UAMPS honors key leaders & organizations

Several leaders who have made significant contributions to public power were recently honored at the Utah Associated Municipal Systems (UAMPS) 2019 Member Meeting in Salt Lake City.

Jason Norlen, chair of the UAMPS board, and Doug Hunter, CEO and general manager, presented the awards.

Honorees include:

- **Sue Kelly, Champion of Public Power.** This award recognizes an individual who is a true stalwart, supporter and defender of public power and whose service spans many years. Sue Kelly retired at the end of 2019 as CEO of the American Public Power Association (APPA). She worked for 35 years as an energy lawyer, provided great vision and leadership to APPA, and her impact on public power will be long lasting.

- **David Imlay, Distinguished Service Award.** Imlay is Hurricane City power director and has worked to improve electrical services all across Washington County. He has built a very reliable power system and a staff that works hard and takes pride in their work. He worked as a lineman and led development of generation and transmission facilities, a warehouse, substation and a distribution system for Hurricane. Imlay takes pride in his work and encourages education and training for his employees. All of the power agencies in Washington County have benefited because of Imlay’s drive for excellence.

- **Mary Jo Hafen, Elected Official of the Year.** Hafen is a Santa Clara city council member and has been involved with Santa Clara government for 16 years, including 12 years on the city council. She has worked hard to deal with rapid growth in the city, while preserving the culture and charm of the beautiful pioneer community. She was instrumental in building Santa Clara’s 12-megawatt generation building, with plenty of room for growth. She has supported new substations, transmission lines, and AMI metering that will soon be installed. She has actively supported the Carbon Free Power Project and many other UAMPS projects during her years of service. She regularly attends UAMPS conferences and seminars to educate herself regarding power issues so she can explain them to Santa Clara citizens. She has been a great leader and champion of public power.

- **John Cushing, Appointed Official of the Year.** Cushing is currently chair of the Bountiful Power Commission and has served on the board since January 2006. He formerly served three terms as Bountiful mayor. He has been a great supporter of Bountiful Light & Power for many years and a champion of public power. He has taken the time to attend UAMPS and APPA meetings and has educated himself about issues related to power. He has been an advocate for the power department before the city council and has shown vision and unusual devotion in the performance of his duties.

- **Stephen Crosby, Employee of the Year.** Crosby has worked for Logan City Light & Power for 15 years and currently serves as distribution manager. During his career he has worked as draftsman, planner, lineman, supervisor, de facto engineer and superintendent. He is known as a perfectionist who embodies the saying, “A job worth doing is a job worth doing well.” Relationships are very important to him and he is excellent with customers and fellow employees. He is a superior technician
and his years of experience and keen intellect have saved the city countless dollars by avoiding having to contract out engineering and design work. He also built and executed a point-based work order system that tracks and records work accomplished by the crews. This enables Logan to measure productivity and provides timely and accurate information, increasing productivity by more than 25 percent.

- **Lehi City, Smart Energy Innovation Award.** The Lehi Power Department engineering and planning team exemplified progressive system upgrade and improvement by implementing a new mapping and outage management system (OMS). This system allows crews to see real-time system configuration in the field, improving safety and response times. Additionally, the OMS provides a high level of interaction by allowing customers to text outage information and receive instantaneous updates on any power outage. This system has improved the way Lehi does business and has changed the way crews view customer interaction. The award was received by Mayor Mark Johnson, City Manager Jason Walker, and Power Director Joel Eves.

- **System Improvement Awards** were presented to Beaver City, Bountiful City, Ephraim City and Logan City.
  
  - **Beaver City** made extensive upgrades to its four hydroelectric plants, some of which have been operating for more than 100 years, doubling the output of the plants that produce one-third of the city’s power needs. Improvements included substation and switchyard reconstruction, nozzle rebuilds, breaker updates, building upgrades, retaining wall reinforcement, intake structure rebuilds, rotor and stator rewinds, and fly wheel replacements. The upgrades make it possible to provide low power rates to Beaver residents and honor the foresight of the community founders who established the hydro plants.
  
  - **Bountiful City** successfully completed a $6 million project to rebuild and install two new power transformers at the city’s 138 KV substation, originally built in 1966. This substation is the only source of electricity to supply power to the entire city. The project has been in the planning, budgeting and design phase for the past three years and took two years to complete. The rebuild includes a totally new control room, ground grid, structures, switches, breakers, and two new 100 MVA power transformers. It was completed in two phases to maintain power to the city throughout the project.
  
  - **Ephraim City** replaced its old Power House Substation, more than 50 years old, and also an old distribution system. Updates included a new conductor, over 40 transformers, new arrestors, cutouts, and over 60 cross arms with associated hardware. Power crews from Mt. Pleasant, Fairview, Spring City and Manti helped with the project. The project was completed, tested and commissioned in May 2019. Power was maintained for all customers during the project. All of the underground conduits, switching, steel work, and transformer mounting was completed by the city’s power crew, saving ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars. This project will benefit Ephraim residents for many years to come.
  
  - **Logan City Light & Power** upgraded its transformers at Substation 7, which serves the rapidly-growing industrial section of the city where load is critical. The two aluminum transformers, more than 20 years old, were replaced with newer, larger capacity and more efficient copper-wound transformers. Capacity was increased from 56 MVA per transformer to 100 MVA. The larger capacity will help the city as it seeks value industrial customers, and will allow Logan Light & Power to maintain service to the city in the event that a failure occurs at the other connection point to Rocky Mountain Power’s transmission system.

Also at the Member Meeting, service awards were presented to Daniel Peterson, who represented Monroe City on the UAMPS board of directors from 2008 to 2019, and to Roger Carter, who represented Washington City on the board from 2004 to 2019. Carter also served as chair of a number of UAMPS projects over the years.
Presentations and speeches at the Member Meeting focused on UAMPS 2019 accomplishments; the challenges facing public power, including new technologies and regulatory issues; and continued investigation of a small modular nuclear reactor energy project.

UAMPS officers include Jason Norlen, representing Heber Light & Power, board chair; Les Williams, representing Beaver City, vice chair; Dwight Day, representing Oak City, secretary; and Joel Eves, representing Lehi City, treasurer.

UAMPS is a joint action agency providing wholesale electricity and electric energy services to 47 public power utility members in six western states. Established in 1980, UAMPS helps its members with planning, financing, development, acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance of various projects for the generation, supply, transmission and management of electric energy.