

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Hilton Convention Center

Baltimore, MD

November 12-15, 2017

Registration and all sessions will be in (*Peale Room – Annex Side - 1st Floor*), unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is Business or Business Casual.

Proposed Resolutions

1. Urging Congress to Not Restrict the Right of State Regulators to Determine How Reductions in the Corporate Tax Rate are Addressed in Utility Rates
2. Urging Federal Officials to Recognize State and Local Authority to Manage Telecommunication Pole Attachments to Ensure Safe, Efficient and Equitable Practices

Sunday – November 12, 2017

Noon – 5:30 pm Registration

*-Please pick up your meeting material and tickets to the NASUCA reception
-First 100 NASUCA members also receive a NASUCA tote bag*

11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Executive Committee Meeting (*Marshall Room - 5th Floor - Hotel Side – Lunch Provided*)

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

DOE/LBNL Sponsored Event: (NASUCA Members Only)

Electrification and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

The culmination of our October, four-part educational webinar series dealing with electrification and electric vehicle infrastructure policy, this dialog will bring together the webinar participants for an in-person discussion with NASUCA members focused on the issues that should determine who, and under what circumstances public EV charging infrastructure should be built.

Moderator:

Hon. Phil Jones

Phil Jones Consulting, Former Commissioner,
Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission

Panelists:

Nick Nigro

Atlas Public Policy

Jim Ross

Director, Electric Vehicle Charging Association

Max Baumhefner

National Resources Defense Counsel

Cassie Powers

National Association of State Energy Officials

Martin R. Cohen

Policy Consultant, Martin R. Cohen & Associates

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Break-Light Refreshments

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3:00 pm – 5:30pm

Closed Business Session – NASUCA members only

Association Business:

- Welcome: Robert Nelson-NASUCA President
- Officer Reports
 - Secretary's Report (vote on Minutes,)
 - Treasurer's Report (vote on 2018 Budget)
 - President's Report
- Nominating Committee Report
 - Election of 2018 Officers and Executive Committee
- =Executive Director Report
- Committee Reports
 - Work Resolutions
- Rollcall of the States

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

NARUC Opening Reception

Monday – November 13, 2017

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Breakfast

Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants

Open Session Begins

8:30 am – 8:40am

Welcome

Robert Nelson, Montana Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President

8:40 am – 9:10 am

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

A conversation with Commissioner Robert F. Powelson

9:15 am – 9:45 am

Critical Needs Pilot Program (CNPP): A Utility-Agency Partnership to Assist Medically Vulnerable Customers

Learn about the CNPP, a unique partnership between the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, human services groups and Baltimore Gas and Electric Company to better serve medically vulnerable customers. The CNPP developed protocols to more efficiently restore or maintain utility service to medically vulnerable customers. The panel members will discuss the reasons for the development of the CNPP, the process for developing the CNPP protocols, the goals of the CNPP, and the benefits and challenges of a CNPP process.

Moderator:

Paula Carmody

People's Counsel, Maryland Office
of People's Counsel

Speakers:

Cynthia Riely

Director, Consumer Assistance, Maryland Office
of People's Counsel

David Conn

Energy Assistance Program Manager, Baltimore
Gas and Electric Company

9:45 am – 10:00 am

Break

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10:00 am – 11:30 am

Keynote Panel: The Energy-Water-Gas-Telecom Nexus and What It Means for Consumers: A Conversation with Utility CEO's

Utility activities are increasingly interdependent, pushing companies beyond their traditional “lanes” and into coordinated or integrated activities. This dynamic creates both challenges and opportunities for CEO's, regulators, and consumer advocates, as they each must consider the cost-benefit analysis of new activities that potentially expand a utility's scope of work. What is the impact of this new dynamic on consumers? Are there opportunities for synergies that can positively impact the consumer experience? At the same time, what are risks to consumers of moving into these uncharted territories? This panel will explore these issues with CEO's, regulators, and consumer advocates.

Joint Moderators:

Jack Betkoski III	Vice-Chairman, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, NARUC President
Elin Swanson Katz	Consumer Counsel, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel, NASUCA Vice-President

Panelists:

Susan N. Story	CEO, American Water
Calvin G. Butler, Jr	CEO, Baltimore Gas & Electric
Pierce H. Norton II	CEO, ONE Gas, Inc.
Jonathan Chambers	Partner, Conexon

11:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Heads of Office Lunch (*Latrobe Room –1st Floor - Annex Side*)

1:30 pm – 2:25 pm

The Affordability of Essential Utility Services: How to Meet the Challenge

The panelists will address the high energy burden for low income households and the need to optimize the resources invested in providing energy assistance. The discussion will include the panelists' opinions and experiences regarding the kinds of programs that can or must be implemented in order to meet the challenge, including suggestions regarding direct financial assistance programs, the promotion of opportunities for low income customers to participate in distributed energy resources and energy efficiency programs.

Moderator:

Molly Knoll	Assistant People's Counsel, Maryland Office of People's Counsel
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Panelists:

Roger D. Colton	Fisher, Sheehan & Colton
Martin Insogna	Chief, Consumer Advocacy, New York Department of Public Service

2:30pm – 3:30 pm

Altered States – Challenges and Opportunities for States in a Changing Telecom Landscape

Historically, state regulators are charged to ensure that voice service is reliable, affordable and universally available without discrimination. Broadband data is now widely considered to be an essential service. The rapid evolution of network

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technology has prompted changes in state and federal regulatory oversight including reduced regulation of voice services, proposals to alter local authority over permitting, and sometimes conflicting efforts by states and the Federal Communication Commission to encourage broadband deployment. This panel will explore the challenges and opportunities for states as they adapt to a changing playing field.

Moderator:

Regina Costa Telecommunications Policy Director, The Utility Reform Network (TURN)

Panelists:

Stefanie A. Brand Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
Andy Huckaba President, Huckaba & Associates
Dan Lipschultz Commissioner and Vice-Chair, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm Break

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm ***In Search of a Common Numerator: Measuring Service Shutoffs Across the Country***

Shutoff data is valuable for many policy purposes, including obtaining adequate funding for energy assistance programs like LHEAP. NASUCA has long supported the collection of such data. Dr. Sandoval will discuss a current initiative at TURN to collect and analyze data from across the country, to the extent such data are available

Dr. Gabriela Sandoval Research Director, TURN - The Utility Reform Network

4:20 pm – 5:20 pm

“Vignettes”

“noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode”

1. Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS)
-Sheri Givens, President, Givens Energy
2. Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)
-Sara Baldwin Auck, Director, Regulatory Programs
3. The Rise of Residential Advanced DER/Storage Rates
-Lon Huber, Strategen Consulting

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

NASUCA Reception

*****Open to All Meeting Registrants-Ticket Required*****

Location: McCormick and Schmick’s
Pier 5, Inner Harbor
711 Eastern Ave,
Baltimore, MD 21202

Honorees: Robert Nelson, NASUCA President and Montana Counsel
-Receiving the Manifold Lifetime Service Award
Tim Schneider, Former Maine Public Advocate
--Receiving the Popowsky Service Award

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Tuesday – November 14, 2017

7:00 am – 7:50 am Executive Committee Meeting
(Marshall Room – 3rd Floor - Hotel Side)

7:30 am – 9:30 am Registration and Breakfast
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants

Open Session Begins

8:00 am – 9:00 am ***Breakfast Ethics – CLE hour for lawyers***
(Note, we will provide you copies of the materials, but you must sign-in at the conference and apply to your home state ethics council to receive CLE credit)

Linda Randell Attorney, Governance and Regulated Industries
Consultant

9:00 am – 9:15 am Break

9:15 am – 9:45 am ***The costs and benefits of real-time pricing: An empirical investigation into consumer bills using hourly energy data and hourly prices***

Using real hourly energy-usage data collected from ComEd customers through smart meters, this new paper by Illinois CUB quantifies how bills would have increased or decreased using real-time pricing in 2016 without any behavior change. The paper suggests further lines of research and explores policy options around dynamic pricing.

Speakers:

David Kolata Executive Director, Illinois CUB
Kristin Munsch Deputy Director, Illinois CUB
Jeff Zethmayr Research Director

9:45 am – 10:00 am Break-Coffee and Tea

10:00 am – 10:55 am ***Analyzing the Role of Natural Gas In Future Energy Markets***

Natural gas, once embraced as a “bridge fuel” to a zero-carbon energy future, particularly as a replacement for coal, is increasingly being seen by many as environmentally-damaging as coal. The panel will discuss the future of natural gas, siting issues associated with interstate pipelines and the impact of gas on climate change.

Moderator:

Joseph W. Rogers Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts
Office of Ratepayer Advocacy

Panelists:

David Dismukes Professor and Executive Director, Center for
Energy Studies, Louisiana State University.
David Littell Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project
Scott Carter Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations
Spire Inc.

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11:00 am – 11:45 am

The FERC DOE NOPR, Resilience Pricing, Order 1000, Gas Pipeline Siting and other important issues; a Conversation with Former FERC Commissioner Tony Clark

As a former FERC Commissioner and former NARUC President, Tony Clark understands the concerns of the regulatory community. He will offer some thoughts about important issues currently before FERC and offer ideas about how advocates can enhance their participation and impact with FERC.

Moderator

Tanya McCloskey Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

Panelists

Tony Clark Senior Advisor, Wilkinson, Baker, Knauer, LLP

11:45 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch on your own.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Consumer Advocates of PJM (CAPS) Board Meeting
(Latrobe Room – 1st Floor – Annex Side)

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

20 Years of RTO Meetings and We're Still Not Done?

Stakeholders throughout the electric industry have committed untold hours to the development of the very complex regional transmission organizations (RTOs). Today a growing proportion of retail utility customers' bills comes directly through the RTOs. This panel will explore the current round of hot issues in RTOs, ranging from the never-ending redesign of energy and capacity markets (including the development of RTO-style energy markets in the west and current debates about how to account for state public policy initiatives) to the adequacy of RTO governance processes.

Moderator:

Robert G. Mork Deputy Consumer Counselor Federal Affairs, Indiana
Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

Panelists:

Christina Simeone Director of Policy and External Affairs, Kleinman
Center for Energy Policy
Bill Malcolm Senior Legislative Representative, AARP
John Hughes President and CEO, Electricity Consumers
Resource Council (ELCON)
Denise R. Foster Vice-President, State and Member Services, PJM
Interconnection

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Lifeline Reform: Makeover or Death Blow?

Federal Communications Commission Chair Ajit Pai announced a Proposed Rulemaking under consideration for the Nov. 16 Open Commission Meeting. Chairman Pai proposes the elimination of non-facilities based Lifeline providers, which serve about 75% of Lifeline customers. Telecom Attorney Geoffrey Why and Connecticut State Broadband Coordinator William Vallee will discuss how this and other proposals will have an impact – possibly a fatal one – on the Lifeline program.

Speakers:

Geoffrey G. Why Counsel, Verrill Dana, LLP
William Vallee Jr. State Broadband Coordinator, Connecticut Office of
Consumer Counsel

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3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 pm – 4:20 pm

Regulatory Accounting Issues for Replacing Lead Water Pipes

As more jurisdictions discuss and encourage lead water line replacements, some novel accounting questions come into play. Will the utility will bear the cost to replace the customer owned portion of a lead service line, and if so, who owns the pipes in that circumstance? Should the cost be amortized or depreciated? If negative net salvage is included in the depreciate rate this will lead to different recovery rates. Our panelists will explore some of the accounting raised by lead line replacements.

Moderator:

Margaret Stull

Senior Utility Analyst, Indiana Office of Utility
Consumer Counselor

Panelists:

Jim Jenkins

American Water

Geoff Marke

Chief Economist, Missouri Office of Public Counsel

4:30 pm – 5:30pm

Why Consumer Advocates Should Care About Pole Attachments

Learn more about where electric and telecom utilities (almost) meet—on the poles! The once arcane world of pole attachments is heating up, and consumer advocates shouldn't be caught unawares. Panelists will share their experiences on the ground--and in the air--through case studies of how pole attachment policies can affect competition, broadband deployment, utility rates, aesthetics, safety, and reliability.

Moderator:

Tim Schneider

General Counsel, Tilson Technology Management, Inc.

Panelists:

Joseph A. Rosenthal

Principal Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

Maureen Hopkins

Director, Real Estate, Tilson Technology Management, Inc.

Allen Bell

Distribution Manager, Georgia Power Company

Dave Thomas

Partner, Sheppard Mullen

Wednesday – November 15, 2017

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Continental Breakfast

Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save the date:

NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting – June 24-27, 2017 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

NASUCA would also like to express its appreciation to the *Food Recovery Network*, *World Wildlife Fund*, *Goucher College* and *the Baltimore Hilton* for working with us on reduction and recovery of food at this event. Food recovered from this event serves Baltimore non-profits. Special thanks also go to Michelle Malloy from NARUC and Nicole Haslup from NASUCA for coordinating the food recovery efforts at this meeting.

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