

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

## 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Marriott on Canal  
555 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA  
November 13-16, 2022

Registration and all sessions will be in the Marriott Hotel unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Meeting sessions will be in Galerie 5-6 and meals will be in Galerie 4 – all on floor 2 of the Marriott

Dress is business or business casual.

### Sunday - November 13, 2022

Noon – 5:00 pm

Registration

*-Please pick up your, name badges*

Please download Meeting Materials at: <https://www.nasuca.org> or  
<https://www.nasuca.org/event/2022-nasuca-annual-meeting/>

*-Meeting Agenda*

*-Bios and Headshots for Speakers*

*-Meeting Registrants List*

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

*Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only*

1:00 pm – 1:05 pm

Welcome – Chris Ayers Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission  
Public Staff, NASUCA President

1:05 pm – 2:30 pm

***Roundtable on Equity, Social Justice, and Affordability***

Many states have adopted requirement that social justice and equity issues be addressed in regulatory decision making. In addition, the Biden Administration's Justice 40 requirements will have some impact on how money associated with recent federal legislation gets allocated. In this session we will open the floor and pass the microphone to get feedback from the membership on how these issues are viewed, and actions are possible and what limitations we see in serving the diverse NASUCA membership.

Moderator:

Patrick M. Cicero

Consumer Advocate, Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate

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2:30 pm – 5:00pm

Closed Business Session

- Officer Reports
  - Cindy Schonhaut (CO) - Secretary's Report  
(Vote on Minutes from Mid-Year meeting)
  - Rebecca Tepper (MA) – Treasurer's Report  
(Vote on 2023 Budget and Annual Dues Assessment)
  - Nominating Committee Report  
(Vote on 2023 Officers, Board)
  - Chris Ayers - President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Committee Reports
  - Work Draft Resolution
- Roundtable of the States

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

NARUC President's Reception  
Open to Registered NASUCA Members

*Dinner on your own*

**Monday - November 14, 2022**

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast  
*\*\*Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants\*\**

**Open Session Begins**

8:30am – 8:35 am

***Welcome***

Chris Ayers                      Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission  
Public Staff, NASUCA President

8:35 am – 9:25 am

***Gas Panel – Preparing for High Prices this Winter***

The price of natural gas in the market is higher that it has been since 2008. Winter heating bills will be a burden on all customers. What practical steps can be taken to prepare customers for high bills this winter.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Katrina Metzler                      Executive Director, National Energy and Utility Affordability  
Coalition (NEUAC)

Daniel Bausch                      Project Director, Applied Public Policy Research Institute for  
Study and Evaluation (APPRISE)

David E. Dismukes                      Professor, Executive Director and Director of Policy  
Analysis - Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State  
University, Acadian Consulting

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9:30 am – 10:25 am

***Water Panel – Discussion of Book - The Profits of Distrust: Citizen-Consumers, Drinking Water, and the Crisis of Confidence in American Government***

The burgeoning bottled water industry presents a paradox: Why do people choose expensive, environmentally destructive bottled water, rather than cheaper, sustainable, and more rigorously regulated tap water? The Profits of Distrust links citizens' choices about the water they drink to civic life more broadly, marshalling a rich variety of data on public opinion, consumer behavior, political participation, geography, and water quality. Basic services are the bedrock of democratic legitimacy. Failing, inequitable basic services cause citizen-consumers to abandon government in favor of commercial competitors. This vicious cycle of distrust undermines democracy while commercial firms reap the profits of distrust – disproportionately so from the poor and racial/ethnic minority communities. But the vicious cycle can also be virtuous: excellent basic services build trust in government and foster greater engagement between citizens and the state. Rebuilding confidence in American democracy starts with literally rebuilding the basic infrastructure that sustains life.

Moderator:

Karen H. Stachowski      Senior Asst. Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Division,  
Office of Tennessee Attorney General

Speaker

Samantha Zuhlke      Assistant Professor, University of Iowa, School of Planning  
and Public Affairs

David Switzer      Assistant Professor, University of Missouri, Harry S.  
Truman School of Public Affairs

Jeffrey A. Hughes      Commissioner, North Carolina Public Utilities Commission

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am – 11:55 pm

***Electric Panel – Reliability Issues and NERC***

The reliability of the electric grid has been challenged this year. And the National Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Summer Assessment reported concerns that rolling blackouts could happen. Is this sudden decrease in reliability real, and if so, what has changed? This panel explores what is really happening with reliability and will to offer paths to better future reliability, give NASUCA members insights into how NERC actions influence RTO actions, and we'll hear about the NERC Winter Assessment.

Moderator:

Michael Moody      Division Chief, Special Litigation Division, Michigan  
Department of the Attorney General

Speakers:

Fritz Hirst      Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, NERC

Timothy C. Burdis      Senior Manager, State Policy, PJM Interconnection

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break – grab a friend and go...

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Heads of Office Lunch – Lafayette Suite, 41<sup>st</sup> Floor

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1:30 pm – 2:25 pm

***Electric Panel – IIJA and IRA – Funding and Utility Action***

Between the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Congress has dedicated the largest pool of money and programs in a generation directed at transforming our national energy and transportation system. What is in the acts? How can we best use these acts to address climate change, infrastructure improvements and equitable transition issues? How can a regulated utility best use the acts to benefit customers? And how will we judge whether utilities have been prudent in seeking funding for projects within the act? This panel should offer consumer advocates a roadmap to begin addressing these questions.

Moderator:

Chris Ayers                      Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission  
Public Staff, NASUCA President

Speakers:

Kristen Sigele,                      Director of Government Relations (Tax and Finance), EEI  
Susan Mora-Schrader              Director, Federal Policy and Agency Relations, Exelon  
Rachel Gold                          Principal, RMI Carbon-Free Electricity Program

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Speaker - Commissioner Willie L. Phillips  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Legal Update - FERC  
Jason Gray - Duncan and Allen

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Break

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

***NASUCA Alumni Grill - Lessons Learned, Stories Told, Bodies Buried***

Hear from previous NASUCA Office Heads about the challenges of leading a state consumer advocate office, the lessons they learned and the wisdom they must share.

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

***NASUCA Reception***

*\*\*Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers\*\**

**What:** Cooking School Demonstration –Learn to Make Gumbo, Jambalaya and other Local Specialties – and Learn Louisiana History and How it Impacted Local Cooking

**Where:** New Orleans School Cooking  
Riverview Room, 600 Decatur Street, 4th floor  
-about a 10-minute walk from the Marriott

**Award Presentations**

**Robert F. Manifold Award**

-Joseph Rogers – Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office

**Irwin ‘Sonny’ Popowsky Outstanding Service Award**

-Janine Migden Ostrander - Former Ohio Consumer Counsel, NASUCA Officer and Executive Committee

-Christina Baker - Former Arkansas Advocate in the Attorney General’s Office, NASUCA Executive Committee

-Bill Levis - Former Colorado Consumer Counsel, NASUCA Officer and Executive Committee and Interim NASUCA Executive Director

Dinner on your own

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**Tuesday – November 15, 2022**

7:30 am – 8:30 am Registration and Breakfast

**Open Session Begins**

8:30 am – 9:25 am ***DOE/LBNL Technical Training - Load Management, Demand Response and Efficient Incentives***

This session will explore customer use and load shape data to understand usage patterns and how best to build and target load management programs. Sending efficient price signals to best achieve load management results will be addressed at a high level. Broad concepts will then be addressed with respect to electric vehicles.

Peter Cappers                      Staff Scientist, Electricity Markets and  
Policy Department Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

9:30 am – 10:25 am ***DOE/LBNL Technical Training - Coordinated Planning with Considerations for Resilience and Equity***

This session will address the grid planning paradigm and role of states, and consumers and their advocates, to set the direction for grid infrastructure decisions. DOE resilience efforts to meet IIJA requirements will be addressed

Joseph Paladino                      Senior Advisor, Office of Electricity, US Department of  
Energy

10:30 am – 11:00 am Break

11:00 am – 11:55 pm **Supporting Customers through LIHEAP, LIHWAP and other Federal Assistance Programs**

LIHEAP provides important federal support for customers that struggle with their utility bills. Traditionally viewed as winter heating help, it is becoming more apparent that summer cooling customers need help too. Congress also recently created a new assistance program for water customers that was modeled on LIHEAP called the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Unfortunately, this new water assistance program is temporary and set to expire in 2023. This panel will examine how we can ensure the success of programs like LIHEAP and LIHWAP and how we can partner with other national organizations to work for increased funding for programs that help customers with their utility bills.

**Moderator:**

Patrick M. Cicero                      Consumer Advocate, Pennsylvania Office of Consumer  
Advocate

**Speakers:**

Adam Cooper                      Managing Director, Customer Solutions, Edison Electric  
Institute, EEI

Brian Caudill                      Managing Director, Governmental Affairs and Public  
Policy, American Gas Association, AGA

April Ballou                      General Counsel, Vice President of State Regulatory Affairs,  
National Association of Water Companies, NAWC

Mark Wolfe                      Executive Director, National Energy Assistance Directors  
Association, NEADA

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12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch on your own.

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

***FERC – Transmission Issues – NASUCA Perspectives***

A discussion with NASUCA. Where are the points of agreement on the FERC Transmission NOPR? Where do we disagree on the NORP? A how can we bridge any gaps. This panel will bring together NASUCA Office to evaluate opportunities for further collaboration as we think about the future of transmission.

Moderator:

Joseph Pereira Deputy Director, Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate

Speakers:

Michele Beck Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services  
Michael Haugh Director of Analytical Services, Ohio Consumers' Counsel Office  
Greg Poulos Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States (CAPS)

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

Speaker - Commissioner Mark C. Christie  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

***"Vignettes"***

*"noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode"*

1. DOE - EV Grid Assist Program  
-Christopher G. Irwin – Program Manager, Advance Grid R&D, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy
2. NARUC – Center for Partnerships and Innovation  
- Danielle Sass Byrnett - Senior Director, Center for Partnerships & Innovation, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
3. The Power of Consumer Data  
-Julia Friedman – Director of Regulatory Affairs and Marketing - Oracle

**End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own**

**Wednesday – November 16, 2022**

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast – Galerie 4  
*\*\*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:**

**2023 NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting – July 16-19, 2023 – Austin, Texas**  
**2023 NASUCA Annual Meeting – November 5-8, 2023 - TBD**

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