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.
Monday – June 13, 2022

7:30 am – 8:20 am Registration and Breakfast (London Room)
**Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and Speakers**

Open Session Begins

8:20 am – 8:35 am Welcome
Chris Ayers Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission
William “Bill” Fine Indiana Consumer Counselor, NASUCA Vice-President

8:35 am – 9:30 am Natural Gas Panel: Examining Hydrogen, Renewable Gas and Other Options to Decarbonize Future Natural Gas Service
As states pursue clean energy goals, the natural gas system will need to modernize toward lower carbon sources of fuel. This panel will offer a short introduction to how hydrogen can work with local gas distribution systems as a source of fuel and will also examine efforts to capture renewable sources of natural gas.

Moderator:
Joseph Rogers Assistant Attorney General - Massachusetts
Attorney General Office of Ratepayer Advocacy

Speakers:
Dan LeFevers Director, State and Consumer Programs, GTI Energy
Frank Canavan American Gas Association (AGA)
David Lapp People’s Counsel, Maryland

9:35 am – 10:30 am Reliability Challenges – Concerns at a Grid Level
Recent reports from NERC and several RTO’s point towards possible future energy emergencies caused by a combination of climate change impacts and a transition from traditional fossil fuel generators to carbon-free renewable power. In addition, uncertainty and increased natural gas prices are having dramatic impacts on future auction prices. This panel will explore these challenges, suggest possible solutions and help advocates get prepared to communicate these issues to consumers.

Moderator:
Greg Poulos Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States

Speakers:
Scott Wright Executive Director, Resource Planning, Midcontinent Independent System Operator
Evelyn Robinson Managing Partner, State and Government Affairs, PJM Interconnection, LLC.
Shelby Linton-Keddie Senior Director, State Energy and Regulatory Policy, Edison Electric Institute

10:30 am – 11:00 am Break
11:00 am – 11:55 am  

**Water Panel: Challenges of Small Water Systems Acquisitions**

This panel will discuss acquisition issues through the lens of a small water/wastewater utility and its customers. Unique to these systems are issues of capital expenditures for long-delayed maintenance projects, needed technology improvements, fair value or acquisition premiums, assimilation into larger utility’s systems and the magnitude of rate/bill impacts to a small customer base.

**Moderator:**
Karen H. Stachowski  
Senior Asst. Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Unit, Tennessee Attorney General

**Speakers:**
David Ober  
Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Chris Krygier  
Chief Strategy Officer at Global Water Resources
David Spenard  
Attorney, Strobo Barkley, PLLC

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  

Lunch Break – grab a friend and go…

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  

Heads of Office Lunch (Weber Grill – across from hotel)  
-Open to office heads or their assigned deputy if the office head is not in attendance

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm  

**Current and Future Challenges in Transmission Planning**

This panel will address current challenges in transmission planning including questions about how we achieve greater transparency in the planning process, improve stakeholder engagement, advance cost containment goals in RTO-administered transmission planning and meet the types of challenges addressed in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Transmission Notice of Proposed Rulemaking?

**Moderator:**
Jennifer Easler  
Director, Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate

**Speakers:**
Sarah Freeman  
Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Jeremiah Doner  
Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO)
Rob Gramlich  
President, Grid Strategies LLC
2:45 pm – 3:40 pm  
**Transportation Electrification – Are We Ready?**

We are moving toward electrifying our transportation options, whether it be passenger cars, fleet-level delivery vans, school busses or larger trucks. Utilities must plan to meet the transportation needs of all consumers, and the infrastructure costs necessary to meet these needs will impact all consumers. This panel will offer an industry view of what is coming, with a focus on issues around meeting the needs of business fleets, a utility view on how it is getting ready and some discussion about what consumer advocates need to know to be ready for this transition.

**Moderator:**
Thomas Wiehl  
Attorney, Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel

**Speakers:**
Kathy Knoop  
Manager, Electric Vehicle Integration Solutions, General Motors
Kristin Munsch  
Senior Associate General Counsel, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd)
Caroline Palmer  
Senior Consultant, Strategen Consulting

3:40pm – 4:00 pm  
Break

4:00 pm – 4:40 pm  
**FERC – Special Guests - To Update NASUCA on FERC’s Consumer Outreach Effort**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has increased its focus on consumer outreach and increasing consumer participation in FERC proceedings. FERC created the Office of Public Participation to coordinate and provide assistance to members of the public to facilitate participation in Commission proceedings, which could at some point in the future include providing intervenor funding. FERC’s Office of External Affairs has also stepped up its direct outreach and communication with NASUCA offices to keep us aware of current cases and to offer issue briefings. This panel presents an opportunity to speak directly with the Director of each office about how NASUCA can better advocate our issues and have our voices heard by FERC.

Elin Katz  
Director, Office of Public Participation
Robert Thormeyer  
Director, State, International, & Public Affairs Division

4:45 pm – 5:15 pm  
**FERC Update**

Jason T. Gray  
Partner, Duncan & Allen, Washington DC
6:00pm – 8:15 pm  NASUCA Reception
**Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers**

**Location:** The Rathskeller (about a 20-minute walk from the Conrad Hotel)
In the historic Athenaeum Building
401 E. Michigan Street

**Awards:**
- Robert F. Manifold Award
- Bryce Freemen – Wyoming

NASUCA Service Award
- Anjali Patel – DC-OPC (formerly), Chair Electric Committee
- Margaret Stull – Indiana, Chair Accounting and Tax Committee
- Richard Berkley – New York PULP – Chair Consumer Protection Committee

Dinner on your own

**Tuesday – June 14, 2022**

7:30 am – 8:30 am  Registration and Breakfast (West Foyer)
**Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers**

**Open Session Begins**

8:30 am – 12:00 pm  **DOE/LBNL Technical Training**

**Session 1:** 8:30 am – 9:15 am

**Grid modernization plans: Review and assessment of proposed investments**
*Tim Woolf, Synapse Energy Economics*
*Ben Havumaki, Synapse Energy Economics*

This session will cover grid modernization investment economics and a report prepared for the Minnesota Department of Commerce to support analysis of grid modernization investments in the state. The guidance document describes best practices for conducting economic evaluations of grid modernization investments and presents a set of recommended filing requirements for future utility evaluations of grid modernization plans.

**Session 2:** 9:15 am – 10:00 am

**State regulatory approaches for distribution planning**
*Lisa Schwartz, Berkeley Lab*

This session will cover the variety of state requirements for electric distribution system planning, including plan components, regulatory practices, and planning approaches by topic.

10:00 am – 10:30 am  Break-Coffee and Tea

*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.*
Session 3: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Performance-based regulation (PBR): multiyear rate plans and performance-based incentives**
*Mark Lowry, Pacific Economics Group Research*
*Tim Woolf, Synapse Energy Economics*
*Q&A and discussion with NASUCA members*

This session will provide training on PBR approaches, including multiyear rate plans and targeted performance incentive mechanisms, as well as necessary consumer protections. Following presentations, NASUCA members will discuss interest in a potential PBR guide for state utility consumer advocates.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Consumer Advocates of the PJM States (CAPS) - Board Meeting *(Beijing Room)*

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Lunch on your own.

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm
**Modern Approaches to Identifying and Understanding Customers Who Are Struggling to Maintain Utility Service**

Many households face a crisis of maintaining utility service, affording utility bills, avoiding service shutoff, and paying down past due balances. Whether still recovering from the pandemic or simply facing challenging economic conditions, customers need help. This panel will explore some modern approaches to using data to understand and identify customers in need, explore what that data is telling us about who these customers are and provoke a discussion about creating more holistic approaches to getting identified customers the full spectrum of help available.

**Moderator:**
Gabriela Sandoval  
Director of Race and Equity Policy, TURN - The Utility Reform Network

**Speakers:**
David Konisky  
Co-Director, Energy Justice Lab, Lynton K. Caldwell Professor, Indiana University
Jessica Brahaney Cain  
Vice President, Customer Operations, Eversource
Richard Berkley  
Executive Director, New York Public Utility Law Project

2:50 pm – 3:30 pm
**Cybersecurity Update – Questions Advocates Should Be Asking**

Ronald Keen  
Senior Advisor, National Risk Management Center (NRM C)Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Break
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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

1. Update on the Consumer Alliance work at FERC and Congress on RTO Governance, Markets and Competition
   Tom Hassenboehler – Partner – Coefficient Group

2. Americans for a Clean Energy Grid – Opportunity for Collaboration
   Anjali G. Patel – Vice President for Clean Energy – David Gardiner and Associates

3. Grid Enhancing Technologies – What is Heimdal Adding (and other fun tidbits from across the pond)
   Robert G Mork – Vice President International Regulatory Affairs – Heimdal Power

End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own

Wednesday – June 15, 2022

8:50 am – 10:00 am
Continental Breakfast (Viena North)
**Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers**

9:00 am – 11:00 am
Closed Session for Members of NASUCA
-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save the dates:
NASUCA Annual Meeting – November 15-16, 2022 – New Orleans, LA