**SoAUGUST 2022 LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

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Description automatically generated**2023 IUOTA CONFERENCE**

**AUGUST 2023 Niagara Falls, New York**

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| **2023 IUOTA Conference Minutes** |

**Host Utility – National Grid**

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**Host Vendor – Irby**



DoubleTree by Hilton Niagara Falls NY

***IUOTA OFFICERS***

***Chairperson*** *-**Mark Taylor, Primary Engineering and Construction, Calgary Canada*

***Vice Chairperson*** *– Rich Paradie Liberty Utilities, New Hampshire*

***Secretary*** *– Patrick O’Brien, Asplundh Infrastructure Group, Pennsylvania*

***Co-Secretary*** *–* *Mark Todd, Electricities, North Carolina*

***Past Chairperson*** *– Robert Bo Maryyanek, Safety Bo Coaching & Consulting, Massachusetts*

***Vendors Chairperson*** *– Scott Baughn, Irby, New York*

***Vendors*** *– Delisa Calhoun, Jelco, Alabama*

**Monday, August 21, 2023**

8:00 am to 5:00 pm Vendor Set-Up - River’s Edge Ballroom

8:00 am to 5:00 pm Member/Vendor Registration - pm

**Ice Breaker – Sponsored by Milwaukee Tools**

River’s Edge Ballroom 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, August 22, 2023**

**8:45 in the Hotel Lobby Drop off at 2:00pm Spouses Trip American Falls Tour with Maid of the Mist & Cave of the Winds Tour**

[**https://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/**](https://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/)

7:00 am to 5:00 pm **Vendor Area Open** - River’s Edge Ballroom

6:30 am to 8:00 am **Breakfast -** River’s Edge Ballroom

8;00 am to 8:10 am **Welcome** - Chairperson Mark Taylor–Primary Engineering Corporation. Made opening remarks, and a safety message on hotel safety was provided by Chairperson Taylor.

8:10 am **Welcome to Niagara Falls– National Grid -Monica Alston - Vice President, Safety, Health & Environmental Sustainability**

In 2021, Monica joined National Grid, one of the world's largest investor-owned (gas and electricity) utilities as Vice President, Safety, Health & Environmental Sustainability. In this capacity, Monica provides strategic direction and oversight of occupational health, employee and public safety and environmental sustainability for the New York Business Unit. As a Senior Leadership Team member, Monica is privileged to serve as Executive Sponsor of the Alliance of Black Professionals ERG. Monica also oversees Risk & Compliance Assurance for the New York Business Unit.

8:25 am **Call to Order**, Chairperson Mark Taylor**:** The 2023 Conference of the Inter-Utility Overhead Training Association (IUOTA) was held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Niagara Falls NY on August 22, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 0800, by IUOTA Chairman, Mark Taylor, Primary Engineering Corporation.

8:30 am **Roll Call**, Attendee Introductions - All Members - Name and Utility or Vendor being Represented– Secretary, Patrick O’Brien & Mark Todd

0845 am **Future meetings** – Chairperson Mark Taylor- we are looking for both a host vendor as well as a host utility/contractor for 2024.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes: IUOTA** Minutes from 2022 meeting were presented for approval by Secretary Patrick O'Brien. A motion was made by John Lowe Duke Energy and seconded by Larry Shields to approve the minutes of the IUOTA 2022, – August 16th 17th and 18th held in Long Beach California to be accepted, **motioned carried**.

**Announcements** – Chairperson Mark Taylor

8:50 am **David McPeak - Frontline Leadership – The Hurdle**

It is hard to jump over a hurdle from a standing position. And leadership has its share of hurdles. Like a track athlete needs to focus on their run up, which includes preparation and training, to jump over hurdles, leaders must have an effective run up to overcome their hurdles.

This presentation discusses the run up of culture creation and developing relationships while defining what leadership is and outlining characteristics and skills shared by successful leaders. Participants will develop a more complete definition of leadership through insights, principles, and scenarios shared throughout the presentation and walk away with an understanding of how to practice leadership and maximize their effectiveness and potential.

Topics covered include sources of leadership and how it is measured; creating alignment and culture; leadership styles; emotional intelligence and decision making; effective communication; coaching and feedback; developing relationships; leading change; and teaching and training.

Participants will be exposed to powerful lessons on balancing influence and authority and taking full ownership and responsibility for their team. They will learn how to favor positives reactions over negative reactions and focus more on asking than telling. They will also learn to avoid the pitfalls of basing consequences on results alone and decisions made based on comfort and convenience.

Doctors practice medicine and leaders must practice leadership. This entertaining, insightful, and inspirational presentation identifies leadership as a skill and explains how it can be learned, practiced, and improved. Come and learn what it takes to create an effective leadership run up, overcome hurdles, and take leadership to the next level.

Presenter Biography:

David McPeak, CSP, CHST, CIT, CUSP, CSSM, is the Director of Professional Development at the Incident Prevention Institute of UBM and author of the book Frontline Leadership - The Hurdle. He holds a degree in Information Systems and Operations Management, has multiple certifications and professional designations; and has received numerous awards. David has served on OSHA Partnerships; executive and editorial boards; professional committees; an apprenticeship council, and industry SME panels. He has extensive experience in utilities, construction, and transportation. His expertise includes leadership, human performance, safety; training; and professional development. He is also a Certified Trainer and an Advanced Certified Practitioner in the areas of DISC, Motivators, Emotional Intelligence, Decision Making, and Learning Styles. David loves to spend time with his wife and son and enjoys volunteering for various roles and projects in his church and community. He loves working out, Legos, sports, and playing golf but is not a golfer. He is passionate about personal and professional development and believes adaptability, competence, and confidence are key to success.

10:00 am **Vendors** **5-minute showcase time for 9 vendors**

IRBY Utility distributors local manufacturer- Harcat LLC Harold Scott- Temp. pole portable utility pole stands.

Utility Business Media- David McPeak- CUSP Certifications, IP Magazine, UFP Incident Prevention, IP Utility and safety conference, Incident prevention institute, “The Hurdle” By David McPeak

Milwaukee Tool- Nick Barthol, John wood and Nick Carlson- 12-ton Crimper, 11 ton die less utility crimper, top handled chainsaws, made in America hand tools.

Buckingham- Chris Delevera- Tri Fit belt, 60, 4 dee rings, featherweight full body harnesses, revamped buck squeeze scheduled for release in the fall.

GORE- Jim Ellis- Gore Tex Professional PYRAD Lightweight PPE workwear, 40 cal suits, arc flash videos

Safeguard equipment- Scott Daly- Compass Pro Voltage, Current man down detection.

Klein Tools- Steve Fiszer- Klein Bucket work center. Ergonomically correct set-ups for line workers.

Lakeland- Brandon Switzer- Athletically cut ppe apparel designed by lineman, moisture wicking FR Clothing.

Hilti- Allison Helleberg- Safety, Sustainability, Innovation, productivity partner with engineered solutions.

10:30 am **Break – sponsored by National Grid**

11:00 am **National Grid - Safety Incident Analysis Re-enactment Videos – Presenters Alexandria (Allie) Dresser – US Safety Director & Michael (Mike) Nickl – Field Safety Manager (New England)**

We are serious about safety. The professional safety protocols we employ support our regulatory and operational goals, our legal and customer obligations, and our drive toward world class performance. Safety incident analysis re-enactment videos help support our vision by allowing our employees to better understand the cause and effect of such safety incidents in hopes of preventing them in the future.

11:35 am **Vendors** **5-minute showcase time for 14 vendors**

Bashlin- Matt Thraher- Family-owned business FE700SRVSC Aerial Self rescue device.

Hanes Supply- 100-year-old family-owned company from Buffalo NY. Fabricated slings and rigging products.

Victory Insulators- Jim Tinsley- From Victory NY. Privately owned business for insulator testing.

Insulated Tools- Mark Wardle- Insulated tools that are longer lasting, safer, with a lifetime warranty.

Hubbell- Billy Webber-Bob Poirier- Burndy die less tools and connectors, training services and Ripley tools.

CRC- Glenn Rice- Maintenance chemicals, parts washers that are green and sustainable.

EL Flowers and Associates- Scott Sheppard and Josh Baughn- Distribution, Transmission, and substation equipment.

ICI- Josh Bondele- Infrared Cameras, Thermal Imaging, Sf6 detection, Partial discharge 24/7 monitoring.

Ariat- Hunter Fuqua- “If it’s Ariat, I’m wearing it!” also have new BOA boots.

SAE- Stacy Post- Canadian Field engineers focused on Safety and grounding solutions.

Tyndale- Guy Dresbach and Krista Baker- FR Clothing; new boot warehouse; expansion into Canada, New website.

Princeton Tec- John Luchka- Hardhat and handheld tactical lightning solutions.

Hasgo Power Equipment Sales- John Marrinaccio- Manufacturer representative for Howard Lighting night owl 3.

Fall Tech- Justin Tate- Industrial Fall protection solutions.

12:00 pm **Lunch** - River’s Edge Ballroom

**Vendor raffle 1 - 5-minute showcase time for 12 vendors**

1:00 pm **National Grid – Equipment Expo –** Back Parking Lot

2:00 pm **Roundtable Discussion - Burning Topics – Ask your industry peers and vendors any burning questions you may have on safety, training, tools, equipment, work methods, policies, etc.**

**-** Mark Taylor Moderator

3:10 pm **Vendors** **5-minute showcase time for 5 vendors**

JELCO- Kat Lee-- Jelco continues to pride itself on conserving a deep commitment to good workmanship. This commitment begins with the design of our harnesses, lineman belts, lanyards and tree saddles, tool bags, and the selection of components.

One source Restoration- Jim Timberlake- Safety personnel and staffing for emergency response utility storm work.

Victory Powerline Services- Shanna- Based out of central Florida. We partner with utilities to oversee the construction and repair work on transmission, distribution, and substations.

Makita Power tools- James Martin- over 100 years of experience serving all your battery-operated tool needs.

Emerson Professional tools- Don Doer- Remote cable cutting tool audio/visual remote controls.

3:30 pm **Importance of sling Inspection – Scott Baughn- Irby**

Sling inspection training includes inspections of Nylon web, Wire rope, synthetic fiber, and chain slings. Scott developed as a competent person training to identify defective slings and ways to reduce damage to slings by ensuring they are used according to manufacturer specifications.

4:30 pm **Meeting adjourned for day/ Time with vendors.**

4;30 pm **Social hour Sponsored by Apparel Solutions Victory Powerline Services and One Source Restoration** - River’s Edge Ballroom

**Music by The Rebecca Miner Trio** [**https://rebeccaminer.com/**](https://rebeccaminer.com/) **Sponsored by Utility Solutions**

6:00 pm **Dinner on your own**

**Wednesday August 23, 2023**

6:30 am to 8:00 **Breakfast** - River’s Edge Ballroom

**Vendors** **5-minute showcase time for 11 vendors**

Estex- Mike -New bucket hooks, new safety vest, the lightest most porous on the market.

Bierer meters- Joe Bierer- Manufactured in South Carolina. Presented ground tester, phase meter and voltage detector.

MADI tools- Wayne Morris and Ralph Tundsen- Presented Safety knives, hog bill knife, speed wrenches, pad mount lid lifter, cotter key removal tool.

Huskie Tool -Mike King- Tiger pole pullers, battery operated tool lines presented featuring remote underground cutters.

First Power Group- Tim Gilotti -Stinger hornet for stuck switches.

Neilsen Clothing- FR rainwear, FR Fleece liner presented.

Slinco- John Villioreal- Wire mesh pulling grips and swivels. 300 lb strap hoist, pole clamps and cable grips presented.

Certified safety kits- Brian Nieberg- First aid kits, bleed control kits, heat stress kits, burn blankets and burn kits presented.

Youngstown Glove- John Costello- Cut level 5 gloves, arc flash 5 rubber glove protectors, flash fire gloves for the gas side of the utility presented.

Utility Solutions- Aaron Wood- Load buster tool, desktop transformer trainers, UGD grounding simulators presented.

Apparel Solutions- Mike Enns- Apparel built by linemen for linemen.

7:00 am to 5:00 pm Vendor Area Open - River’s Edge Ballroom

8:00 am **Danny Raines – Contractor Safety –**

Started as a Helper on a line crew for Georgia Power Company in June 1967, in Macon, Georgia and successfully worked through all classifications to a Crew Leader online Crew by 1984. Promoted to First Line Supervisor/Crew Foreman in 1985 and moved to Atlanta Area. Selected to take a position in Contract Managements in 1994 to start up an unregulated business unit staffing all contractor work force for Lighting Services installing regulated and unregulated lighting systems. Transferred to Safety in Health Advisor in 1997. Worked as a Field Safety Advisor/Trainer, Safety Supervisor, Safety Project Manager in Corporate safety at GPC Retiredas a Corporate Safety Consultant for Distribution and Transmission in Atlanta for GPC 12/1/2007 with a total of 40 and ½ years’ service.

Danny presented what an investor-owned electric utility is required to share with contractors that work for them. The do's and don'ts of contractor management from the investor-owned utilities perspective as well as what you should expect as a contractor from the utility you are working for.

9:40 am **Break – Sponsored by National Grid**

10:00 am **Industry accidents with corrective actions (vendors excused) -** Mark Taylor Moderator

11:45 am **Lunch -** River’s Edge Ballroom

**Vendor raffle 2**

1:00 pm **John Lowe & Keith Bryne – Duke Energy – Grounding on Distribution systems**

John Lowe began his career as a Lineman Helper for Duke Energy in January 1987, working his way through the progression to Journeyman. During his time as a Journeyman Lineman, he spent considerable time at the training center and in the field helping to train other linemen. He was interested in linework; he took vacation to attend the International Lineman’s Rodeo in Kansas City for the first time in 2000. He was hooked on the rodeo competition and continues to support the International Lineman’s Rodeo Association as a Chief Judge and member of the Advisory Board. Along the way, he began work at the Duke Energy Training center in 2006. At the training center where he became SME for Wood Pole Fall Restriction equipment. During his time in the training department, he also began attending the IUOTA conferences and later served as Chairman for 3 ½ years. In 2015 he moved to the safety department where he currently provides support for the Charlotte NC service area as a Lead H&S Professional. During his time as a Safety Professional, he has had opportunities to serve on investigation teams which continued his knowledge of the challenges facing the line worker industry today. John Lowe has 37 years in the business and has a passion for ensuring that line workers receive the best training so they can return home safely each day.

Keith Bryne is the Lead Trainer for Duke Energy Carolinas. He began his Line Worker Apprenticeship in early 2009, reaching the classification of Journeyman Line Worker in 2015, before transitioning to Technical Training Specialist in late 2017. Keith was instrumental in standardizing the Line Worker Curriculum across all five Duke Energy jurisdictions. He has served on numerous safety councils, consulted as a subject matter expert on many projects; ranging from underground cable installation to transformer banking, and organizes the Internal Lineman Rodeo for Duke Energy Carolinas. Before Keith’s experience in the Electrical Industry, he served in the United State Marine Corps, from 2004 to 2008. His true passions are spending time with family, the allure of classic cars, and exploring the great outdoors.

John and Keith talked about DUKE Energy's journey while updating their grounding practices. How they evolved from bracket grounding to proper epz applications. How they trained their work force to improve the way they were grounded to create a safe workspace. The misconceptions they encountered with crews as it concerns a properly grounded line.

2:15 pm **Break**

2:30 pm **Bill Martin CUSP – We Don’t Prepare for Things We Don’t Believe Will Happen**

Bill Martin Spent 34 years working for Niagara Mohawk/ National Grid in various positions. 20 years of that time was as an Electric Utility Lineman, and 9 years running the Saranac Lake regional office and crews. While working as a Lineman, he also became involved with medicine through the National Ski Patrol and Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services. Combining his teaching experience from running a gymnastics program at the YMCA and being a Level 3 Professional Ski Instructor, Bill Martin became an Instructor Trainer for National Ski Patrol and a New York State Certified Course Instructor Coordinator (CIC) at the Paramedic Level. In 2000 Bill began flying as a Flight Paramedic with North Country Life Flight while he continued to work at National Grid. His work with the Lower Adirondack Medical Rescue Team brought medicine to more austere environments. Further pursuit of skill and knowledge improvement brought a certificate in Advanced Wilderness Life Support, a Diploma in Mountain Medicine and graduated as a Registered Nurse in 2017. This would be the second of two associate degrees: One AAS in Nursing and another AAS in Ecology and Environmental Technology. He is currently a Critical Care Flight Nurse/ Paramedic for North Country Life Flight and a Speaker/Consultant for the Electrical Industry focused on Improving Crew and Team Dynamics.

Bill spoke about how each one of us can see the exact same thing differently and both be correct. How we can predict the future every day. He showed us how we predict the future daily and do not realize it. How we should look at moments in our life we wish we could take back and make a different decision. Learn from them, recognize them going forward. Remove the barriers that are keeping you from being your highest performing self. Explore your Superpowers. If we only understood how much we truly knew, we would listen to ourselves more. Learn how to stop second guessing yourself and enlist the superpowers you were born with.

3:15 pm **Vendor tear down**

4:15 pm **Open forum Q&A with moderator IUOTA Board**

**Closing comments**

Feedback from attendees:

1. Better microphone for the audience for asking questions to presenters.
2. Consider bringing a golf outing back.
3. Have accident report out on the first day of conference.

4:30 pm  **Meeting adjourned.**

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