

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

September 2017

Longtime League employee receives recognition for 30 years of service

Editor's Note: This story also will appear in the October 2017 *Nebraska Municipal Review*.

Lash Chaffin, League Utilities Section Director, was honored Sept. 21 during the Past Presidents Luncheon at the Annual Conference, for his leadership during 30 years of service to the League.

Tony Jelinek, Kearney Utilities Director and President of the League's Utilities/Public Works Section, said the Utilities Executive Board met last summer and decided to thank Chaffin for the "remarkable job" he has done.



From left in back: Ann and Owen Chaffin, Lash's wife and son; Lash Chaffin. In front, Abe Chaffin, Lash's son.

Certificates for Years of Service

Remember to recognize your employees' anniversary milestones. The League provides certificates for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65.

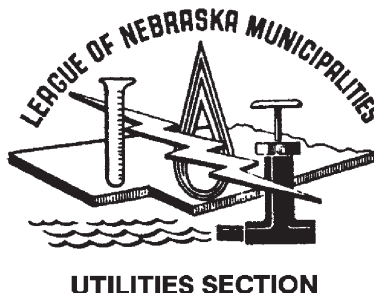
You can request them by emailing brendah@lonm.org at the League office or fax to 402-476-7052.

"Under Lash's leadership, the Utilities Section has significantly enhanced the quality and quantity of training sessions across the state," Jelinek said. "Utilities Section Members know we can rely on Lash to effectively represent our interests before federal and state agencies and the Legislature. He understands what we do and how we need to do it to protect

the public."

Chaffin began working for the League as part of the research and recodification department before beginning his duties as the new Utilities Section Coordinating Manager Sept. 1, 1987.

For more pictures from the Annual Conference, checkout the League's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/leaguene. Be sure to "Like" us.



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Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop held in Sidney

The Western Nebraska Rubber Gloving Workshop was held Sept. 12-14, 2017, on the Don Winkelman Training Field at the Wheatbelt Public Power District of Sidney. There were 45 lineworkers in attendance with 16 from municipalities and 29 from the rural electric systems. Lineworkers from 10 municipal systems participated from Alliance, Ansley, Arnold, Curtis, North Platte, Sidney, St. Paul, Sidney, Stuart, Valentine and Torrington, Wyo.

The workshop started with vendor introductions, which included brief discussions on various equipment, vehicles and other related electrical material that was provided for

use and display by the various companies. The participants were then divided into hands-on work groups or stations. Station #1 consisted of “rescue man in bucket with conductors attached in a tree.” Station #2 included paralleling two transformers and change out of one with the secondary energized. Station #3 was a three-phase insulator change (center phase or the outside phase opposite side of truck set up). Station #4 was a broken pole changeout with the transfer of conductors. Station #5 was a change out of both sets of bells on top phase of a C-4. Each station began with a tailgate session along with tailgate forms filled out for documentation.



Pin top insulator changeout station.

Special thanks to the following instructors and their respective companies: Station #1 – Chris

Continued on page 3

2017-2018 Executive Board

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Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop held in Sidney

Continued from page 2
Macy (PREMA); Station #2 – Bryce Buhr (McCook PPD); Station #3 – Jake Gonzales (Roosevelt PPD); Station #4 – DJ Duffield (Wyrulec PPD); Station #5 – Abe Young (Northwest PPD); and Station #6 – Kirk

Heimes (Midwest PPD). The three beginner group instructors included, Scot Ouerdik of Chimney Rock PPD, Spencer Burk of Custer PPD and Tim Teegerstrom of Polk County PPD.

Also, a special thanks to the instructors and

their respective companies along with the following companies that provided trucks, demo trailers, material and their knowledge when performing rubber gloving techniques (listed alphabetically by company name): Bruce Bower,

Rick Little and Travis Allen of Altech Industries Inc.; Chad Hiatt of Altech Direct; John Marsaglia of Evans Lipka & Associates; Bill Larson, Energy Solutions Inc.; and Joe Boatwright of Custom Truck & Equipment.

Classifieds

Electric Lineman First Class (Full-Time).

City of Seward accepting applications through Oct. 27, 2017, for a Full-Time Electric Lineman First Class. Pay range: \$23.21-\$29.39 per hour, with benefits; Applicant must be high school graduate or equivalent and have the equivalent of technical training received in an associate degree program in elec-

tric utility maintenance; will perform and participate in construction, installation, maintenance and repair of electric distribution and transmission lines and other related work; Applicant must possess: Class B CDL license (or ability to obtain within 6 mos.); knowledge of approved methods, materials and tools used in electric line work; knowledge

of principles of electric theory which apply to electric distribution and transmission systems; Application and job description available at Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; PO Box 38; Seward, NE 68434-0038 (402-643-2928) or can be downloaded at City's website: www.CityofSewardNE.gov; Reasonable accommodations are available for persons



needing assistance in completing application and should be made at time of application. All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. City of Seward is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** What municipality hosted the 1870-71 Nebraska State Fair?
- Q-2.** In 1913, some 2,000 “Shark Pliers” were manufactured per day in what city in Nebraska?
- Q-3.** Some of the actual pillars from the original U. S. Treasury Building are located where in Nebraska?
- Q-4.** Do you know where this former pump house power plant was located?

Answers found on page 4.



SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

October is National Fire Prevention Month

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Be sure to review and practice safe evacuation procedures (fire drills), inspect all municipal buildings (facilities) for fire safety concerns and make any needed precautions to eliminate fire hazards. Make sure electrical connections are not overloaded or loose and are properly grounded.

In the early years, many of our village and cities across the state lost businesses, courthouses, city halls and schools because of fires. Be sure to inspect smoke alarms

(batteries) and fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers should be checked monthly and serviced annually.

There are five general classes of fire extinguishers, which include: **Class A** – for ordinary combustibles (paper, wood and cloth); **Class B** – for flammable liquids (gasoline, grease and oil); **Class C** – for electrical equipment (appliances and tools); **Class D** – for combustible metals (most often found in factories); and **Class K** – for cooking combustibles (vegetable and animal oils and fats; most often found in commercial

kitchens).

Employees should be trained to use the PASS Method to extinguish a fire:

Pull the pin

Aim the nozzle

Squeeze the lever

Sweep the nozzle

A fire extinguisher should be located within 100 feet of employees for each 3,000-square feet of building. Make Fire Prevention Month and Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 8-14, 2017), a special and meaningful time as you practice fire prevention all year long.

Grand Opening for South Sioux City Fire Station

A grand opening was held in September for South Sioux City's new (nearly \$2.6 million) fire station. USDA Rural Development, the South Sioux City Community Foundation Inc., and area residents attended the grand opening. The

new fire station consists of 12,225 square feet with four standard drive-through bays, wash bays, office space and sleeping areas. The USDA funding for this project was awarded through its Community Facility Direct Loan Program.

"Just For Fun" Answers

A-1. Brownville

A-2. Wakefield (Dixon County History book)

A-3. Pioneers Park in Lincoln

A-4. Wilcox (also served as a fire hall)

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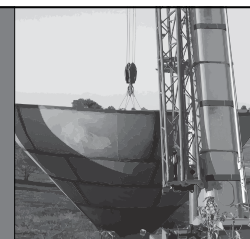
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Water Operator Training Workshops

Water Operator Training Workshops were held in Valentine on Sept. 26, in Stuart on Sept. 27 and in Sargent on Sept. 28, 2017. Topics covered at these workshops included well rehabilitation and lining, pump operation/maintenance and steps to siting a municipal well, which was covered by Brad and Dan with Layne. Steve Kelley covered source water protection with an emphasis on the guardian program, which is used at Beatrice. Scott Sprague covered asset management concerning record keeping with an emphasis on wells. Tony Martinez (DHHS) gave a brief regulatory update and

discussed sampling procedures with the operators. A short how-to sampling video was viewed by the attendees. Water operators in attendance received five hours toward grades 1-4 and wastewater operators received two hours toward license renewal. Since wells were covered, some renewal hours for well drillers also may be available, but agenda information must be submitted to Tom at DHHS.

The League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section and the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association fall/winter workshops, scheduled across the state, will focus on well

rehabilitation and lining, pump operation/maintenance, steps to site a municipal well, source water protection, recordkeeping/asset management and a regulatory update. For workshop sites and dates, be sure to check the training calendar insert, the last page of this newsletter or one of the sponsoring group's websites. The League website is www.lonm.org.

Be sure you have the required hours to renew your water license before the deadline, which is the end of the calendar year. Wastewater licenses are due on the operators' anniversary date within the 2017 year.



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***More information on
upcoming seminars and
workshops can be found
on the League website
at www.lonm.org.***

Nebraska utilities history

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Clatonia, located in Gage County, had German settlers in the area in the 1850s and 1860s. A post office established June 15, 1869, was known as Baden. The Methodist and Lutheran (German) Churches were built and Sept. 21, 1874, the post office name changed from Baden to Clatonia. An early water source came from the nearby Clatonia Creek, after which the village was named. In the spring of 1892, the site was surveyed and platted on 40 acres and a plat was filed Dec. 3, 1893. In 1892-93, the Rock Island Railroad built a line from Chicago to Denver through Clatonia with trains passing through by 1893. In 1893, the population was about 200 and Clatonia was incorporated as a village. About 1893, the post office reportedly moved from a farm into the community and was housed in a lumberyard. In 1894, School District #155 was organized and a two-story frame school for K-8th was built (one

source noted the school was established in 1896). From 1892-96, a lumberyard (1892), grain elevator (1893-94) and two banks (1894-96) were established. Following a bank robbery (no insurance), the two banks merged, forming the Farmers Bank of Clatonia in 1897. By 1898, an implement shop opened and by May 1903, the railway operated through Clatonia. In 1903, an English speaking, Methodist Church was organized with a white-frame church built in 1905.

In 1910, the population was 180 and the post office was operating out of the drug store by 1914. In 1915, a waterworks was installed, which included a water tower on the hill. By 1918, the village had two general stores, two hardware stores, drug store, hotel, elevator, two garages, blacksmith shop and other businesses. The waterworks was municipally owned and a private electric lighting power plant was in operation.

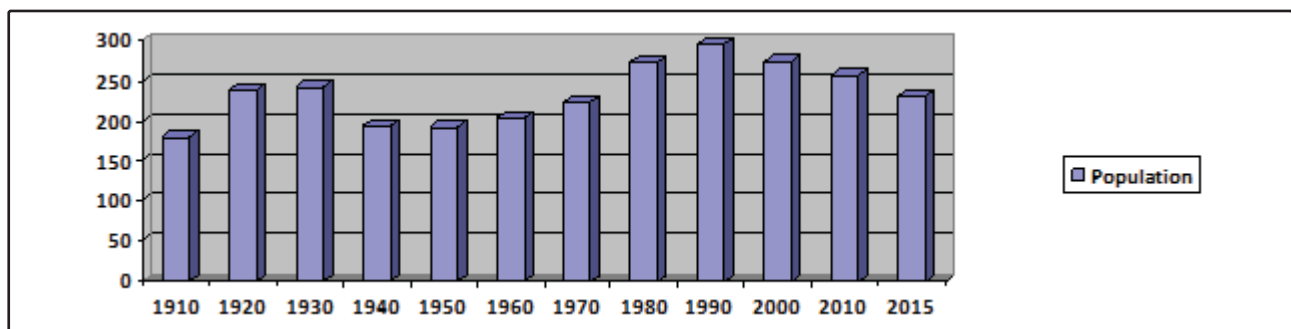
By 1920, the population was 239, a new bank was built in 1921, and the Nebraska Gas &



Clatonia water tower. 2017 photo.

Electric Company supplied natural gas to the village in 1922. The school added a 12th grade and the two-story, three-room, frame school was replaced with a brick school in 1924. In 1928, the water

Continued on page 7



Nebraska utilities history


Continued from page 6
system was municipally operated and the private-owned power plant had rates of \$0.135 per kilowatt hour (kWh). Hard times hit in the 1930s as the implement shop closed in 1930 and the bank in 1933. The village used natural gas by 1932 and a Gage County maintenance garage was built in 1939. By 1930, the population increased to 242, but dropped to 194 by 1940. In the early 1940s, the Consumers Public Power District may have purchased the electric system from the Iowa-Nebraska

Light & Power Company because private electric systems were being bought out. In the mid-1930s, the village installed new water mains.

The population in 1950 was 192 and an auditorium-gymnasium was built in 1951. By 1958, the village fire department had 25 volunteer firemen. The privately owned, gas system had rates of \$1.25 for a minimum of 600 cubic feet (cuft), next 1,400 cuft at \$1.24 per 1,000 cuft, next 3,000 cuft at \$0.93 per 1,000 cuft, next 40,000 cuft at \$0.77 per 1,000


cuft. The electric distribution was owned by the Consumers Public Power Company with 1958 rates for the first 12 kWh at \$1, next 38 kWh at \$0.065, next 100 kWh at \$0.033, next 400 kWh at \$0.011 and excess at \$0.02 with a minimum of \$1. The village-owned water plant and 100 meters were owned by the consumers with rates for the first 3,000 gallons for three months at \$3, then at \$0.35 per 1,000 gallons. By 1962, the population increased to 203 and the fire department by 1962, had

Continued on page 8




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Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 7
30 volunteer firefighters. Also in 1962, the natural gas system was supplied by Western Power & Gas Company and the electric system and the 30 meters in service were owned by Consumers Public Power District. The cost of street lighting amounted to \$28.50 and the cost of water pumping was approximately \$20 per month. The village-owned sewer system was maintained by an eight-mill tax levy and a sewer charge of \$2 per month. In 1964, the last high school class graduated because the Clatonia School consolidated with the Wilber School System. The school closed in 1970 and was razed in 1972.

In the 1970s, the electric system was owned by the village and operated and supplied by the Nebraska Public Power District. The sewer treatment system was upgraded in 1979. By 1980, the population increased to 273 and the former school gym was converted into a community center (1980). The village maintained the facultative retention lagoon treatment system, which was

designed for 0.031 million gallons per day (mgd).

The population increased to 296 in 1990, but decreased to 275 by 2000. The electric distribution system, owned by the village, was operated and supplied by Norris Public Power District and the natural gas system provided by Aquila.

The fire department was housed in a three-door metal facility with an ISO rating of 8 inside and 9 outside village limits. The village-owned water system had two wells, an elevated storage tower and mains serving 130 residential and nine commercial customers. Water rates in 2010-2011 were \$11 per month, then \$0.75 per 1,000 gallons for residential and commercial customers. Sewer rates at \$8 per month for residential and commercial. A water/sewer deposit was \$150 with a \$30 reconnect fee for service. In 2013-2014, the village replaced old cast water mains and water meters in the distribution system. A new 75,000-gallon elevated storage tower replaced the old 35,000-gallon water tower.

Clatonia has been an incorpo-

rated village for 124 years and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member. The village maintains a water and sewer collection and lagoon system, a ballfield, cemetery and several blocks of paved streets. The natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Corporation, which was purchased from Aquila. The village-owned electric system is served retail by Norris Public Power District.




References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-1981, 1984, 1997, 2000-2017; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1928, 1946; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast, 1992; Maps Tell a Story, 1991; Sargent Leader newspaper, 1913; NEDED Website, 2005; Beatrice Anniversary Edition, 150 Years in the Making, 2009; History of Gage County, Nebraska, 1918; NPPD Website, 2011; Genealogy Trails website, 2016; Nebraska Blue Book, 1920, 1928, 1930, 1946 and the Gage County History, 1983.



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League Annual Conference

The League Annual Conference was held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln Sept. 20-22, 2017. The conference began with a Preconference Seminar by Jerry L. Pigsley and Erin Ebeler Rolf of Woods & Aiken on "Labor Relations Update to Limit Your Municipal and Personal Liability." On Sept. 21, topics in the morning included: "Understanding and Managing Generational Differences in Your Workplace" and "Cyber Security and Disaster Management: Are You Prepared?"

In the afternoon, concurrent sessions included: "Road to 2020 Census," "Problem Gambling in the Workplace," "Tax Increment Financing (TIF)," "Contractor Issues and Performance Surety Bonds," "Stake Your Claim" (loss control measures)," "Municipal Library Innovations," "What Your Municipality and HR Need to Plan for Tomorrow," "Effectively Regulating Telecommunications Facilities and Providers," and a "Nebraska Expressways for Economic Development (NEED

Meeting." Following the afternoon sessions, the City Managers/Administrators, Clerks, Larger Cities, Smaller Cities and Utilities Section Meetings were held.

On Sept. 22, the sessions continued with "Effective Strategies to Address Nuisances and Abandoned Properties in Small and Large Municipalities," "Preventing, Mitigating and Preparing for a Flood Disaster," "Laws Governing Public Records," "E-Verify Requirements," "Top Ten Most

Continued on page 10



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Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations to all the linemen who competed at the 2017 Nebraska Linemen Rodeo held in August and September at the Fairgrounds in Grand Island.

Congratulations to **Ricky Dickinson** of Bushnell for being recognized by the Nebraska Health and Human Services (DHHS) with a Water Operator "Certificate of Recognition" at the Annual Rural Water Association Western

Conference in Gering Sept. 13, 2017.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Have a project worthy of acknowledgement in the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your



excitement or pride of an award, noted article or project with other members.

Too often, we read about negative news in our local newspaper, but the positive should be celebrated, embraced and shared. Optimism can be contagious and others may find positive ways to use your success to enhance a project or event in their municipality, department or facility.

League Annual Conference

Continued from page 9

Frequently Asked Questions of LNM Staff," "Open Meetings Act" and a "Nebraska Economic Development (DED) Update."

The conference was well at-

tended with about 150 municipal officials from across the state in attendance. Also, a special thanks to the many associate members, exhibitors and sponsors in attendance this year.

Utilities Section members only

Do you have equipment to sell or a position to fill? Place your ad in the Classifieds section of the *Utilities Section Newsletter* for free. Contact Brenda Henning at the League office at 402-476-2829, fax to 402-476-7052 or email your ad to brendah@lonm.org.

Backflow Workshops held

Backflow Workshops were held in Ogallala Sept. 6 and in Grand Island Sept. 7 with 91 operators in attendance. Operators received five hours recertification for water operators grades 1-4 water and

grade six along with five hours toward wastewater licenses. Speakers included Bob Byrkit, Tony Martinez and Rob Pierce. The next Backflow Workshops will be held in August 2018.



Hello Progress

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Training calendar

October

Oct. 26..... Water Operator Training Workshop City Hall, Auburn

November

Nov. 16..... Water Operator Training Workshop MidPlains Community College (North),
North Platte

December

Dec. 6 Water Operator Training Workshop Christensen Field, Fremont

Dec. 7 Water Operator Training Workshop Lincoln Water System, Lincoln

January

Jan. 4 Water Operator Training Workshop Library, Blair

Jan. 11 Water Operator Training Workshop Library, Pawnee City

Jan. 17-19..... Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

Jan. 24 Water Operator Training Workshop Holiday Inn, Kearney

Jan. 24-25..... Snowball Conference Holiday Inn, Kearney

Mark your calendars!

Jan. 17-19, 2018

Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

Jan. 24-25, 2018

Annual Snowball Wastewater Conference
Holiday Inn, Kearney