

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2020 (Virtual) Annual Meeting November 9th, 10th and 12th, 2020

Located at: <https://www.nasuca.org/event/2020-annual-meeting/>

-Meeting Agenda
-Bios and Headshots for Speakers
-Meeting Registrants List
-Recipe and Shopping List for the Monday Night Social

Public Sessions (all times eastern time zone)

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

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.

1:20 pm – 2:15

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

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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

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!



Food and Beverages, Shared Among Friends: Join NASUCA Executive Director David Springle 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

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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

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1. 2021 CCIF Kickoff Re-cap
 Katrina McMurrin – 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

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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 NASUCA 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 13-15, 2021, Indianapolis, Indiana