

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Loews Royal Pacific

Orlando, FL

November 11-14, 2018

Registration and all sessions will be in the Oceana Grand Ballroom 10 and 11 unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business.

Proposed Resolutions

1. Urging States to Direct Natural Gas and Electric Utilities to Collect and Post on the Public Utility Commission Website Uniform Time Series Statistical Data on Residential Billings, Collections, Arrearages and Disconnections for Nonpayment.

Sunday – November 11, 2018

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration

11:30 am – 12:50 pm Executive Committee Meeting (*Oceana Grand Ballroom 9 - Lunch Provided*)

1:00 pm – 2:50 pm ***DOE/LBNL Distribution Technology Training (Open to all Registrants)***

The next step in our Distribution Technology Training series. We started with webinars on Metrics and Valuation Frameworks for System Planning and Proposed Investments (October 10) and then Distribution System Controls and Automation (October 31) (<http://nasuca.org/resources/webinars/>)

Session 1: Benefit-cost Frameworks for Utility-Facing Investments in Distribution System Modernization

Tim Woolf Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics

2:50 pm – 3:00 pm Break (Coffee and Light Refreshments)

3:00 pm – 3:45pm *Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only*

Welcome: Elin Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President

-Work Draft Resolution

-Officer Reports

-Secretary's Report (Vote on Minutes)

-Treasurer's Report (Vote on 2019 Budget)

-Nominating Committee Report (Vote on Officers)

-President's Report

-Executive Director's Report

Final
November 6, 2018

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Supporting Utility Communication Networks

All utilities require a robust and reliable communications network to support the essential services they provide. This panel will review the technological and regulatory challenges associated with deploying and maintaining these communication networks.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Joy Ditto President and CEO, Utilities Technology Council
Brian Ford Senior Attorney, NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association
Timothy R. Schneider General Counsel, Tilson Technology, Inc.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Heads of Office Lunch (*Oceana Grand Ballroom 12*)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch on your own

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm

The Challenge of Cyber Security for Consumer Advocates

With the ever-growing cyber security threat comes ever-growing IT and cyber security budgets at utilities. This panel examines how advocates can appropriately perform our oversight function on cyber security expenditure when we have limited access to a lot of threat information. How do create a review frame that assures that utilities are addressing the correct threat, are spending the correct amount to address the threats, and the spending was effective at addressing the threats.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Ronald L. Keen Senior Energy Advisor, National Risk Management Center, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
David Batz Senior Director, Cyber and Infrastructure Security, EEI
Lynn P. Costantini Deputy Director, Center for Partnerships and Innovation, NARUC

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm

Restoring the Balance in the Regulatory Compact: Revisiting Utility Collection and Disconnection Practices

An increasing number of American households are having difficulty paying or are unable to pay increasingly unaffordable gas and electric bills and are facing disconnection of these essential services. Panelists will discuss the scope and depth of the problem, the need to incorporate access to and retention of utility service as a human right into the utility business model and suggest potential solutions that utilities and regulators can implement that will enable more households to obtain or keep a connection while improving utility collections.

Moderator:

Charles Harak Attorney, National Consumer Law Center

Speakers:

Jacqueline Patterson Senior Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP
Karen Lusson Assistant Bureau Chief, Public Utilities Bureau, Illinois Attorney General's Office
Marion Gold, Ph.D. Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utility Commission

Final
November 6, 2018

3:20 pm – 3:40 pm Break (Snacks)

3:40 pm – 5:00 pm ***“Vignettes”***
“noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode”

1. Carbon Innovation

-Kara Brighton Fornstrom, Deputy Chair, Wyoming Public Service Commission

2. National Verifier Update

-Tiffany Brady and Aamina Amin, Universal Service Administrative Company

3. Elevating the Consumer Voice in Emerging Federal Legislation

-Tom Hassenboehler, The COEFFICIENT Group

4. NGA Energy and Transportation Roadmaps

-Sue Gander, Director, Environment Energy and Natural Resources, National Governors Association

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm **NASUCA Reception** – Light Hors d’oeuvres
Open to All Meeting Registrants and Invited Guests

Location: Oceana Grand Ballroom 12

Presentation of the Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky Outstanding Service Award

-JR Kelly, Florida Public Advocate

-Sheri Givens, Givens Consulting

Presentation of NASUCA Service Award

-Hampton Williams, Former Missouri Public Counsel

Dinner on your own

Tuesday – November 13, 2018

7:00 am – 7:50 am Executive Committee Meeting (*Oceana Grand Ballroom 9*)

7:00 am – 8:00 am Registration and Breakfast (*Oceana Grand Ballroom 12*)
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants

Open Session Begins

8:00 am – 8:50 am ***DOE/LBNL Distribution Technology Training*** (*Open to all Registrants*)

Session 2: Reliability Metrics and Reliability Value-Based Planning

Joseph Eto

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

9:00 am – 9:50 am ***Grid Modernization and Planning Best Practices***

This panel will provide advocates additional practice tips and suggestions from current case studies.

Moderator:

Mark W. Toney Executive Director, The Utility Reform Network (TURN)

Panelists:

Ron Nelson Manager, Strategen Consulting
Paul Alvarez President, Wired Group

9:50 am – 10:00 am Break (Coffee Only)

10:00 am – 11:00 am ***Community Solar: Opportunities and Challenges***

Community Solar: Is it a great idea to bring solar to a wider range of customers or another example of shifting costs to utilities' captive customers? This panel will address the expansion of community solar through the development of innovative program designs, financing mechanisms, and comprehensive consumer awareness or education. The panel will discuss experiences (success, failures, opportunities and constraints) in community solar deployment, as well as anticipation of issues that may arise with increased deployment of community solar.

Moderator:

Keishaa Austin Program Analyst, Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia

Panelists:

Carla J. Peterman Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
Scott Thomasson Southeast Director, Vote Solar
Edward Burgess Director, Strategen Consulting

11:05 am – 12:00 pm **Fires, Storms, Floods – Resilience Planning and Utility Investment**

From fires in California to hurricanes and flooding in the gulf coast, Florida and the Carolinas, it has been an extraordinary year. As we confront an ever-increasing number of these extraordinary years, how can we refocus our approach to utility investment to minimize the impact of these events on consumers while still maintaining affordable utility rates? This panel will offer suggestions and review some areas of recent success.

Moderator:

Andrew "Drew" Slater Delaware Public Advocate

Speakers

Robert Kenny Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Christopher Ayers Executive Director, Public Staff - North Carolina Utilities Commission
Michael A. Caron Commissioner, Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch on your own

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **Consumer Advocates of PJM Board Meeting (Ocean Grand Ballroom 9)**

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Plug in America and the Alliance for Transportation Electrification Ride and Drive Event. (*Look for signs in the Lobby*)

NASUCAN's, you are invited to join Plug in America and the Alliance for Transportation Electrification to experience the joys of driving electric. You will be able to test drive the latest electric vehicles on the market.

This in-depth, hands-on educational experience gives you an opportunity to ask our EV ambassadors about what it is like to own and operate an electric vehicle. Be sure to ask about:

- How expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure can benefit all rate-payers.
- The role electric vehicles can play in efficiently increasing electric system utilization and driving downward rate pressure.
- The role of Commissioners in promoting the growth of the electric vehicle sector.

After your test drive, stop by the Alliance for Transportation Electrification and Plug in America booth to learn about the rapid advancement of EVs as well as the federal and state incentive programs available.

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

ARMs, FRPs, MRPs, PBRs, PIMs, TPIS: A Roundtable Discussion on Consumers Benefits and Impacts from the Alphabet Soup of Alternative Ratemaking Mechanisms

Many utilities and jurisdictions have either adopted, or are investigating, alternative rate-making mechanisms to complement their traditional regulatory frameworks. Justifications for adopting changes often highlight what the utility stands to gain (e.g. reduced regulatory lag, incentivized behavior, etc.), but what about the consumers? How do consumers benefit from alternative rate plans and what do they risk? Join this expert panel as we examine the positive and negative effects of alternative ratemaking on consumers and ways to foster consumer benefits under such plans.

Moderator:

Anjali Patel

Senior Assistant People's Counsel, Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia

Panelists:

Tim Woolf

Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics

Kristin Munsch

Deputy Director, Citizens Utility Board of Illinois

Gregg C. Sayre

Commissioner, New York State Public Service Commission

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Who Benefits from Water Utility Acquisitions?

Over the past few years, the pace of water utility acquisitions has increased. Several states have enacted legislation allowing these acquisitions at "Fair Market Value." States have also passed legislation promoting the "Regionalization" or "Consolidation" of utility systems. In theory, larger water utilities should foster economies of scale and lead to lower water rates. However, do theory and practice meet? If Fair Value statutes foster higher acquisition prices, will economies of scale still be created and passed on to ratepayers? What metrics should be used to evaluate acquisitions? Our panel will provide an in-depth review of the current landscape of water utility acquisitions.

Final
November 6, 2018

Moderator:

Karen H. Stachowski Assistant Attorney General, Tennessee Office of Attorney General

Panelists:

Janice A. Beecher Director, Institute of Public Utilities, Michigan State University

Bernard J. Grundusky Vice President, Business Development Mid-Atlantic, American Water

David Ober Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Break (Snacks)

4:00 pm – 5:20 pm

“Vignettes”

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1. EV School Buses – Let’s Teach Kids a Lesson on Good Public Policy!
-Robert Kelter, Senior Attorney, Environmental Law and Policy Center
2. The Coal Bailout that Nobody is Talking About
-Joe Daniel, Union of Concerned Scientists
3. Update from NARUC on the Center for Partnerships & Innovation (CPI) and the National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP)
-Danielle Sass Byrnett, Director, NARUC CPI
4. Everything you need to know about CIAC Taxation
-Jim Jenkins, American Water

5:20 pm – 5:30 pm

2018 Annual Meeting Public Session Close
- Final Thoughts - Elin Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel, NASUCA President

Dinner on Your Own

Wednesday – November 14, 2018

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast (*Pacifica Ballroom 11 and 12*)

Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Closed Session for Members of NASUCA – (*Pacifica Ballroom 11 and 12*)

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save the Date:
NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting – June 19-22, 2019 – Portland, Oregon

NASUCA is the essential voice of utility consumers, representing and supporting utility consumer advocates in their efforts to achieve safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services