

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Marriott Hotel at Anaheim Convention Center and Homewood Suites Hotel
Anaheim, California
November 10-13, 2024

Registration and all sessions will be in the Marriott Hotel Ballrooms Platinum 8-10 unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business or business casual (ties not necessary).

Sunday – November 10, 2024

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration
 -Please pick up your meeting name badges

Located at: <https://www.nasuca.org> or
<https://www.nasuca.org/event/2024-nasuca-annual-meeting/>
 -Meeting Agenda
 -Bios and Headshots for Speakers
 -Meeting Registrants List

NASUCA Meeting Begins

1:30 pm – 5:00pm Closed Business Session

- Officer Reports
 - Cindy Schonhaut (CO) - Secretary's Report
(Vote on Minutes from the Mid-Year meeting)
 - Patrick Cicero (PA) - Treasurer's Report
(Vote on Treasurers Report and 2025 Proposed Dues, and 2025 Proposed Budget)
 - Nomination Committee Report
(Vote on 2025 Officers and Executive Committee)
 - Michael Moody (MI) - President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Committee Reports
 - Work Draft Resolutions
- Roundtable of the States

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm NARUC Reception

Dinner on your own

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 – November 11, 2024

7:30 am – 8:10 am Registration and Breakfast (Platinum 7)
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and Speakers

Open Session Begins

8:10 am – 8:30 am **Welcome**

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

NARUC Leadership Introduction

8:30 am – 9:25 am **Low-Income Program Design – Giving Consumers a Voice in Program Design**

Designing effective income-qualified programs and cost-effectively identifying and reaching income-qualified customers is challenging. Rules, regulations and government structures tend to overshadow any input from customers and other stakeholders that may provide valuable insights into how to make a program more customer-centric and usable for those the programs are intended to serve. This panel explores the ideas that customers and other stakeholders should have a voice in how programs are designed, and that programs should be designed to ease participation barriers, where possible. The panel will examine different approaches to including these ideas in the regulatory and design process, leveraging real-world examples from perspectives representing consumer advocates, regulatory bodies, and industry.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Hon. Stephen DeFrank Chair, Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
Dr. Courtney Henderson Founder & President, Hawks Peak Strategies,
Samantha Caputo Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs and Market
Development, Opower

9:30 am – 10:30 am **Tech Transitions and Reliable Public Safety Communications**

The panel addresses the challenges to providing reliable public safety communication posed by the evolution of networks. This includes a discussion of the risks associated with single points of failure involving network equipment, the concentration of traffic on high-capacity fiber, and the need for power in both networks and at the home. We will also hear about the FCC's efforts to improve reliability for Next Generation 9-1-1, and the transmission of text, photos, videos and data.

Moderator:

Regina Costa TURN—The Utility Reform Network

Speakers:

Renée L. Roland Special Counsel, Public Safety and Homeland Security
Bureau, Federal Communications Commission
Hon. Darcie L. Houck Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
Brian Rosen Principal, Brian Rosen Technologies, LLC

10:30 am – 11:00 am Coffee Break

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11:00 am – 11:55 am

Integrity Management Costs in a Decarbonizing Environment

Industry leaders, experts and regulators discuss the concerns and costs of maintaining a reliable and safe pipeline system alongside decarbonization goals and increasing incentives for customers to disconnect.

Moderator:

Blaise Michna Public Utilities Engineer III, North Carolina Utilities
Commission Public Staff

Speakers:

Benjamin J. Turner Senior Director Asset and Risk Management, NiSource
Mike Henchen Principal, RMI
Hon. Katie Sieben Chair, Minnesota Public Utility Commission

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break – grab a friend and go...

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Heads of Office Lunch (Platinum 7)

Open to office heads or their assigned deputy if the office head is not in Attendance

1:30 pm – 2:25 pm

Load Growth – Using the Regulatory Process to Protect Consumers

Data Centers and other large loads are requesting service from local utilities. If that load can be served, in most cases it will require time and capital to build generation and the other physical plant. If that load fails to arrive or leaves the system early other utility consumers are at risk for unrecovered costs. While load growth is generally considered to be good, that can only be the case where tariffs ensure cost recovery from the new customers and mitigate risks to the existing customers on the system. This panel will discuss best practices to ensure existing customers are protected and will benefit from this growth, as well as discuss other ideas, like additional demand response and energy efficiency that may help meet these new load requirements.

Moderator:

Chris Ayers Executive Director, North Carolina Utilities Commission
Public Staff

Speakers:

Tyler Huebner Energy Market Development, Central Region, Google
Noel Black Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Southern
Company
William J. Michael Senior Consumers' Counsel, Office of the Ohio
Consumers' Counsel

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Federal Speakers

1. FCC Digital Equity
 - Sanford S. Williams, Esq., MBA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Chairwoman Rosenworcel
2. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Commissioner Update
 - Hon. David Rosner – Commissioner - FERC

3:30pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee and Snack Break

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4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

“Vignettes”

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

1. Hydropower Update
- Barbara Tyran, Director, External Relations, National Hydropower Association
2. The Future of Power Grids is Here - How Dynamic Line Rating Can Deliver Transmission Capacity Faster, Better and More Cost-Effectively
- Jørgen Festervoll, CEO Heimdall Power
3. Update on the Customer Alliance Activities at FERC and Congress
- Tom Hassenboehler, Partner, Coefficient Group

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

NASUCA Reception

Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers

Location: Meeting Room Hallway Outside of Platinum 7

Awards to Be Presented

Popowsky Awards (Exceptional Service to NASUCA)

David Nickel – Kansas – Service on the Executive Committee

Clay Layson – Arkansas – Service on the Executive Committee

Spotlight Award (Service to NASUCA By Someone Outside of NASUCA)

Greg White – Executive Director, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Service Award (Service to NASUCA)

Elizabeth Anderson – Massachusetts – Service as Co-Chair Consumer Protection Committee

Dinner on your own

Tuesday – November 12, 2024

7:15 am – 8:15 am

Registration and Breakfast (Platinum 7)

Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

Open Session Begins

8:30 am – 10:30 pm

DOE/LBNL Technical Training

Session 1: 8:30am – 9:10 am

Using Virtual Power Plants to Provide Real Grid Services and Cost Savings

Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) are aggregations of distributed energy resources (DERs) such as smart appliances, rooftop solar with batteries, EVs and chargers, and commercial and industrial loads that can balance electricity demand and supply and provide grid services like a traditional power plant. During this session, we will discuss VPP implementation in the US (with a focus on retail markets), identify grid services they are providing and highlight examples of how VPPs are cost-effective resources.

- Natalie Mims Frick — Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

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Session 2: 9:15 am – 10:30 am

Objectives-Based Decision Framework for Investing in Local Grids

State policies and regulations set goals, objectives, and priorities that define long-term, high-level outcomes for grid capabilities and functionality. A new interactive decision framework funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity walks through a stakeholder-informed process for grid investment decisions to address state goals, customer needs, and evolution at the grid edge. Each step of the framework explains what it is, why it's important, stakeholder roles and responsibilities, current and emerging best practices, analytical tools, and resources for more information. A discussion with NASUCA members will follow the presentation.

- Lisa Schwartz – Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Break-Coffee and Tea

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Build It and They Will Come? Not Always. . . How To Increase Enrollment in Low-Income Programs in Water Utilities

To have a successful low-income program, a utility needs to have strong participation by its customers. There can be many barriers. For example, the automatic enrollment of low-income water customers in Jackson, Mississippi, is on hold due to the objection of the Department of Justice regarding the direct access of a government water utility to the confidential personal information of SNAP benefit participants. This panel will discuss the barriers to customer participation, opportunities to ease the application process for customers, and possible performance metrics.

Moderator:

Karen H. Stachowski Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Division,
Tennessee Attorney General's Office

Speakers:

Juliet Ellis Head of Utilities Practice, Promise
Hon. Sarah Freeman Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Claire E. Coleman Consumer Counsel, Connecticut Office of Consumer
Counsel

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break – grab a friend and go...

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Consumer Advocates of the PJM States (CAPS) - lunch and Board Meeting
(Platinum 7)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Western Advocates Lunch (open to NASUCA members only)
(Platinum 8-10) 9

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Solving Local Transmission and Preparing for FERC Order 1920 Compliance

This panel will address current transmission challenges, including oversight of local transmission projects, interconnection and initial efforts being made to comply with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order 1920 compliance. How can consumer advocates have a stronger voice in transmission process, how do we get appropriate oversight of transmission projects and what is our role in FERC Order 1920 processes.

Moderator:

Michele Beck Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services

Speakers:

Claire Wayner Senior Associate, RMI
Greg Poulos Executive Director, Consumer Advocates of the PJM States
Tricia DeBleeckere Executive Director, Organization of MISO States

2:35 pm – 3:30 pm

Federal or Industry Speaker

1. Transportation Electrification and EPRI Roadmap Update
- Britta K. Gross, Director, Transportation, Electric Power Research Institute
2. National Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) – Update
- Will McCurry, Manager, State Government & Regulatory Affairs, NERC

3:30pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee and Snack Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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1. Rising Gas Rates – The Need for Consumer-Focused Leadership in Light of a Looming Death Spiral
- Dr. Asa Hopkins, Senior Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics
2. Nuclear Update
- Kristy Hartman, Director, Stakeholder Strategy & Engagement, Nuclear Energy Institute
3. FERC Update
- Jason Gray, Duncan & Allen

End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own

Wednesday – November 13, 2024

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast – (Platinum 7)
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 – (Platinum 7)

Meeting End

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