

# LIGHTNING ROUND

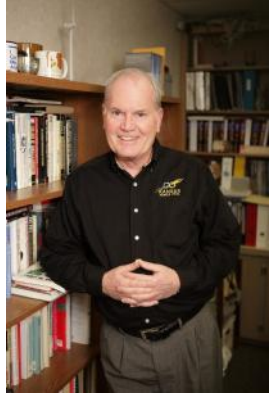
June 2019

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## Larry Paine Honored with APPA 'Seven Hats' Award

KPP Board President, and Hillsboro City Administrator, Larry Paine, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award at the American Public Power Association's national conference in Austin, TX earlier this month. The award recognizes managers of small utilities serving fewer than 2,500 meters. APPA notes that these managers have a very small staff and must assume multiple roles.



The seven hats they must wear are: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources, and community leadership.



*L-R, KPP Board members Gus Collins, Jim Sutton, Larry Paine and Scott Glaves at the APPA national conference*

In an award presentation on June 11<sup>th</sup>, Larry was recognized for his duties in overseeing planning, design, and finances for the electric, water, and wastewater utilities in Hillsboro. His tenure of almost 12 years in Hillsboro, and in similar or identical roles elsewhere in Kansas and the U.S., was also noted.

On the 2019 KMU calendar, this award followed the culmination of Larry's service as its Board President and his receiving of the Edgar Showalter award from KMU.

## Did You Know?

- The email inbox open rate for Public Power Daily is 21%. The click rate for opening featured articles is less than 6%. Do you subscribe to the Public Power Daily electronic newsletter? It is chock-full of industry articles written for municipal utilities. Linda Joplin at KPP can help you get subscribed.
- Public Power, as an industry segment, reduced carbon emissions by 33% from 2005-2017. APPA is working to get legislative incentives so Public power can do even more!
- If representatives of your utility leave town for Mutual Aid, APPA has a certificate and commendation for you. Speak to James Ging or KMU's Brad Mears.
- The KPP Fall Planning Retreat will again be held in Wichita on Sep 20 and 21 at the Drury Broadview Hotel. Mark your calendar! More info to come.
- There is a KPP Board of Directors seat opening at the end of this year. Soon you'll have a chance to present the name and qualifications of someone from your City to represent all of KPP on the Board. Watch your email inbox.

## KPP Board Approves Ongoing Funding for Cyber Analyst

Meeting by teleconference on June 10<sup>th</sup>, the KPP Board of Directors meeting agenda included discussions on advancing cyber security within the Pool. James Ging and Brooke Carroll updated the Board on the current status of the APPA/DOE Level 1 Cyber Analyst Grant. Brooke mentioned that recent discussions with APPA had produced both questions and strategies for obtaining the grant funding.

The proposal would obtain funding for an Analyst to be utilized by KPP Members. In setting up and evaluating cybersecurity programs within KPP Cities, the position would be contracted through Custom Internet Service. The budget proposal for the Analyst would be approximately \$72,800 annually. The APPA/DOE Grant would cover 80% of the cost for only the first year. James reminded the Board that \$80,000 is currently being budgeted annually for cybersecurity.

How the program would be sustained after the first year was a concern from APPA and the DOE. Brooke explained that APPA is more likely to approve the grant knowing KPP is prepared to sustain it in future years. Conditioned on a percentage of required participation by Members, Board approval was unanimously given. In KPP's budgetary process, it is expected that funds will be allocated in future years to perpetuate cybersecurity in KPP cities.



## APPA CEO Kelly to Headline Speakers at Retreat

### *National and International Speakers Again to be Featured*

When KPP members again gather for the Fall Planning Retreat in September, Sue Kelly will lead off with what is expected to be a stirring message of optimism and encouragement. As President and CEO of the American Public Power Association, Sue has been witness, proponent and leader in many of the positive and striking industry changes during the past 10 years.

Many will remember Sue's attendance at the 2018 KPP Member Appreciation Dinner when she was an invited guest. However, following her announced intention to retire at the end of 2019, KPP sought again to extend an invitation – this time for a speaking role.

Under Sue's leadership, APPA has been influential both legislative and regulatory developments affecting our industry. Within the APPA family, advancements have been made elevating smart energy, distributed energy resources and the acceptance of emerging technologies. She has also led in advancing cyber security readiness and reduction in carbon emissions. Indeed these were among her comments on critical issues when she spoke at the APPA National Conference in Austin, TX earlier this month.



As noted in APPA's *Public Power Daily*, Sue acknowledged Public Power's reductions in carbon dioxide emissions by 33 percent between 2005 and 2017 and encouraged continued vigilance and innovation. "If we can help our customers use electricity more efficiently, electrify new loads like transportation, and incorporate more lower carbon resources into our power supplies through the use of battery storage and demand response, we can do still more."

The Conference concluded with the announcement of the newly created Community Service Award named after Sue and in her honor.

Please plan to join all KPP members at the Fall Planning Retreat to be held in Wichita at the Drury Broadview Hotel in Wichita on Sep 20 and 21. As customary, registration, lodging and meals at the Retreat are provided without charge. More details are coming soon.

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# 'Let Me Talk to the Mayor!'

**Editor's Note:** In February KPP introduced this new segment to the [Lightning Round](#). Each month, our intention is to report on a Q&A between CEO/General Manager Mark Chesney and the mayor of a KPP Member City. This edition features Mayor Darrell Bauer of Erie.

**Mark:** In all the years I have known you, I have never asked if you are a life long Erie guy. Could you tell me about your growing up?

Darrell: I grew up on a farm near Elsmore, Ks with my parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters. My parents instilled a strong work ethic in us kids at a very young age. Back then, if you didn't work-you didn't eat! As a young man, I navigated to Erie in 1960 because a lovely young woman named Linda lived there. Linda and I got married and raised our 3 children right here in Erie. Erie is home to me - I've raised my family here and buried my wife and a son here.



Darrell Bauer, Erie Mayor

**Mark:** I'm sorry. I had known you lost your wife but I did not know about your son.

Darrell: The outpouring of support from the community following their deaths is why I feel such a connection to Erie. When I recently re-married, my new wife Janet graciously left her home in Texas to move here to Erie just for me.



**Mark:** So what significant changes have you seen in Erie over the years?

Darrell: The most significant changes I've seen over the years is this community's investment in infrastructure such as in street improvements, city park improvements, a nice new housing addition, and a modern high school. Other changes I've noticed through the years are the decline of "mom and pop" businesses due

to the mobilization of society.

**Mark:** Yes, you and I have that in common!

Darrell: I remember a time when people couldn't just drive out of town to go shopping whenever they wanted, they had to either grow their own or buy it right here in town.

**Mark:** As you know, I have been to many of your governing body meetings. I like the way you run them. But I have to tell you, I heard a rumor that you do not intend to again run for re-election. What was going on in Erie when you were initially motivated to run for office?

Darrell: I ran for mayor to get involved in the community. Some people run because they have an agenda of some sort or something they want changed. My philosophy is to not just sit on the sidelines and gripe about things-it's better to get involved and "make good or make room, but don't make excuses"!



**Mark:** In your years as mayor, what do you think are some of the important lessons you have learned about the interests of citizens?

Darrell: I think the best lesson I've learned about the interests of the citizens during my time as mayor is being more compassionate to their concerns. People just want to be heard and to know that you do care about what they have to say.

**Mark:** I have observed that your Council is very polite and accommodating to citizens. Can you give our newsletter readers an example of a time where cooperation by the City has made has further endeared a citizen or citizen group to the City?

Darrell: The most recent example is following all this flooding. When a citizen called needing help with clean up, the city crew was there to lend a hand. The city crew also hauls off debris and limbs for citizens after strong wind storms. The council also financially supports many worthwhile causes and committees that will benefit the majority of the citizens of Erie.

**Mark:** Do you have any predictions for Erie or for "small-town-America" generally?

Darrell: If people don't get involved and continue to work hard to preserve our way of life, there won't be any "small-town-America"!



# Fall Planning Retreat to Focus on Member Services

## *Jennifer Rogers of Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority to be Featured*

Financial planning/budgeting assistance and distribution adequacy assessments are among the member services provided by KPP. There are others as well. And yet sister organizations like KPP throughout the country offer a wide variety of services that municipal utilities are increasingly accessing as the industry changes around them. This is the thinking that has prompted a fresh look at member services at the upcoming Fall Planning Retreat. The dates are September 20 and 21 in Wichita.



Jennifer Rogers, Member Services Director at OMPA will be among the featured guest speakers at this year's event. She brings a wealth of experience and proven success in identifying needs among their members. As their agency is now nearly 40 years old, their crafted solutions are also proven.

Be sure join us at the Retreat and learn more about OMPA's array of services including their Competitive Utility Program, residential energy audits, matched advertising, Demand

and Energy Efficiency Program and more customized agency helps.

Mark your calendars to join us all for KPP's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Planning Retreat. As customary, registration, lodging and meals at the Retreat are provided without charge. Other details are coming soon. Watch your email inbox!

# Have you Completed the Cybersecurity Scorecard?

## *KPP Committed to assisting all Members*

It's a simple question: have you completed it? We know that many have but not all. The Cybersecurity Scorecard is an online self-assessment tool for Public Power utilities. It helps to assess cyber risk, plan improvements, prioritize investments and benchmark their security posture. Developed by the American Public Power Association (APPA) and its partner, Axio, it is an excellent starting point to address cyber risks.

With each passing day, we are all increasingly left without excuses as we feel urgency in addressing threats to our information systems. Fortunately, KPP can help in providing guidance and tools for assessing and establishing readiness. Many KPP Members completed our recent Municipal Cyber Academy. There, Cities discovered how KPP helped them to either start their cybersecurity journey or evaluate ongoing efforts.

So, have you completed it? If not, you can get started right now. Just copy and paste this link into your browser for an initial set up: <https://publicpower.axio.com>

You might be fascinated to discover vulnerabilities you hadn't previously considered! And if so, we can help. If you have questions on the scorecard or our other resources, call or write to KPP Director of Administrative Services, Brooke Carroll at [bcarroll@kpp.agency](mailto:bcarroll@kpp.agency).



# Attention all Members! Power Supply Update Planned for August 6th!

All KPP Members are urged to be in attendance on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the KMU Training Center in McPherson for an important update on power supply planning. As steady progress has been made on replacing contract resources, the cost impact and future anticipated revenue for this project will again be topics for discussion.

Two similar gatherings came together last year in McPherson during April and August preceded by an earlier update in March 2017. Related discussions also occurred at the Fall

Planning Retreat last September. Beginning with membership approval given in 2018 for a formal site location and economic study, progress has been made in refining cost and revenue projections as well as resource adequacy for future years.



Typical configuration shown for exterior of Wartsila power plants

The Brattle Group was engaged for the study in February this year. Analyzing and evaluating the historical and future performance of Wartsila “quick-start” technology was the objective. Wartsila technology has been under intense consideration since it was first suggested to Members at the Fall Planning Retreat of 2015 in Kansas City, KS. The final phase of the study is expected to be completed by the end of June.



Typical configuration shown for interior of Wartsila power plants

This update event should not be confused with our planned visit by Mike Wech, administrator of the Southwestern Power Administration. The meeting with Mr. Wech, also on August 6<sup>th</sup>, begins at 11:00 followed by lunch. An invitation is found in this edition of the *Lightning Round*. Please mark your calendar for that event as well if you have not already done so. More details and reminders are coming soon. Keep watching your email inbox.

## A Special Visit WITH MIKE WECH OF SWPA

KPP and KMEA are jointly hosting Mike Wech, Administrator of the Southwestern Power Administration. You are invited to attend and have lunch with us afterward. Here is an opportunity to listen to and ask about updates on SWPA infrastructure, reallocation calculations, contract renewals, President Trump's budget initiatives and much more.

**Location: KMU Training Center, McPherson, KS**

**Date: August 6, 2019**

**Time: 11:00 AM followed by lunch**

RSVP to Linda Joplin  
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