable lobbying by MMUA and others.

During the year, MMUA:

- Worked cooperatively both individually and in coordination with other utility lobbyists to recommend changes to legislation regarding sustainable buildings, on-bill repayment programs, Integrated Resource Plans and Combined Heat and Power proposed by the Center for Energy and the Environment before and during the legislative session.
- Worked cooperatively both individually and in coordination with other utility lobbyists to recommend changes to legislation regarding electric service to homes with medically necessary equipment proposed by Legal Services Advocacy Project.
- Opposed legislation that would allow state agencies to skip public involvement steps when implementing new regulations.
- Testified against legislation that could divide public power communities by recommending "community energy choice aggregation programs" within them.
- Provided research results to the Legislative Energy Commission explaining which Minnesota cities receive natural gas service and from whom and which cities do not receive gas service. The LEC was exploring ways to avoid future propane shortages like the one in winter 2013-14.



One interesting development of the MMUA government relations program in 2014 was an increasing trend of working with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association on legislative issues. Together, MMUA and MREA obtained exemptions from several onerous proposals. Here, MREA lobbyist Joel Johnson (red tie) visits with the MMUA group during our Legislative Conference.

- Participated in several joint meetings of the Government Relations and Grow With Your Cities committees to discuss Alliant utility sale.
- Attended EPA's Local Governments Committee Advisory Workgroup meeting on its proposed Waters of the U.S. rule in St. Paul.
- Provided testimony at EPA listening session on its Clean Power Plan in Denver.
- Assisted in writing formal comments of MMUA on EPA's Clean Power Plan.
- Along with Jack Kegel, met twice with new MREA CEO Darrick Moe to discuss increased coordination between MMUA and MREA.
- Attended MREA Energy Summit in St. Cloud and Rural Electric Managers Association meeting in Ottoville to promote increased coordination between MMUA and MREA.
- Explained Iowa's Eagle Point Solar case decision and its implications for Minnesota to MPUC staff, top DER staff and other utility lobbyists.
- Attended DER's scoping meeting in St. Paul for future Generic Standby Rates Proceedings at the MPUC.
- Served on a panel at DER's Combined Heat and Power stakeholders meeting explaining municipal utilities' stance toward CHP and warning against efforts by third-parties to sell electricity in Minnesota following Eagle Point Solar case decision in Iowa.
- Attended Midwest Electric Consumers Conference in Denver.
- Participated in meetings to develop MMUA's new website.
- Attended APPA legal seminar in San Antonio.
- Planned, organized and emceed MMUA's third Municipal Utilities Legal Seminar.
- Attended APPA National Conference in Denver.
- Served on Distributed Generation Advisory Committee at the MPUC as the commission staff developed draft modifications to the formal regulations that implement Minnesota statutes governing distributed generation. The rule changes were needed to incorporate statutory changes made during the 2013 legislative session that, among other related things, required investor-owned utilities to provide compensation for customer-generated electricity from larger solar and wind facilities. The many technical rule changes required careful scrutiny to ensure they would not affect municipal utilities.



MMUA Government Relations Director Bill Black (pictured above left) said goodbye to long-time MMUA lobbyist Greg Oxley (with the phone above right, talking with Lew Giesking) and welcomed Amanda Duerr (left) as a government relations colleague.

- Assisted and advised members with service territory developments.
- Organized years of data collected on utility rates, service territory changes, water and wastewater expenditures, PILOT, public power history and other issues into tables, charts and organized electronic files for future use and ease of updating by MMUA staff and members.
- Bid farewell to retiring Government Relations rock star Greg Oxley.
- Vetted and interviewed several candidates for the Government Relations Representative position and hired a top-notch lobbyist—Amanda Duerr.

Federal Government Relations

The year 2014 was a busy one for MMUA Washington Representative Michael J. Nolan.

The year marked the Second Session of the 113th Congress. It was an election year, which presaged little accomplishment but did not rule out a lot of activity. A handful of issues kept our public power representative busy.

Grid security, including cyber and physical security, occupied the Senate Energy Committee. At a hearing, Sue Kelly of APPA testified for the electricity industry. Sen. Franken, who had heard from

MMUA's representatives, asked about Distributed Generation and grid security/reliability. We also kept an eye on the Senate Intelligence Committee, which developed legislation and the House, which prepared its own bills.

The overarching issue of the year involved EPA and its New Source Performance Standards 111(d) regulations. The agency released its proposal, while an anti-EPA bill moved through the House. The Senate warily considered action. This issue was the subject of many visits and conversations.

MMUA was also actively involved as the Public Power Risk Management Act passed the House. Sen. Klobuchar co-sponsored the Senate bill, which awaited hearing. Meanwhile, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) signaled that regulations were coming. The House passed a CFTC reauthorization, including a Public Power Risk Management Act, with help from Rep. Collin Peterson, a friend of public power and an original co-sponsor of the Dodd-Frank bill. The efforts of MMUA and its members prove important on these developments.

Though no action was expected, significant effort was also expended on tax reform/budget issues. Possible action regarding municipal bonds kept our eyes on the issue. The House passed Rep. Ryan's budget, which included nothing on Power Marketing Agencies but targeted "energy provisions" for major deficit reduction.

There was talk of a Senate energy bill, including energy efficiency legislation, but little action.

By the August recess, elections were on the horizon. In September, Congress failed to pass a budget but passed a Continuing Resolution. The House goals for September included an energy bill, with EPA regulations and a Keystone pipeline bill. These goals were not accomplished.

Our issues remained: predominately EPA and 111(d) regulations. Listening sessions were held in late July—MMUA staff testified. Public comments were due Oct. 16 but then the deadline was extended, to make the longest comment period in history. The EPA final rule was expected June 2015, but this, too, is extended.

In November, Republicans won control of the Senate. A GOP House and a GOP Senate can now pass



Elk River Mayor John Deitz, U.S. Senator Al Franken, St. Peter Mayor Tim Strand and ALP Utilities (Alexandria) Commissioner John Perino, from left to right. This picture was taken during the APPA Legislative Rally, which was held March 10-12 in Washington, D.C.

legislation, but the White House can then veto it. Sixty-seven votes are needed to override a veto in the Senate—the GOP has 54, setting up an interesting legislative dynamic.

The Republican leadership announced a new agenda, including repeal of various regulations and tax reform.

MMUA representatives continued to work our issues throughout the year: EPA regulations; cyber and physical security; tax exempt financing; and possible rail/Surface Transportation Board (STB) reform. The Senate Commerce Committee passed an STB bill in waning days of 113th Congress. Sen. Klobuchar played a key role as supporter of public power and Greater Minnesota interests.



Blooming Prairie Mayor Harold (H.) Peterson, Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and Sauk Centre Public Utilities Commission Chairman Dennis Rykken, from left to right.

Engineering and Policy Analysis

Two federal environmental regulations were paramount and time consuming in 2014 for MMUA Director of Engineering and Policy Analysis Bob Jagusch. They were the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Clean Power Plan;' and the agency's 'RICE' rule, for engine generator sets.



Bob Jagusch

After publication of the RICE final rule, several environmental groups, states and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association filed suit to overturn the rule and replace it with the previous final rule. After discussion with Midwest municipal utility associations, the recommendation was made that the American Public Power Association (APPA) intervene in the lawsuit, which it did. This legal action is underway.

While the RICE rule has had a big impact on those utilities with local generating plants and is now in its final stages, the 'Clean Power Plan' is ongoing and may be the biggest utility issue of a lifetime. Jagusch has been actively involved, at many levels, in influencing the outcome.

EPA in June 2014 proposed its plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. The proposal would establish emission guidelines for existing electric generating units. Immediately after its release, Jagusch ran a preliminary analysis of the

rule, and held multiple conversations with APPA staff. He provided testimony to the Minnesota legislative committees on initial reaction to the rule for public power utilities.

Jagusch continued to work closely with APPA, his MMUA colleagues, power agencies and Midwest municipal utility associations on developing a consistent, coherent message. During this process and as the year developed numerous comments were developed and submitted, including MMUA's comments.

Along with working on comments, Jagusch's advocacy on the issue has carried him to official forums as well as gatherings of those influencing the rule as it is being developed.

He testified July 30 in Washington, D.C., at an EPA public hearing on the Clean Power Plan, where he expressed multiple concerns. The next day, Jagusch was among those meeting with Janet McCabe, EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, at a sold-out meeting hosted by the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). Over 35 state environmental agencies, experts from all sectors of our nation's energy economy, and other thought leaders gathered to discuss the implications of the proposed rule. APPA sponsored the meeting.

Jagusch also worked with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner John Linc Stine and Assistant Commissioner David Thornton in the MPCA stakeholder process, which helped shape the state's official comments. Jagusch participated in five 'stakeholder' meetings.

Jagusch has carried several points with APPA and in the Minnesota stakeholder process. EPA plans to issue a final guideline by summer 2015. States will be expected to submit full or preliminary plans to EPA for approval in 2016. EPA could prepare and impose plans in states that do not submit approvable plans.

State initiatives

Jagusch was involved in a variety of other activities during the year. Following up from earlier work, he was involved in a review of the Minnesota Department of Energy Resources (DER) Technical Manual and updates to the Conservation Improvement Program reporting program.

He also met with the MPCA and DER as part of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MC-CAG), which developed climate initiatives under Gov. Pawlenty. The MPCA noted that almost all of the emissions reductions in Minnesota have come from utilities. The decision was made by state staff to re-evaluate under-performing sectors.

Solar

Jagusch was involved in a number of activities around solar energy. He spoke at the Minnesota Solar Conference at the College of St. Thomas and attended a solar development meeting in Detroit Lakes with members of the Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) from the University of Minnesota.

Jagusch also attended multiple meetings with contractors, developers and finance entities to discuss potential ways to clear some of the hurdles confronting municipal community solar projects.

As the staff expert on solar, Jagusch participated in the first two meetings (in October and November) of the MMUA Solar-Distributed Generation Task Force.

DOE

The federal Department of Energy in May asked Jagusch to assist with their Automated Data Man-

agement System (ADMS) Technical Task Force. He met with the task force in Houston, Texas to create an initial outline of possible routes for developing a 'Best Practices/ Lessons Learned' Report for DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. This turned out to be a grueling project, with the final report approved in the fall for publication.

Presentations

Not surprisingly, Jagusch was often called on to talk about his work. Along with presentations at MMUA meetings, he was a panelist at the DER's first Combined Heat and Power (CHP) stakeholder meeting.

Additional APPA involvement

Along with his work on the CPP, Jagusch had significant involvement with APPA. He has helped plan the Engineering and Operations (E&O) meeting and chaired the Environment Committee. He also met as a member of the Demonstration of Energy Efficiency Development (DEED) Board of Directors.

Other activities

Jagusch worked with the Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) at the U of M to develop a program to assist water/wastewater utilities in saving energy and helped them understand Energy Performance Contracting in the municipal environment.

Jagusch also attended various joint action agency meetings, participated with the Midwest Municipal Gas Agency and was the lead staff person for the MMUA-Midwest Consortium of Municipal Utilities financing program. He assisted several members with various other projects during the year.



MMUA's Bob Jagusch continued to work with regulatory agencies and Clean Energy Resource Teams.

Safety and Training

2014 saw MMUA's homegrown programs thrive; our partnership with the League of Minnesota Cities and its Insurance Trust blossom in a number of areas; and our staff play an integral part in the development and teaching of many offerings from the American Public Power Association (APPA).

Lineworkers Rodeo

MMUA's involvement with the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo has grown steadily over recent years. The rodeo is where public power lineworkers come together from all over the United States to demonstrate their skill and knowledge.

MMUA and its members sent approximately 50 individuals to the rodeo April 4-5 in Edmond, Okla. MMUA Director of Training and Safety Mike Willetts was lead person for rodeo training sessions. Regional safety coordinators Bruce Westergaard and Marc Machacek also served as instructors.

Minnesota is scheduled to host the event on April 2, 2016, along with Shakopee Public Utilities (SPU), at the Canterbury Park in Shakopee. Planning moved to a detailed level Sept. 30, as MMUA called a meeting, at SPU, of interested utilities. Teams began to form to coordinate construction of the facilities for each event and many people volunteered for other various tasks.



The Edmond, Oklahoma Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo site. Approximately 50 Minnesotans attended this event. Planning for building the Shakopee site, which will be used in 2016, commenced in 2014.

Job Training and Safety program

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration in April released a 1,607 page rule (1910.269 Subpart V) revising its workplace safety standards for workers performing electric power generation, transmission and distribution work. No one utility could hope to digest this rule on its own, but working together, through the MMUA Job Training and Safety program, each utility received the necessary compliance assistance.

MMUA's Willetts had a thorough understanding, as past chair of the APPA Safety Committee and current chair of the APPA Safety Manual Revision Task Force. The task force is incorporating the new regulations into the APPA Safety Manual.

The JTS electric program, represented by a strong lineup of experienced electric utility and safety professionals, played the lead role in education and training to comply with the new rule. This past year marked the fourth year of a multi-year training plan, in large part designed to keep members ahead of the OSHA changes.

Safety Management program

With 11 regional safety coordinators dedicated to this work full time, and another on a partial basis, this program is MMUA's largest in terms of budget and staff. By 2014 this program—which provides a

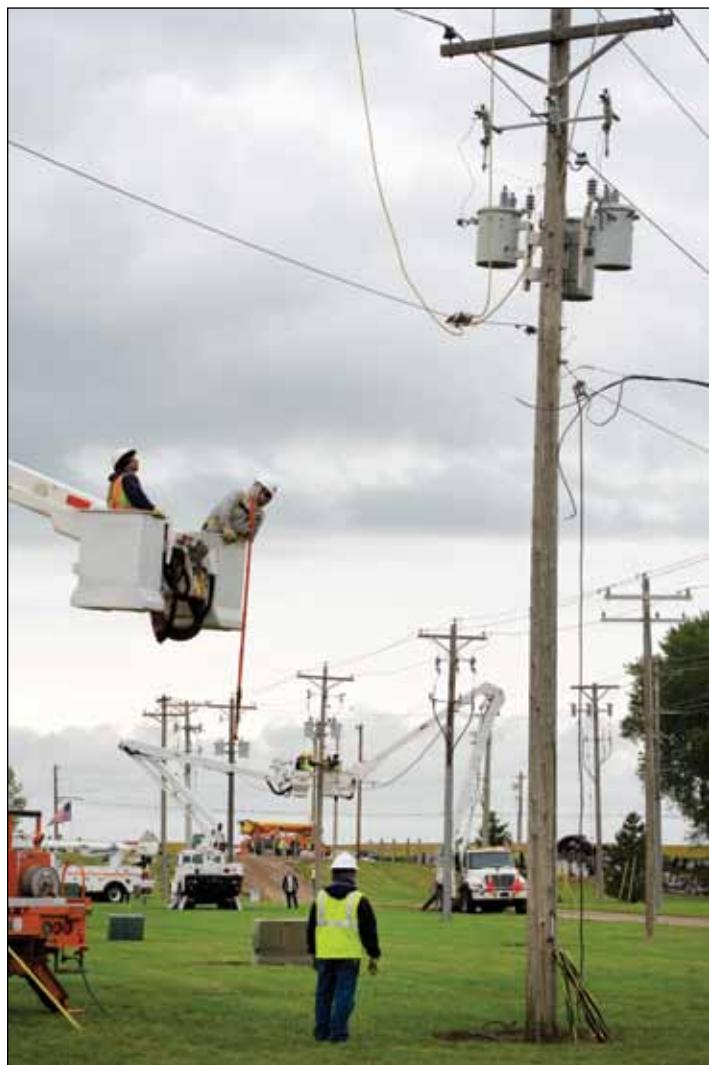


MMUA Regional Safety Coordinator Marc Machacek presented at a number of state and national conferences in 2014.



Participation in the On-site, On-demand apprentice lineworker program includes free tuition to several MMUA schools.

comprehensive safety program for all city departments—was well established and operated smoothly and effectively.



The MMUA Training Center in Marshall remained a busy place in 2014.



Julie Jelen



Robin Klug



Pete Wyffels

MMUA Regional Safety Coordinators are on call 24/7, for any and all safety services. They become an integral part of the city's safety team. Julie Jelen and Robin Klug joined the MMUA team in 2014.

Training Center

Training Center Coordinator/JTS Instructor Pete Wyffels enjoyed his first year with MMUA in 2014. Wyffels is a journeyman lineman and brought over 21 years of experience to the association.

The MMUA Training Center evolved over the course of the year, with infrastructure changes happening at each training program. Most notably, with the valued help of the On-site On-demand apprenticeship program, a substation was installed. MMUA instructors are now able to offer a real life training experience with technical operations within a substation. Not content with that addition, planning was undertaken in 2014 to install another substation.

Classes were very popular and well attended. The evaluations from the attendees were very positive and supportive of the programs and the quality of instruction.



JT&S Instructor Gary Greenwald trained students on safe underground distribution work practices.

On-site On-demand Apprentice Lineworker Development Program

The On-site on-demand program is a cost-effective and user-friendly program to help our members develop a raw, first-year apprentice into a fully qualified first-year journeyman lineworker in four years. The program hit its stride in 2014, with nine different members participating and 17 students enrolled. Thirteen employees from six utilities have graduated from the program.

MMUA Regional Safety Coordinators, including Mark Hottel (pictured), continue to provide useful services, including hot-stick testing.

times during the year. During each visit he reviewed the apprenticeship course work with the student and also provided hands-on instruction in technical skills.

This program is open for enrollment to students from all MMUA member utilities, who can join the program at any time.

Gas Circuit Rider program

MMUA Natural Gas Circuit Rider Troy Dahlin works with Minnesota's municipal natural gas utilities. Dahlin addressed a variety of needs such as on-site employee training, assisted with annual Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety inspections, technical operator training along and tracked regulatory changes. Membership evaluations of this program were very positive.

LMCIT Regional Safety Group program

The LMCIT partners with MMUA to deliver the regional safety group (RSG) option to members of its

Workers' Compensation program. With an RSG, neighboring cities come together as partners in OSHA compliance. LMCIT helps coordinate the RSGs and covers a portion of the training costs for each one.

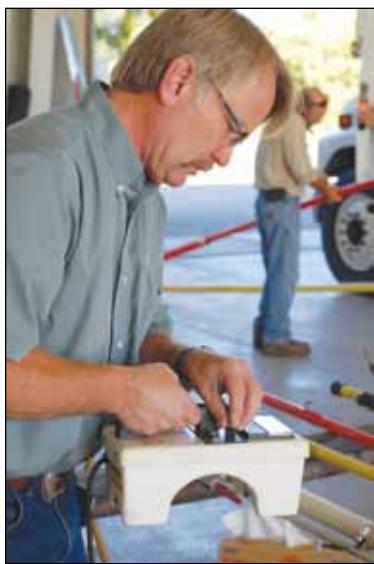
MMUA, under the direction of Regional Safety Group Program Leader Chris Schmitt, also performs safety audits and inspections, and provides one-on-one consulting.

As of the end of 2014, there were 25 RSGs comprised of 140 cities throughout the state, covering an estimated 1,400 employees trained annually.

LMCIT/MMUA generation projects

MMUA has partnered with the LMCIT to put in place customized guidelines designed for safe operation of local electrical generating plants. An up-to-date written preventive maintenance schedule, including a comprehensive inventory of critical equipment, qualifies a utility for a 10 percent rate reduction on its property coverage rates.

A new program in 2014 offered in partnership with the LMCIT is Generation Consulting. An MMUA staff expert conducts a thorough audit, with a utility staff person, and conducts a thorough review of equipment, procedures and records. The audit also provides an opportunity for your staff to discuss a variety of generation-related issues with an MMUA staff expert.



MMUA's Bob Sewell provides job training and safety and generation consulting services to members throughout the state.



MMUA Washington representative Michael Nolan has been a popular speaker at the annual Summer Conference.

Meetings and workshops

Major Meetings

MMUA conducts three major membership meetings each year.

The Legislative Conference was held in Bloomington and Minnesota legislative offices April 23-25. The meeting focused on policy issues and included a rally at the state capitol. Members meet with legislative leadership as well as their individual legislators over the course of the morning. The meeting also included informational presentations on a variety of timely topics.

The Summer Conference was held at Arrowwood Resort, August 18-20. The conference featured a day and a half of professional education, a trade show, presentation of awards, and ample opportunities for networking and socializing. Approximately 293 people attended. At the meeting, Winthrop's Mark Erickson handed over the reins of MMUA president to Brainerd's Bill Wroolie.

The Technical and Operations Conference was held in St. Cloud, December 9-11. This meeting was attended by approximately 182 regular, associate and affiliate members. The trade show had 45 different vendors with tables or booths.

Schools and Workshops

MMUA presented a variety of schools and workshops over the course of the year. Schools presented at the MMUA Training Center feature hands-on technical task training with a strong emphasis on safe and efficient work practices. The following



Joe Kroc of Austin Utilities and Scott Gravseth and Jeff Olson of East Grand Forks Water & Light visited during a break at the Technical and Operations Conference.

four schools were co-sponsored with the American Public Power Association and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association.

- Overhead School. We had 60 students from municipal utilities, 12 from MREA, 13 instructors and nine MMUA staff members attend the Overhead School. The most recent addition to the overhead and underground school is the journeymen leadership class. This class is designed to challenge the veteran lineworker with an enhanced curriculum to further develop leadership and technical skills.

- Underground School. This school had 77 students from municipal utilities, five students from MREA, 18 instructors and six MMUA staff members attend in 2014. Attendees enjoyed an evening trade show with 35 representatives of 15 different companies presenting their merchandise and services.

- Transformer School, including a pre-conference workshop on Basic Single-Phase Transformer Connection and Theory. The program offered hands-on instruction with one of the finest instructors in the industry, Scott Meinecke with Northwest Iowa Community College. We had 26 students from municipal utilities attend the pre-conference and 41 students from municipal utilities and five from MREA attend the school.

- Meter School, including a pre-conference workshop on Basic Metering. MMUA has developed extensive meter training facilities at the training center. The program provided challenging instruction for all levels of experience. In 2014 we had 29 students attend the pre-conference (two were MREA students) and 44 students attend the school (three were MREA students).

Additional MMUA Schools



The Overhead School is an annual MMUA offering.

- Substation School. This year's school emphasized substation operations and maintenance. The school was presented in Shakopee. A total of 24 students were trained (six were MREA students).

- Cross Training School. We had 17 students attend at this workshop in 2014.

- Cyber Security Webinar. We had 33 students attend at this webinar series in 2014.
- Customer Service Webinar. We had 152 students attend at this webinar series in 2014.
- Generation School. MMUA's 2014 hands-on training at the Generation School was conducted at the power plants in Madelia and Fairmont. A total of 42 students attended this school.



MMUA, through its workshops, strives to provide the most realistic training possible. In the case of the Generation School, that means holding classes in the local power plants. This photo was taken in Fairmont.

- PCB Workshop. We had 26 students attend at this workshop in 2014 (eight were MREA students).
- Firstline Supervision. In 2014 we had 20 students graduate from the FirstLine Supervision program and we welcomed 25 new students. This program is designed to provide the first line supervisor with leadership skills needed in today's competitive market.
- Legal Seminar. MMUA developed a groundbreaking legal seminar designed to aid attorneys with municipal clients. For our third offering of this seminar, we had 27 attendees.



Workshops are always about passing along knowledge, often from one generation to another. Here, Larry Chapman passes along some of his insights at the Meter School.

Communications and Member Relations

Communicating with our membership and the general public is one of the fundamental reasons for MMUA's existence. MMUA Associate Executive Director Steve Downer works with many other MMUA staff members to fulfill this function.

Over the course of the year MMUA researched and answered numerous questions in regards to operation of municipal utilities. At times, the answer was gained through posting an online survey on the MMUA website.

As is the case every year, MMUA produced a number of informative publications in 2014, including 11 monthly *Resource* newsletters for MMUA members, 24 *Connector* newsletters for members to send to their customers, as well as eight *Capitol Tattler* electronic legislative updates. (The *Tattler* was renamed the *Capitol Letter* in 2015 and is being produced by MMUA Government Relations Representative Amanda Duerr.)

MMUA also produced the 2014 MMUA *Directory* (our last print *Directory* for the foreseeable future), position statement booklets for the APPA Washington Rally and the MMUA Legislative Conference, and the MMUA Legislative Directory. This last publication was largely produced by Government Relations Director Bill Black. Publications staff also contributed to the annual Legislative Report, and produced materials related to MMUA's training programs and meetings, including a meetings/training calendar.

Advertising for MMUA publications was solicited and administered, as were association sponsorships, which proved to be quite popular. The MMUA brochure and general brochure on municipal utilities were updated, as were various maps and PowerPoint presentations.

The big news, however, was work on the new MMUA website. Much of this work was behind-the-scenes and related to tying together the website and database. Numerous staff contributed to the website's wording and look, including staff in the communications area. Perhaps the greatest contribution in this area came from tapping into a rich vein of municipal utility-related images staff has amassed over decades of work and travels around the state.

Communications and Member Relations staff played a number of other roles, including:

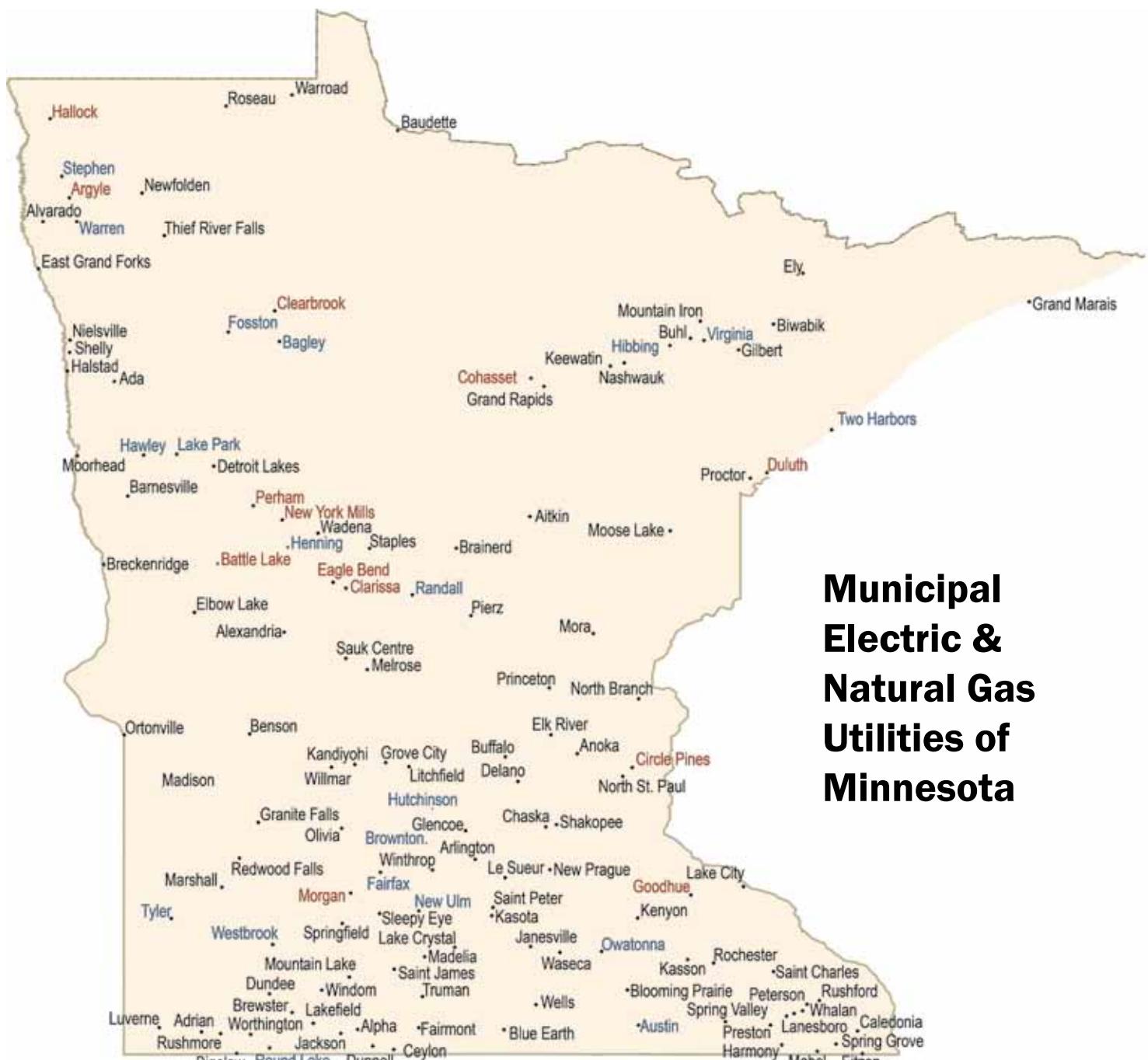
- Presentations before city councils, utilities commissions, community colleges, etc., on a variety of topics relating to municipal utilities and their operation, including the formation of new municipal natural gas utilities.
- Maintained the MMUA website (along with Rita Kelly).
- Conducted 19 on-line surveys to gather information for members.
- Administered committees, the MMUA Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award and the MMUA Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium.
- Monitored and influenced low-income and telecom issues while serving as chair of the Salvation Army HeatShare Advisory Board, and participated in various meetings on a variety of topics with municipal power and non-profit interest groups, as well as government regulatory agencies.
- Numerous member visits.



MMUA Associate Executive Director Steve Downer attended a Rochester Public Utilities board meeting to present a certificate to Andrea Walker, winner of the 2014 MMUA Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award contest.



Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association



Municipal Electric & Natural Gas Utilities of Minnesota

Note: Many of these utilities also provide water service, and may provide other services as well.