

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 11 and 12 unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business.

Proposed Resolutions

1.

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

-Officer Reports

-Secretary's Report (Vote on Minutes, Vote on New Member)

-Treasurer's Report

-President's Report

-Executive Director's Report

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Joint NARUC/NASUCA Session
NARUC Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm NARUC President's Reception – Open to NASUCA Members

Dinner 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:

TBD

Speakers:

TBD

Department of Homeland Security

TBD

Edison Electric Institute

TBD

NARUC

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm

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

Moderator:

Charles Harak

Attorney, National Consumer Law Center

Speakers:

Marion Gold, Ph.D.,

Commissioner, Rhode Island Public Utility Commission

Karen Lusson

Assistant Bureau Chief, Public Utilities Bureau, Illinois

Attorney General's Office

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. National Verifier Update

-USAC

2. Elevating the Consumer Voice in Emerging Federal Legislation

-Tom Hassenboehler, The COEFFICIENT Group

3.

4.

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

NASUCA Reception

Open to All Meeting Registrants and Invited Guests

Location:

TBD

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
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 – 9:45 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, Stratagen Consulting
Paul Alvarez President, Wired Group

9:45 am – 10:00 am Break (Coffee Only)

10:00 am – 11:00 am ***Updates on Community Solar and Storage***

Moderator:

Panelists:

11:10 am – 12:00 pm ***PHMSA – What's next for Gas Utilities***

What can natural gas distribution companies expect from and how do we balance safety and affordability.

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

Panelists:
Paul Roberti Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration (PHMSA)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30 pm – 2:40 pm

Multi-Year Rate Plans – A Round Table Discussion with Advocates

ARMs, FRPs, MRPs, PBRs, PIMs, TPIs: Ensuring Consumers are Protected Under and Benefitted by 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:

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

Panelists:

TBD

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.

Moderator:

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

Panelists:

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

TBD American Water

TBD NARUC

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Break (Snacks)

4:00 pm – 5:20 pm

“Vignettes”

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1. The Coal Bailout that Nobody is Talking About
-Joe Daniel – Union of Concerned Scientists

2.

Draft Version 2
October 5, 2018

3.

4.

Dinner on Your Own

Wednesday – November 14, 2018

8:30 am – 9:00 am Continental Breakfast (*Admiralty Ballroom*)
 Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants

9:00 am – 11:00 am Closed Session for Members of NASUCA – (*Admiralty Ballroom*)

-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

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