Lincoln Transportation and Utilities earns national accreditation

The American Public Works Association (APWA) March 4 officially recognized the City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Department (LTU) for achieving national accreditation. The APWA accreditation program recognizes public works agencies that go above and beyond the requirements of the best management practices established nationally.

“Achieving this level of distinction demonstrates that Lincoln Transportation and Utilities is focused on delivering excellence in infrastructure operations and services and consistently adheres to nationally recognized and recommended practices,” said Chuck Williams, APWA Region VI director.

“It also recognizes the agency’s commitment to a continuous review and improvement process for all management plans, policies and procedures.”

LTU is the first agency in the state to meet the rigorous national requirements and the 150th department to be accredited in North America.

“During our APWA self-assessment, we learned who we are and who we wanted to be, and we set our goals accordingly,” said LTU Director Miki Esposito. Esposito highlighted several milestones over the past seven years that led to accreditation, including:

- Emphasizing a department culture focused on customer service and core values;
- Expanding transparency and community involvement in planning and operations, including unveiling the UPLNK phone app for non-emergency service requests;
- Refreshing the decades-old winter operations plan including public engagement and expanding the use of the city’s almost patented brine solution to increase safety and snow removal effectiveness;
- Updating master plans in solid waste, water and wastewater and pursuing rate studies and engineering design standards and specifications;
- Introducing the cutting-edge Traffic Management Master Plan that gave rise to the Green Light Lincoln initiative;
- Developing master plans in transportation access management, high-speed data connections through broadband infrastructure and technology services;
- Modernizing the Transit Development Plan to incorporate environmentally responsible CNG-fueled vehicles and expand services.

“To Lincoln residents, putting your trust in an accredited agency like LTU means you will get excellent service, best practices based on the latest industry research, continual improvement and most importantly, public servants to the core who work for the good of their community,” said Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler.

The accreditation process was one of the 24 recommendations made by the 27-member Lincoln Citizens’ Transportation Coalition in 2018. The coalition recommended a combination of cost savings, adherence to best practices to ensure high-quality infrastructure and additional funding through local option sales tax to help the city meet its growing backlog of street repair and maintenance needs, particularly in neighborhoods. LTU will continue to maintain and improve its practices in order to be re-accredited in four years.

Source – City of Lincoln
Congratulations! 2019 marks the 130th year since the City of Tekamah started installing a water system. By October 1892, the water system had three bored wells with water pumped by a Barr Duplex pump (14x7x12) to a reservoir (13x60 ft) located on the hill. The system had three miles of four-, six- and eight-inch mains and 19 double hydrants. Congratulations on your 130 year anniversary!

Congratulations! To the following awardees at the Nebraska Rural Water Association’s 41st Annual Banquet held in Kearney March 12, 2019: Clint Johnson of Pawnee City received the Russell Topp “Doing it Right Award”; Milo Rust of Chadron and Kevin Holcomb of Loup City both received the “Outstanding Water Operator Award” from Andy Kahle, Doug Woodbeck and Dave Jundt of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Best Tasting Water Competition Winner! The City of Auburn Water Department was selected as the “best tasting water” in Nebraska at the Annual Nebraska Rural Water Conference. The panel of judges chose Auburn over the other 10 systems that provided water for the competition. The judges included Erin Ress, EPA; David Fulton, USDA; Doug Woodbeck, DHHS; Rollin Davis, City of Ord; and Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities. By winning this competition, Auburn is now qualified to enter the National Rural Water competition in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Auburn!

Congratulations also goes out to the City of Clay Center for placing second at the national Rural Water Association water taste testing competition held in Washington, D.C. Clay Center was the 2018 winner at the Nebraska Rural Water Association Conference, which qualified them for the national contest. Congratulations Clay Center! Note: The City of Curtis won the national competition in 2014.

Congratulations! The City of Bayard received recognition from the Nebraska Department of

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Journeyman Lineman. The City of Hebron has an immediate opening for a Journeyman Lineman. The City of Hebron (population 1501) is located in Southeast Nebraska. Under the direction of the City Administrator, the Journeyman Lineman is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the City’s distribution system including overhead and underground.

The successful candidate will have graduated from an accredited utility line school and have completed an accredited Journeyman Lineman apprenticeship program. Experience in metering, transformer configurations, and general construction is required. The ability to obtain a CDL is a must. The position will be required to participate in the on-call rotation and be willing to assist other departments of the municipality as needed.

The position will remain open until filled. The City of Hebron is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may be requested by email at cityofhebron@hotmail.com or by calling City Hall at 402-768-6322.

The City of Hebron provides excellent pay, benefits, and maintains a positive working environment.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia
“Just For Fun”

Q-1. How many municipalities in Nebraska start with the letter “K”?

Q-2. How many cities of the first class are listed in the 2018 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials?

Q-3. In what city in Nebraska is this “Boy Scout” liberty statue located?

Answers on page 8.

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

Continued from page 2 Economic Development (DED) as a Leadership Certified Community. Only 25 communities in Nebraska have qualified for this program since it was started in 2011. More information on this program can be found by contacting Kelly Gewecke at Kelly.Gewecke@nebraska.gov or (308) 627-3151 or visit www.neded.org. Congratulations, Bayard! 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.
SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Chlorine Safety

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

A common disinfection chemical is chlorine and with Nebraska’s recent flooding, many may be using chlorine to disinfect wells, mains and a variety of storage containers. Care must be taken when working with chlorine. Listed below are some facts about chlorine:

- Is an extremely reactive chemical.
- Is 2.5 times heavier than air, it tends to collect at low spots.
- Has a strong, sharp, unpleasant and penetrating odor.
- Is 1.5 times heavier than water. It evaporates quickly when exposed to the atmosphere.
- Is not flammable by itself, but most combustible materials burn in the presence of chlorine as they do in oxygen.
- Reacts explosively with many chemicals commonly used, including acetylene, turpentine, ether, ammonia gas and fuel gas.
- Is not corrosive by itself but when moisture is present, chlorine produces highly corrosive hydrochloric and hypochlorous acids.

When transporting, handling and storing chlorine, be sure to wear/use proper safety equipment, inspect containers for leaks and know and implement the proper first-aid procedures. Some chlorine exposure signs may include coughing, chest tightness, burning sensation in nose, throat, eyes or watery eyes, and nausea/vomiting. Other signs may include difficulty breathing or burning pain, redness, blisters, and frostbite in cases of liquid chlorine. Resource material is from the AWWA Chlorine Safety participants guide (1991).

More information on chlorine can be found by referring to your “Safety Data Sheets” on chlorine or by assessing the website: https://www.chlorineinstitute.org. For those with domestic wells, the University of Nebraska has excellent resources such as the NebGuide on “Shock Chlorination of Domestic Water Supplies.” This NebGuide describes procedures for introducing chlorine to eliminate bacteria in private water systems.

Safety Committee focus

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Has your safety committee met this quarter? Did your system have any incidents to review? Review how your system compares nationally.

The number one safety topic among employers is overexertion injuries, which includes work injuries related to pulling, lifting, pushing, holding, carrying and throwing. Overexertion has been consistently the number one workplace injury and one of the most expensive. It may be related to an aging workforce and lack of overall fitness.

Slips, trips and falls are the number two cause of workplace injuries. Wet, slippery surfaces, trip hazards and proper foot wear may need attention. Falling from heights such as ladders, equipment and stairways can be from an accident, inattention to the task or possibly faulty equipment. These incidents/accidents can be minimized or eliminated with the use of proper personal protection equipment, knowledge from training and by employee awareness.

Some other areas to discuss/cover in your safety meetings may involve reaction injuries, falling object injuries, walking into injuries, machine entanglement, and repetitive motion injuries. An area almost every workplace has to deal with involves vehicle accidents due to the different types of vehicles used in municipalities. The topic of on-the-job violent acts must not be ignored as it seems to rear its ugly head more than we would like to think. Society appears to have become more aggressive to the day-to-day issues such as bill paying (or lack of), who does what and common courtesy toward others. Someone once told me we are living in an entitlement society. I just wonder when and how that came about? Regardless, we need to address the fact that a violent act may occur and how best to handle the event.

If your safety committee needs more topics to discuss, please let me know. Accidents don’t just happen and 99.9 percent of them can be avoided or at least minimized greatly. Safety should always be number one!
By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

In the 1840s-1850s, the Missouri River traffic crossed at the area (currently Omaha). An “Upper Ferry” operated several miles north of the Omaha site, a “Middle Ferry” operated in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area, and a “Lower Ferry” (or Traders Point Ferry) was operated by Peter Sarpy at the Bellevue area. Omaha, which is located in Douglas County, was platted in 1854 with a post office established May 5, 1854 as Omaha City. On July 4, 1854, the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company was founded. Banks, hotels and many other businesses were rapidly established. By 1857, the population was about 500 and Omaha was incorporated as a village by the Legislature Feb. 2, 1857. The first movement for a city water works was started and by 1860, the population increased to 1,833. On May 2, 1860, the Pioneer Hook & Ladder was organized and was noted as the first of its kind in the territory. The Illinois and Mississippi Telegraph reached Omaha in 1861 and by 1862, the “Lower Ferry” ceased operation. In 1862, a railway was discussed and by 1863, the Union Pacific Railroad was under construction. The post office name changed July 7, 1865 to Omaha and the “Railroad Omaha” west construction began. Water was stored in cisterns for use in fighting fires. By 1866, an offshoot organization was started called “Fire King No. 1.” Also that year, the Union Pacific Transportation Company was established with a private ferry to move railroad construction material from Council Bluffs to Omaha. An ordinance was passed to create a police force and by 1867, street cars were operating and a military barracks was established (later called Fort Omaha) in 1868. The Omaha weekly Herald newspaper was published. The 18-member police force adopted uniforms and the population was about 16,000. In the fall, work began on a privately owned (stock company) gas system. In the spring of 1869, the gas system was completed for about $150,000 with a capacity of 40 million cubic feet (cuft) of gas per year. The gas system was leased to the firm of Baker, Purnell & Fry in 1869 with the lease to expire in 1882. The brick gas works facility was located on the corner of 16th and Leavenworth Streets, which served 198 gas users and about 100 gas street lights. Omaha was declared a first class city by the Legislature in 1869 and the Omaha Street Railway Company was operating.

By 1870, the population was 16,083, the Omaha & Grand Smelting Company was established and two hospitals were built (Clarkson and St. Joseph's). From 1873-1897, the Nebraska State Fair was held in Omaha. About 1872-1873, the Union Pacific Railroad bridge was completed across the Missouri River. Omaha soon became a transportation point of eight railroads. In 1873,
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bonds were issued for a waterworks system. The Omaha Bee newspaper was operating by 1875 and due to economic reasons, the city cut off gas for street lights and reduced the police force to four men. Prior to the 1870s, individuals had outhouses (privies). Cesspools also were in the area and sometimes backed into the streets. By 1876, there were complaints of open privies and backed up cesspools as many residents routed waste from their privies to the alleys and streets because they didn't want to clean them out. In 1877, the first attempt of paving was a few blocks of Farnam Street covered with a crushed-rock surface called "macadam." In September 1877, a flood put Iowa land on the west side of the Missouri River (Carter Lake). Telephone Service was introduced in 1878 and an ordinance was passed for a bid/contract with S. L. Wiley & Co. to install a waterworks system. A sewer system was proposed in 1878 by the city, but not fully developed until 1895. About 1879-1880, Florence water works was constructed by the City Water Works Company.

By 1880, the population was 30,518 and a contract was awarded for the construction, maintenance and operation of a water works for 25 years. By early 1881, there was no city water system due to issues with contracts and bribery. Omaha had about 118 miles of streets with only ¼-mile paved by 1881. In August 1881,

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the first water was pumped from the Missouri River to customers in Omaha with 17 miles of pipelines. The City Waterworks Company of Omaha owned the waterworks system. The system was a direct pressure reservoir system with two large engines in pumping works, a Knowles compound pumping engine with a daily capacity of 3 million gallons of water to a height of 300 feet. The original plant had 20 miles of pipe, a 5 million capacity pump with storage capacity of 10 million gallons. The Walnut Hill Reservoir was part of the original Omaha Water Works (1882). The reservoir drew water from the Missouri River near downtown, bringing it uphill to North 40th and Hamilton Streets. By 1883, only half of the city streets were paved and the water system daily consumption by 1884 was 1.2 million gallons. School boys were paid to light (turn on and off) the gas street lamps each night. The Northwestern Electric Light and Power Company was awarded a five-year street lighting contract. They began establishing the city's first power house in the Strang Building at 10th and Farnam Streets. It was the first company in Nebraska to operate arc and incandescent lights. From 1883-1887, grading around the courthouse was completed because the grade was so steep in the area. The Union Stockyard Company was established in 1883 and the Sperry Electric Company was organized. On Dec. 16, 1884, Ordinance #826, a perpetual franchise, was granted to Northwestern Electric Light and Power Company. DURING THE NEXT 20 YEARS, 23 ELECTRIC UTILITIES WERE FORMED TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC SERVICES IN OMAHA. Some never began operation. The Cable Tramway Company was incorporated in 1885 and the Forest Lawn Cemetery was established. In July 1886, the City Waterworks Company's stock was sold to a Boston Syndicate for $1.3 million and upgrades were made. In 1887, the Omaha Motor Railway Company (electric street railway) was organized and the UGI acquired the Omaha Gas Manufacturing Company from the Omaha Gas Company.

On July 1, 1887, the City Water Works Company defaulted on loans and was purchased by American Water Works Company (formerly the American Water Works & Guarantee Company) of Chicago with $4 million of capital. That year, construction began on the Minne Lusa pumping station, which opened Aug. 1, 1889. The water plant was located along Pershing Drive in north Omaha, which was surrounded by settling basins, the main source for pumping, filtering and distributing Missouri River water throughout the City of Omaha. In 1888, the Douglas Street Bridge opened from Omaha to Council Bluffs and the Omaha Cable Tramway Company re-organized. By April, 1889, the first electric street trolley cars were operating with 30 miles of street railway with an investment of $1 million. On Aug. 1, 1889, the Florence plant was dedicated (formal opening) at the Minne Lusa pumping station, cost $1.5 million. In the late 1880s, the population was over 100,000 and street paving surfaces included singing cedar blocks, granite blocks

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Continued from page 7 and brick. Construction began (1889-90) on the first permanent red sandstone city hall located at 18th and Farnam Streets (cost $550,000) and, according to one source, completed in 1893.

The population increased to 140,452 by 1890, another electric lighting system began operation and a new grand post office was erected on the northwest corner of 16th and Dodge Streets. It took 14 years to complete the one city block facility at a cost of about $2 million. By 1890, the 10-story New York Life building and tower was built with the city’s first elevator. By November, daily water consumption was 48 million gallons. The Omaha Public Library was in operation by 1890 and a building was erected in 1891 at 19th and Harney Streets. On Jan. 1, 1891, the water system consisted of 159 miles of cast iron mains, 1,344 fire hydrants (Mathews & Gaskill), Ludlow valves and about 7 million customers. The 10th Street viaduct opened and by July 1891, six street car companies were operating, including the Inter-State Bridge & Street Railway Company. In September 1891, the Waterworks Company, owned by American Water Works Company of New Jersey, added pumps and settling basins. In December, the American Water Works Company of Omaha was sued by St. Louis creditors. In 1892, the four-story brick Boyd’s Opera House, built in 1881, was destroyed by fire. The Henry Doorly Zoo was founded in 1894 and the Creighton Theater opened on 15th-16th and Harney Streets in 1895.

In 1895, the Omaha Water Works took over the waterworks and contracted with several others to provide ice, which was distributed throughout the region. Disputes arose with the city over hydrant rentals. It was eventually agreed to pay $85,000 per year for this form of fire protection. An amusement park was founded by Charles Tietz in 1895 and by 1896, meetings were held for a municipal water system to be started.

Frederick Krug Brewing Company purchased the Tietz Amusement Park in 1902 and operated it as Krug Park. On June 30, 1903, the Omaha Electric Light and

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“Just For Fun” Answers

A-1. Five (Kearney, Kenesaw, Kennard, Kilgore and Kimball. (Utilities Section members are listed in bold.) Reference: 2018 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials


A-3. Falls City, located on the southwest corner of courthouse square.
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Power Company was organized and took over all interests of the Thompson-Houston Company. The new company furnished the city with 2,600 street lights, that included 1,400 arc and 1,200 incandescent lights. Omaha Electric Light & Power Company also provided power to a large number of private consumers and manufacturers. In 1904, the first steam turbine-driven generator was installed in the Jones Street station power plant. Several streets were bricked in the early 1900s. In 1908, Levi Carter Park opened (Lake Nakoma was renamed Carter Lake). The Nebraska Traction and Power Company considered an extension from Papillion to Springfield in 1909.

From 1880-1890, the population increased from 30,518 to 140,452, but decreased to 102,555 by 1900. On July 1, the City of Omaha acquired the private water plant for $6,319,000, which included the Florence Water Works and its Minne Lusa Station. A metered system was installed and operated by the newly formed Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD). About 1913, South Omaha, Florence, Benson and Dundee had been annexed. Saratoga was annexed in 1887. Omaha was classified as a Metropolitan City by 1915. By 1913, the Omaha Electric Light & Power Company had the perpetual franchise to sell electric current to Omaha for light, power and heating purposes, according to a unanimous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. Also that year, the Nebraska Legislature granted incorporation to the Fontenelle Forest Association, which raised funds to purchase the land later called Fontenelle Forrest. In 1917, the Nebraska Power Company, a Maine Corporation, had a franchise for the sale and distribution of electricity in the Omaha city limits. On June 1, the Nebraska Power Company acquired the property of the Omaha Electric Light and Power Company, a property value of $14,500. In 1915, the Hotel Fontenelle opened and in 1916, the Blackstone Hotel was built. Fort Omaha was designated as the nation’s first military balloon school and in 1918, a swimming pool was added to Krug Park. Street improvements of paving and curbing (1917) were underway along with grading on Boulevard from Fontenelle Park and Miller Park. In 1919, the last horse-drawn equipment was used by the fire department and Willow Springs became a bottling (soda) company.

By 1920, the population was 191,601 and UGI sold the gas plant and system properties to the City of Omaha for $4.6 million. The Aksarben Horse Race Track was built in 1920 and in 1924, an 11-story building was erected at the stockyards (completed in 1926). In 1928, the 350-room, $2.5 million Paxton Hotel opened at 1403 Farnam Street and the first hangar at the municipal airport was dedicated. On Jan. 1, 1929, there was a price reduction in gas and Omaha was declared the largest municipally owned manufacturing gas plant in the United States. The population increased to 214,006 by 1930 as the Metropolitan Utilities District was formed, which merged the Omaha Water Works and the Omaha Gas Company. The Northern Natural Gas Company was founded (1931) in Omaha with headquarters at 16th and Harney Streets. They soon began supplying natural gas to 44 communities in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas. The Joslyn Memorial Art Museum was built in 1930 for $2.1 million and was given to the city in 1931. In 1932, the Saddle Creek Road was paved and on Aug. 27, 1936, parking meters were installed in Omaha. In 1938, the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben bought the Douglas Street Bridge, which crossed the Missouri between Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa. On Sept. 19, 1939, Omaha was in a three-way contract with the American Power and Light Company, the holding company for the Nebraska Power Company. The contract was not fulfilled and the Nebraska Power Company was granted a day-to-day license to operate in Omaha and rates were set by the city council.

The early 1940s saw a building boom with 50 buildings built and the population reaching 223,844. By 1941, the American Telephone and Telegraph installed underground cable. In 1943, the Nebraska Legislature formed the Omaha People's Power Commission supported by American Power, Nebraska Power and Omaha officials to acquire the Nebraska Power Company for municipal ownership in Omaha.

Controversy existed concerning this legislation because of the fact that no vote was required from the people to acquire property. By December 1944, the Omaha Electric Committee purchased the Nebraska...
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ka Power Company from its parent company, the American Light and Power Company. On Dec. 26, a contract was signed between Loup River Public Power District and Central West Irrigation Company (later Omaha Electric Company Inc.) to accomplish this purpose. This action was financed by $15.6 million in bonds issued by the Eastern Division of the Loup River Public Power District. On Feb. 13, 1945, Omaha cancelled its franchise contract with Nebraska Power Company and American Power and Light Company. The Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) was formed and by 1946, had 83,507 customers with a generating capacity of 119,000 kilowatts (kW). On Oct. 19, OPPD acquired the Nebraska Power Company property from the Omaha Electric Company for $42 million. Shortly after, the bond issue was sold at an interest rate of 1.98 percent to complete the financing of the purchase. The Nebraska Power Company supplied electric power to Omaha the past 29 years. In the 1940s, the Offutt Air Force base was home to the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command. In 1945, the city finally outlawed privies and cesspools, although some existed illegally until the 1970s. A municipal baseball stadium was built in 1948-49 when 40 acres of Riverview Park was purchased at a cost of $1 million (later became Rosenblatt Stadium). In 1949, the St. Louis Cardinals Class A Western League played in the new municipal stadium.

The population increased from...
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223,844 in 1940 to 251,117 in 1950. The Q Street viaduct was opened that year and a civic center was built about 1954 (dedicated Jan. 2, 1955). The last street cars operated in 1955 and Krug Park was landscaped into a traditional style park and renamed Gallagher Park. In 1956, the city changed from the commission form of government to the mayor form. In 1958, Omaha annexed

the Peony Park Amusement Park. In January 1965, the Eastern Nebraska Public Power District merged with OPPD, doubling the size of service area to 5,000 square miles. With the merger, four counties were added to OPPD’s service area, which now covers all or part of 13 counties in southeastern Nebraska. It extends from Herman and Hooper in the north to the Kansas border to a point midway between Ashland and Lincoln. The old “City Hall” built in 1889-90 was demolished in 1966 after being vacant for seven years. Also in 1966, the I-480 bridge over the Missouri River was built. In 1968, the Westroads Mall opened at 102nd and West Dodge Streets and the Omaha Royals were established by the KC Royals. The population rose from 301,598 in 1960 to 346,929 by 1970. By 1972, the city began looking for land to build a third water treatment plant. Land was purchased in 1992, which was located five miles north of the confluence of the Platte & Elkhorn Rivers. The birth site gardens in Gerald Ford Birthplace Park was dedicated in 1976. By 1980, the population was 313,939 and up to 345,786 in 1990. In 1999, MUD had more than 20,100 water fire hydrants, more than 169,000 customers with more than 2,200 miles of mains in its service area (Omaha, Bellevue, Offutt Air Force Base, Elkhorn, La Vista, Ralston, Carter Lake, and Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District which includes Fort Calhoun). The city also had 13 repump stations and more than

Milestone celebration recognition

Is your municipality or utility celebrating a historic milestone? We are encouraging members to provide any information on milestones being celebrated such as 75 years of operating the electric system. About 1942, private electric systems were phased out in Nebraska and several municipalities took over the systems in the 1940s.

When was your water, wastewater, electric, power generation system established? When were facilities built, improvements made, etc. If your utility is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

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 contacting the League office by email brendah@lonm.org, fax 402-476-7052 or call 402-476-2829.

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115 million gallons of reservoir storage located throughout the service area.

The city population was 390,976 by 2000 and MUD served 2,248 miles of mains to Omaha, Bellevue, Bennington, Waterloo, Elkhorn, La Vista, Ralston, Offutt Air Force Base, Carter Lake and the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. By 2004, OPPD had more than 330,000 electric customers in southeast Nebraska. Work began on the $300 million Platte West Water Treatment Plant located at 216th & O Streets in 2004. MUD, in 2004, maintained 24,200 fire hydrants and 26,809 by 2016. By 2008, the third water treatment facility was completed. Omaha had a total peak capacity of 334-million gallons per day. The Platte West facility increased MUDs water treatment capacity to 334 million gallons per day. In 2015, the city maintained 4,500 miles of streets with 150 street department employees. MUD had 2,798 miles of gas lines and 224,950 gas customers in 2016. In 2016, the average customer used 88,000 gallons per year. The cost for 88,000 gallons in 2016 was $361.04, among the lowest in the United States. MUD had 2,895 miles of water mains serving 208,256 customers.

Omaha has a population of 450,144 (2018), has been incorporated for 161 years, and is a long-time member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. Omaha had representatives present in the first founding meetings of the Utilities Section in 1931. OPPD has operated the electric system for the past 73 years (1946-present).

OPPD operates four base-load plants that generate electricity on a full-time basis. They are North Omaha Station, Fort Calhoun Station, Nebraska City Station and Elk City Station. MUD has operated the water system for 106 years and the gas system for over 88 years.


Writing an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter

Are you interested in writing an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter? We are interested in articles on the past, present, and future of your municipal utilities.

Articles can be written on a specific department or an overview of the history of the entire utilities department. Items of interest may be information on the first well in your community, number of services, service fees, the equipment used, and also the employees that worked in the various utilities departments. Photos would enhance the articles and will be returned unless otherwise instructed.

When writing an article, just answer the simple who, what, when, where, why and how questions. Some examples are:

• When did the utility begin offering service?
• Who were the employees?
• Why was the utility/department started?
• Where is the facility, office, warehouse or utility located?
• What service does the utility offer to the public?
• How does the utility or department operate?

These are just some of the questions to be answered in order to write an article highlighting your utility’s past, present and future.
Training calendar

Visit our website at www.lonm.org for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

June
June 12-14 ........ Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference .... Graduate, Lincoln

July
July 11 ............. Water Operator Training Workshop ................. City Hall, Sutherland

August
Aug. 20 .......... Backflow Workshop .................................. Fire Hall, Ogallala
Aug. 21 .......... Backflow Workshop .................................. Boarders Cobblestone Hotels, Grand Island
Aug. 22 .......... Safety Workshop ...................................... Fire Hall, Aurora
Aug. 27 .......... Backflow Workshop .................................. Valentinos, Beatrice
Aug. 29 .......... Backflow Workshop .................................. Fire Hall, Wayne

September
Sept. 10-12 ...... Rubber Gloving Workshop .............................. Wheatbelt Training Facility, Sidney
Sept. 18-20 ...... League Annual Conference ................................ Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

October
Oct. 1 .............. Water Operator Training Workshop ................. Christensen Field, Fremont
Oct. 2 .............. Water Operator Training Workshop ................. Plattsmouth
Oct. 3 .............. Water Operator Training Workshop ................. Community Center, Seward
Oct. 24 ............ Water Operator Training Workshop ................. Fire Hall, Tecumseh

December
Dec. 10 .............. Water Operator Training Workshop .................. Grand Island
Dec. 11 .............. Water Operator Training Workshop .................. Lincoln