

# MISS UTILITY OF DELMARVA



# The Scoop



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## A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2021

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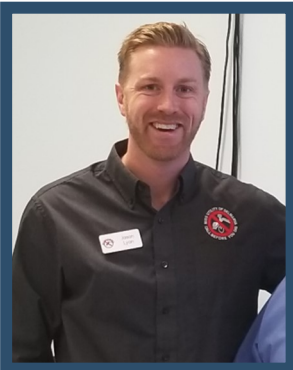
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## "Spreading the Word"

## President's Message

Hello Team:



Miss Utility of Delmarva, this year proved to be one that requires patience, flexibility and understanding. Our territory covers Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, both states proclaimed that construction would be an essential business during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, our industry had to forge

forward, even with all the potential health risks associated with the pandemic.

If one would drive up to a construction site in 2020, you might see workers wearing personal protective equipment that looks a little different than in the past. Office personnel would be working remotely and communicating through video conferencing. In person meetings seem to disappear in a blink of the eye in 2020.

The Board of Directors for Miss Utility of Delmarva are constituted of volunteers from stakeholder companies. We all had to adjust to a new work environment for our companies. We also had to adjust to a new normal for our Miss Utility of Delmarva business. We were unable to hold in person membership meetings, either because the facility would not allow attendees, or our companies would not allow us to travel. We were able to hold virtual Board meetings to conduct business, but

membership meetings did not occur from March through December of 2020.

Our goals for 2020 were quickly dashed. As always, our primary goal is to educate the public and stakeholders on the damage prevention laws. We were planning on doing this through public outreach events, contractor breakfasts and conferences throughout the year. We were planning to have networking opportunities with other states to see how we can improve our organization. Unfortunately, we were not able to complete these tasks.

Moving forward, our team has secured different options to conduct membership meetings virtually. We plan on providing a monthly forum for discussion moving forward, even if we cannot meet in person. We still have plans to educate our stakeholders and the public on the message of safe and lawful excavation. The plans may be changed, but our mission stays consistent. We will be updating our website soon. This will provide a more user friendly and inviting experience for all parties

I am confident that we will be able to meet in person soon. Until then, please do not hesitate to reach out to our organization with any issues, our website is [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com).

Sincerely,

Jason A. Lyon

## Meet Our Officers

### Jason Lyon – President

Jason Lyon has been a Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva since 2008. Since 2009, he has been the Chairman of the Law Change Committee, he is currently the President of the organization, prior to this position, he was the Vice President and the Secretary. Mr. Lyon is employed by the City of Dover as the Director of Water & Wastewater. In this role, Mr. Lyon is responsible for overseeing both the operational and capital budget for the Department, engineering design, construction management, operational activities for each Division as well as all personnel related matters. Mr. Lyon is a Delaware Licensed Professional Engineer and is a member of both the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Public Works Association. Mr. Lyon holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology, and a Masters of Engineering from the University of Delaware. Mr. Lyon resides in Middletown, Delaware with his wife Erin and his two children, Catherine and Matthew.



### Steven Keyser—Vice President

Steven Keyser has been a Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva in 2014 and currently holds the position of Vice President of Miss Utility of Delmarva. Mr. Keyser now works as Supervisor for the Utility Locators with Chesapeake Utilities. Mr. Keyser first learned about careers in the utility industry in 2005 when he started his career as a utility locator with Utiliquest. Despite having no prior experience in the industry, Steven discovered he had an innate affinity for the work.

A lifelong resident of Dover, Steven enjoys spending time with his children and wife Cathy, especially when they go outdoors for activities such as cycling, and just spending time at the park. A self-described computer geek, he also enjoys the challenges of troubleshooting computer problems for his family and co-workers.



### Paula James – Secretary

Paula James has been a Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva since 2018 and is currently serving as Secretary of the Board. Mrs. James is employed by Pepco Holdings, a utility operating company of Exelon as a Supervisor-Claims Damage Prevention for the Atlantic City Electric and Delmarva Power service territories in New Jersey, Delaware and Eastern Shore Maryland. In this role, Mrs. James provides oversight of the 811 notification, facility operator ticket management and regulatory compliance processes for Atlantic City Electric and Delmarva Power. Mrs. James is a Former Chair of the NJ Common Ground Alliance. Mrs. James resides in Cape May County, NJ with her husband Bruce James.



### Eric Cimo – Treasurer

Eric Cimo has been a Board Member with Miss Utility of Delmarva since 2015. He has been the organization's Treasurer for the majority of his tenure on the Board. Mr. Cimo is employed by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) as the Utilities Engineer. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing the DelDOT Utility Manual regulation; policy oversight and enforcement; the statewide Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) program; and the DelDOT Small Wireless Permitting program. Outside of the small wireless permitting program, the majority of his work deals with oversight of utility coordination associated with DelDOT design/construction projects. Mr. Cimo is a Delaware Licensed Professional Engineer and is an active member of both the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). He holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Widener University. Mr. Cimo is a Delaware native and resides in Frederica, Delaware with his wife and two boys.



**Meet Our Board Members**

**Bradley C. Ebaugh  
Past President**



After serving for 23 years, Brad retired from the United States Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel. He joined Delaware Electric Cooperative in November of 1998 as the GIS supervisor. He assumed the duties as Manager of Metering and Power Supply in October 2003 at which time he became a board member and Treasurer of Miss Utility of Delmarva. He retired after 19 years at Delaware Electric Cooperative in December 2017. Serving on the Board of Miss Utility of Delmarva, Brad was Treasurer for 7 years, Vice President for 2 years and President for 6 years. He has served on the board as a past president since retiring from Delaware Electric Cooperative in December of 2017.

He has a Masters of Arts in Business Management from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Virginia Tech. He is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College and Air War College.

He is a member of St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Dover Elks Lodge 1903, The American Legion, Dover Post 2, and is a Master Mason in Summerville Lodge 234. He has been a leader in the Boy Scouts of America for over 25 years, is affiliated with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delmarva, and mentored at Dover High School as part of the Capitol Mentors Project. He is married to and celebrated his 42th wedding anniversary with the former Susan K Hoffman. They have three grown children.

**Tony Gersitz  
Honorary Board Member**



Tony Gersitz has been the longest running Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva and started his journey with the organization in 1985 when he became an officer. His prior positions with Miss Utility Delmarva were Secretary and Treasurer and played a private contractor for the organization in the educational events all around the state of Delaware and Maryland eastern shore. Mr. Gersitz still provides education to the public by still supporting the many events held for the education of the public. Mr. Gersitz is retired from City of Dover Public Works Department and was the Supervisor for over 16 years. He led his department in customer service, Meters, and field operations. Mr. Gersitz resides in Milford, De and enjoys dining out, socializing with his many friends, and home projects.

**Wendy Stack  
Board Member**



Wendy Stack has been a Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva since 2014 and currently provides support for events, Public Awareness and the Scoop Newsletter. Ms. Stack is the driving force behind, W Locco, LLC (Wendy's Locating Company) she oversees all aspects of the operation, including safety, scheduling, contracts, and employee training and testing, also she headed ULS (Underground Locating Services) from 2003 to 2011. Prior she worked for many contract locating companies to gain experience needed for her next goals.

Ms. Stack has a long history with the Utility Industry starting 30+ years ago when becoming a locator and traveling to many states for the need of contract and private locating. Ms. Stack currently is President of the Delmarva Safety Association which connects professionals to ensure safety in all aspects in the Delmarva area. Ms. Stack enjoys traveling and resides in Bethel, De with her many fur baby's.

**Richard Lewis  
Board Member**



Richard Lewis has been a Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva since 2017. He currently is in charge of the Damage Reporting for Miss Utility of Delmarva. He started his locating career when he was 19 years old with Utiliquest. Since then, he has moved around as many locating contracts open and closed, but for the most part Richard has spent his entire career locating underground utilities. Currently Richard is working with Century Engineering, located in Dover, Delaware, heading the locating department. In his spare time, Richard is volunteering his time as a Fire Fighter with Citizens Hose Company in Smyrna Delaware and sitting on the board of directors for Smyrna Clayton Little League. Richard is married to his high school sweetheart and has two amazing boys, Zach, and Matthew.



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**Francis McElwee**  
**Board Member**

Francis McElwee (aka Mickey) has been a Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva since December 2019.

Mr. McElwee is employed by the City of Wilmington as a Construction Supervisor with the Department of Public Works engineering staff.

He is responsible for inspecting water and sewer construction projects and maintaining records of changes to water and sewer infrastructure.

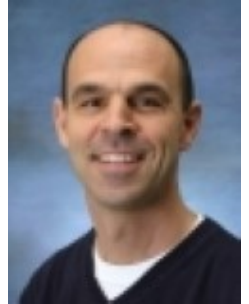
He resides in Prices Corner near Wilmington, DE with wife Cindy.



Outside of work, CJ enjoys traveling, visiting baseball stadiums and hiking National Parks with his wife and two children. He has a passion for electric vehicles and is the vice-president of Delaware’s Electric Vehicle Association, DEEVA.

**Shawn Sparks**  
**New Board Member**

Shawn Sparks serves in the position of Manager Operating Services for Choptank Electric Cooperative in Denton, MD. He has been in that job for over 15 years and within that role is responsible for supervising line construction contractors. He has been employed at Choptank for more than 30 years and during that time has served positions as diverse as Truck Driver, Lineman and Energy Analyst.



**Raymond Shank**  
**Board Member**

Raymond Shank has been a Board Member of Miss Utility of Delmarva since 2019. Mr. Shank has been employed by Verizon since 1994 and currently holds the position of Manager of Contract Services in Delaware since 2019. In this role, Mr. Shank is responsible for overseeing all contractor activity for the Department.

Mr. Shank holds a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Business Management from Wilmington University. Mr. Shank resides in Newark, Delaware with his wife Kim and two of his children, Aidan and Evan. He has a grown daughter who lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.



	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021
Reported Damages	21	17	70
Tickets	25,363	23,372	26,974
Percentage	0.083%	0.073%	0.260%

**CJ Myers**  
**Board Member**

CJ Myers joining the Miss Utility board of directors as the representative for Delaware Electric Cooperative in 2019. CJ currently is the manager of metering and power supply at Delaware Electric Cooperative and oversees the locators and investigating utility damages. He graduated from Penn State University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science for Energy Engineering. He started his career as Field Engineer in Tulsa, Oklahoma with Shermco Industries performing maintenance and commissioning of high voltage electrical equipment. In 2016, he moved to Delaware and accepted a position at Delaware Electric Cooperative as a System Protection Engineer overseeing maintenance and upgrades of their distribution substations.



**Questions/Comments?**

This newsletter belongs to you, so ideas and topics are welcomed. Send your comments, questions and suggestions to Wendy Stack at [w.stack@mchsi.com](mailto:w.stack@mchsi.com).

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**Editorial Staff**

- Jason A. Lyon** —President
- Steve Keyser** —Vice President
- Paula James**—Secretary
- Eric Cimo**—Treasurer
- Wendy Stack**—Board Member
- Teresa P. McCann**—Editor

**Contributing Writers:** Jason Lyon, Wendy Stack

Please check our website [www.missutilitydelmarva.com](http://www.missutilitydelmarva.com) for updates on events.