PUBLIC SESSIONS

Monday - November 9, 2020

12:00 pm – 12:55 pm  General Session

Welcome: Jackie Roberts (WV) - NASUCA President

Customer Views on Improving RTO Governance and Function

As RTO’s, ISO’s and other regional markets continue to grow in size and influence, the governance processes of these organizations leave consumers and consumer advocates struggling to be heard. This panel will discuss areas of governance and market operation that customers believe must be addressed, whether at the RTO’s, FERC or through Congress and developing a process to align these interests with customers of different classes. The answers to these questions will also impact the areas of the country that currently don’t have regional markets but might in the future?

Moderator:
Jackie Roberts  Consumer Advocate, West Virginia Consumer Advocate Division - President - NASUCA

Speakers:
Travis Fisher  President and CEO - Electricity Consumers Resources Council
Bryn Baker  Director, Policy Innovation - Renewable Energy Buyers Network
Greg Poulos  Executive Director - Consumer Advocates of PJM

12:55 pm – 1:20 pm  Break
Concurrent Sessions

Panel 1  
**Accounting Committee: Is Securitization the Answer? Maybe...But Only if We Do It Right**

Increasingly, securitization is being discussed as a way for utilities to recover the costs of shutting down legacy generation, recovering storm and disaster costs and even recovering the costs caused by COVID-19. This panel will offer an overview of the benefits of securitization, explain the process to establish a securitization statute, and identify best practices and pitfalls.

**Moderator:** Shawn Dellinger  
Utility Analyst - Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

**Speakers:**  
Joe Fichera  
CEO - Saber Partners, LLC  
Chris Hansen  
State Senator, District 31 - State of Colorado  
Mark Cicchetti  
Bureau Chief, Division of Accounting and Finance - Florida Public Service Commission

Panel 2  
**Telecom Committee: Is Broadband the New Public Utility? The Role of State Regulators and Consumer Advocates in Achieving Affordable, Ubiquitous Broadband in The New World Order**

Ten years ago, at the request of Congress, the Federal Communications Commission released *Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan* aimed at connecting 100 million U.S. homes to affordable broadband with download speeds of at least 100 megabits per second and upload speeds of at least 50 megabits per second. The U.S. is not close to achieving the objective, while affordable broadband access has become more and more an essential service. The experience with Covid-19 has made this clear. This panel addresses a question now being posed: Should broadband be considered an essential public utility? We address the case for broadband as a public utility, examine the challenges to successfully bring broadband service to low income communities and explore the tools available to state consumer advocates and regulators to address broadband deployment and access in their states.

**Moderator:** Regina Costa  
Telecommunications Policy Director - The Utility Reform Network

**Speakers:**  
Trevor Roycroft, Ph.D.  
J. Warren McClure School of Emerging Communication Technologies, Ohio University  
Harold Feld  
Senior Vice President - Public Knowledge  
Ken Holbrook  
Tribal Advisor – California Public Utilities Commission

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm  
**Break**
2:45 pm – 3:40 pm  General Session

**Electric Utilities and Rural Broadband Deployment: A Case Study**

COVID-19 has brought the broadband digital divide between rural and urban consumers into stark relief. Utilities may be in the best position, by using existing or easy to expand infrastructure, to help bridge this digital divide and support broadband deployment in underserved rural areas. This panel will examine how the state of West Virginia has focused its efforts to bridge this divide by creating a Broadband Enhancement Council and by working with its utilities to build middle mile infrastructure. This panel will examine the practical challenges West Virginia faced in this effort and its success so far. The panel will also examine what it takes to replicate this success in other states.

**Moderator:**
Elin Swanson Katz  Managing Director, Utilities & Associate General Counsel – Tilson

**Speakers:**
Charlotte R. Lane  Chair – Public Service Commission of West Virginia
Brad N. Hall  Vice President, External Affairs - Appalachian Power Company
Rob Thormeyer  Senior Director, Communications and Advocacy - Utilities Technology Council

3:40 pm – 4:15 pm  Break

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm  “Vignettes” “noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode”

1. Lifeline Program Update
   Tiffany Brady – Manager of Communications, Lifeline Program – Universal Service Administrative Company
   Leah Sorini – Communication Specialist, Lifeline Program – Universal Service Administrative Company

2. COVID-19 Impacts on Market Load
   Paul F. McGlynn - Executive Director, System Operations - PJM Interconnection

3. “Regulatory Lessons From COVID”
   Cheryl Roberto - Senior Principal – Synapse Energy Economics

**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.**
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  **NASUCA Virtual Social**
**Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers**

*Let’s Get Cooking - We’re Making Seafood Paella!*

![Paella Image]

**Food and Beverages, Shared Among Friends:** Join NASUCA Executive Director David Springe as he walks us through cooking this traditional Spanish rice dish. By join…we mean you should get cooking too! Shopping list and recipe at https://www.nasuca.org/event/2020-annual-meeting/. Prizes for the best (looking since we can’t taste it) paella will be awarded.

Special Guest: Bill Jensen – Owner and Beverage Director of Washington DC’s Michelin Star restaurant “Tail Up Goat” – will get us started with a brief overview of some Spanish wines to accompany our paella.

Musical Guest: DC’s own - Ricardo Marlow - Flamenco Guitarist

**Tuesday - November 10, 2020**

12:00 pm – 12:55 pm  **Concurrent Sessions**

**Panel 1**

*Natural Gas Committee: Assessment of Local Natural Gas Distribution System Safety: The Merrimack Valley Incident*

The Panel will discuss the over-pressurization of the low-pressure natural gas distribution system in the City of Lawrence and the towns of Andover and North Andover in Massachusetts. This over-pressurization resulted in death and serious injuries to the public. The panel will focus on the probable cause of the over-pressurization, the repair of the mains involved and the settlement agreement with Eversource Energy, that will result in a safer natural gas system.

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

**Speakers:**
William J. Akley  President, Gas Business - Eversource Energy
Mathew H. Nelson  Chairman - Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
Ashley Gagnon  Assistant Attorney General - Massachusetts
Attorney General Office of Ratepayer Advocacy
Panel 2  
**DER Committee: Regulatory Considerations and Barriers to Distributed Energy Resource Integration**

This panel will discuss regulatory policy considerations and barriers for efficient integration of DERs to the electrical grid, with a focus on energy storage. With decreasing energy storage costs and increasing DER penetration levels, the need for regulatory framework that accurately evaluates energy storage is becoming increasingly important. Likewise, the continued growth of DERs impact the need for continued consideration of current policies, especially at state levels. The evaluation of real costs and value of energy storage, and the need for regulations, is moving to the forefront of many state agendas.

**Moderator:**
Jordy Fuentes  
Director – Arizona Residential Utility Consumer Office

**Speakers:**
David Sarkisian  
Senior Project Manager - North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center

Patrick Balducci  
Manager, Power Systems and Markets Research Group - Argonne National Laboratory

Jason Burwen  
Vice President, Policy - Energy Storage Association

12:55 pm – 1:20 pm  
Break

1:20 pm – 2:15 pm  
Concurrent Sessions

Panel 1  
**Electric Committee: Rate Design for the Customer of the Future**

Grid modernization initiatives, and increasing levels of renewable energy, DER’s, electric vehicles and other technologies are giving customers more control over their energy usage but are also challenging traditional rate design concepts. This panel will examine innovative rate designs features that could benefit customers (and not just utilities) and rate design principles that advocates should continue to encourage irrespective of what the energy future looks like.

**Moderator:**
Anjali G. Patel  
Senior Assistant People’s Counsel - Washington DC Office of People’s Counsel

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

Lon Huber  
Vice President, Rate Design and Strategic Solutions - Duke Energy

Bradley Klein  
Senior Attorney - Environmental Law and Policy Center
Panel 2

Water Committee: Further Examination of Options in Addressing Distressed Water & Wastewater Systems

States continue to face an increasing number of distressed systems, which many would argue need oversight and new mechanisms to provide safe and reliable services to its consumers. Panelists will build upon the discussions from our last annual meeting regarding different approaches states are using to address these distressed systems, that run the gamut from case specific action to new program initiatives.

Moderator:
Karen H. Stachowski  Assistant Attorney General, Financial Division, Consumer Advocate Unit - Office of Tennessee Attorney General

Speakers:
Bill Teichmiller  CEO - EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.
Jason Hewitt  Senior Investment Development Officer - Sustainability Partners, LLC
Brittany H. Koenig  Staff Attorney - Kentucky Public Service Commission

2:15 pm – 2:40 pm  Break
2:40 pm – 3:40 pm  General Session

Consumer Advocate Spotlight

What do twenty NASUCA office leaders have to say about the future of the utility industry, utility regulation and consumer advocacy? What issues do they believe are most pressing and which technologies have the greatest potential to impact consumers? What is the biggest change the future will bring to the regulatory process?

Moderator/MC: Steve Mitnick – Editor-in-Chief, Public Utilities Fortnightly

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  “Vignettes” “noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode”

1. 2021 CCIF Kickoff Re-cap
   Katrina McMurrian – Executive Director - Critical Consumer Issues Forum
   Chris Ayers - Executive Director - North Carolina Utilities Commission
   Public Staff

2. Update on the Renovate Project
   Janet Gail Besser - Managing Director - Smart Electric Power Alliance

3. Current State of Electric Transportation
   Nick Nigro - Founder - Atlas Public Policy

4. Protecting Utility Infrastructure from External Threats
   Paul Stockton -Managing Director - Sonecon, LLC

End of Open Sessions

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.
Wednesday - November 11, 2020

Veterans Day Holiday – No Sessions

Closed Sessions

Thursday - November 12, 2020

Please Note: The Zoom Link for the Closed Business Session will be emailed to registered NASCUEA members and Office Heads on Wednesday, November 11, and again on Thursday morning, November 12.

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Closed Business Session – NASUCA Members Only

Welcome: Welcome – Jackie Roberts (WV) – NASUCA President
- Officer Reports
  - Secretary’s Report (Vote on Minutes)
  - Treasurer’s Report (Vote on 2020 Budget and Assessment)
  - Nominating Committee Report (Vote on Officers, Board)
  - President’s Report
- Executive Director’s Report
- Committee Reports
  - Work Draft Resolution
- Roundtable of the States

Save The Date:
2021 NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting, June 15-15, 2021, Indianapolis, Indiana

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