

Communiqué

The **AMEA Communiqué** is a monthly publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority
80 TechnaCenter Dr., Suite 200
Montgomery, AL 36117
(334) 262•1126
(334) 262•2267 (Fax)

www.amea.com

Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn
and YouTube

AMEA Board of Directors

Chairman	Don McClellan
Vice Chairman	Gary Fuller
Secretary/Treasurer	Morris Tate
Dale Baker	Albert Kirkland
Jack Burrell	Kyle McCoy
Louis Davidson	Harold Washington
Tom DeBell	Lee Young

Fred D. Clark, Jr.

President & Chief Executive Officer

Lisa M. Miller

Editor

MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.

AMEA, Opelika and Tuskegee dedicate solar research projects this month



AMEA/City of Opelika/OPS Solar Research Project

AMEA, in partnership with the City of Opelika and Opelika Power Services (OPS), as well as the City of Tuskegee and the Utilities Board of Tuskegee (UBT), dedicated new 50-KW solar research projects in those cities on June 26 and 27, respectively.



AMEA/City of Tuskegee/UBT Solar Research Project

Photos by Photographer Robert Fouts

The Opelika project is located at 400 Fox Run Parkway (in front of the OPS headquarters). The Tuskegee project is located at 48 Alabama Highway 199 (across from Moten Field). The projects were completed in May.

“We are proud of these two new solar research projects as part of our effort to enhance renewable energy in our portfolio,” said Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO. “We want to thank Opelika and Tuskegee for their leadership and partnership in this endeavor.”

See Solar, Page 2

Solar

Continued from Page 1

In conjunction with the solar research initiative, AMEA has been exploring and researching best practices in community solar parks in partnership with AMEA's Member cities.

The AMEA Board of Directors approved a \$1 million investment to construct one solar research project in each Member city for a total of 11 projects, Clark added. Similar-size projects have also been constructed in Dothan and Luverne.

The Opelika Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Tuskegee Area Chamber of Commerce, conducted ribbon cuttings as part of both days' activities.

Clark re-elected to national public power board

Fred D. Clark, Jr., AMEA President & CEO, has been re-elected to the American Public Power Association (APPA) Board of Directors. His re-election took place during the Association's Annual Business Meeting at the APPA National Conference in New Orleans, LA, on June 19.

Association board members are chosen to represent 10 regions across the country. Clark will represent Region 7. Region 7, which is the East South Central area of the U.S., includes Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Clark is one of 30 elected members of the APPA board. He will serve a new three-year term.



Clark

APPA, based in Washington, D.C., is the voice for not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

Public power utilities, electric grid must evolve with global trends

Kicking off the American Public Power Association's National Conference in New Orleans on June 18, Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the Association, urged public power utilities to heed three global trends to consider how to serve customers in the future. The three trends she highlighted were Amazon, connection, and socialization.

See Public Power, Page 3

Public Power

Continued from Page 2

Kelly explained how companies like Amazon have changed consumer expectations of convenience and integration.

“We need to think about the Amazon way of life and how it impacts us as utilities,” said Kelly, noting how the company has created a consumer expectation of one-stop shopping for all types of items.

Kelly pointed out how the electric grid can be a resource that can evolve to support distributed energy resources, and continue to be a reliable source of electricity for DER customers and non-DER customers alike.



Kelly

The second trend Kelly highlighted was the connectivity brought by technologies such as devices that comprise the Internet of Things and blockchain, and the implications these technologies have for utilities. illustration of IOT and blockchain

First and foremost, Kelly noted, these technologies require electricity — as utilities dealing with cryptocurrency miners know well. Kelly described the distribution grid as the “platform that enables transactions” using these technologies, and she acknowledged that the question remains who will “pay for its use, upkeep, and improvement.”

Second, Kelly urged utilities to take advantage of the data gleaned from smart meters and AMI devices to improve customer service. The third trend Kelly highlighted was socialization, which she described as the changing way people interact because of social media.

Kelly also paid tribute to all those who provided, organized, and received mutual aid — in the true spirit of public power — after the catastrophic 2017 hurricane season.

She talked about the Association’s legislative and regulatory advocacy for members in the past year. She also described new products and services to support public power utility operations and customer service. Kelly said that, later this year, the Association will be launching a national campaign to raise awareness of public power that will heavily rely on social sharing and community activities by members.

Joint action agencies invest in Hometown Connections to serve public power utilities nationwide

To bring greater value to public power utilities across the United States, the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, American Municipal Power, Inc., Missouri Public Utility Alliance, Northern California Power Agency, and the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority today invested in Hometown Connections, Inc. This investment included purchasing the majority of Hometown Connections International assets from the American Public Power Association (APPA). The Alabama Municipal Electric Authority was a minority investor in Hometown Connections International and will transfer its membership share into Hometown Connections, Inc.

In 1998, the Association launched Hometown Connections International as its utility services subsidiary, to provide quality products/services from a trusted entity with public power's best interests in mind. Hometown Connections maintains the same mission under the new organization, with each agency being an equal share member of Hometown Connections and collectively representing 291 utilities in 14 states.

The structure of the new organization enables additional public power joint action agency membership in the future. The majority of Hometown Connections' assets — including all staff, all sales and marketing affiliates (joint action agencies and state associations) and most of the third-party product and service partners — remain part of the new organization. The Association maintains a seat on the Board of Directors of the new Hometown Connections.

By combining resources through the new organization, Hometown Connections will help public power utilities of all sizes obtain the products and services they need to keep their electric systems robust and to preserve the benefits of community-owned, not-for-profit service.

Among the new services Hometown Connections will offer is an advanced metering program. This holistic program will be offered to public power utilities (electric, gas and water) nationwide. The unique program designs and manages the deployment of all automated metering infrastructure components (meters, network, communications, applications and integrations), and then provides municipal utility systems with long-term hosting and operation-managed services. The program is purpose built for municipal utility systems with the goal of reducing complexity, lowering long-term risk, improving system efficiency and forecasting/predicting future costs.

"This organizational change will provide the resources and technical support for Hometown Connections to meet the

See Hometown, Page 5

Hometown

Continued from Page 4

growing demand in public power for managed information systems and other new services,” said Tim Blodgett, President and CEO, Hometown Connections. “With our current staff staying on board and the ability to recruit additional industry leaders, Hometown Connections will expand the scope of services we offer. Most importantly, we will provide additional value to our vendor partners, to our marketing network of affiliated joint action agencies and state associations, and to the public power industry overall.”

“Over the years, our members have benefited and saved by engaging with Hometown

Connections. The new structure

will strengthen and expand the ways in which Hometown can help our members. Our members will continue to benefit from Hometown’s products and services, delivered with an understanding of public power’s unique needs,” said Sue Kelly, President and CEO, APPA.

“AMEA has long been a member and supporter of Hometown Connections and we value the services that public power systems can leverage. We welcome the new membership structure and look forward to the future opportunities presented,” said Fred D. Clark, Jr., President & CEO, AMEA.

AMEA has served as the Hometown Connections Sales Affiliate in Alabama and Mississippi since 1998.

The AMEA Communique’ is intended for internal use only.

Hometown Connections®

DELIVERING VALUE TO PUBLIC POWER

Register now for Webinars

An internet connection and a computer are all you need to educate your staff. Individual webinars are \$99 or sign up for a series at a discounted rate. Register today at www.PublicPower.org under Education & Events. Non-members can enter coupon code **AMEA** to view the webinars at no cost to your utility.

- Deep Dive into 5G Small Cell Wireless: The Truths, Myths and Implications for Public Power **July 10**
- Wireless Pole Attachments Series
Financial Pathways to the Utility of the Future **July 24**
- Accounting & Finance Series
Prepare for Change: Blueprinting Your Strategic Plan **July 26**
- Strategic Planning Series
New Regulatory and Legislative Developments Impacting Wireless Attachments Affecting Public Power Pole Owners **Aug. 7**





FREE! 2018 WEBINAR SERIES

Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (AMEA)
is partnering with **Hi-Line Engineering** to provide the following
2018 Webinar Series FREE to our AMEA Member Organizations.

Webinar Dates and Subjects		\$	✓
1.	July 10 – Understanding and Mitigating Uplift - Uplift is a common problem in the electric utility industry. Understanding the causes for uplift is the beginning of solving and preventing uplift on the distribution system. Recognizing instances where uplift typically occurs will lead to design practices that eliminate the problem before construction. Understanding the causes of uplift, will help designers re-design existing structures to correct existing problems.	Free	
2.	August 14 – Understanding Construction Specifications - The purpose of construction specifications, whether RUS specifications or individual utility specifications, is to create a uniform construction criteria for the electric distribution system. Engineers, designers, superintendents, and linemen need a working knowledge of the utility specifications to ensure the power lines are designed and built to be safe, reliable and efficient. The discussion of construction specifications will include materials, design parameters, maximum line angles, and design guides.	Free	
3.	September 11 – Design and Framing of Riser Poles - The design of a riser pole must consider the underground cable attachment to the pole, the placement of arresters to reduce lead lengths, different types of terminators, and switches. The webinar will discuss different framing methods for riser poles that meet NESC requirements as well as operational goals. Common errors in framing risers will be presented and analyzed.	Free	
4.	October 9 – Professional Ethics for Utility Personnel - Ethics is not always black and white or good and evil. Often simple situations such as going to lunch with someone can be considered a breach of ethics. Using realistic examples, the presentation will discuss possible pitfalls when working with vendors, government officials, consumers, etc. and offer methods to avoid such situations.	Free	
5.	November 13 – Primer on Current Demand Side Management Practices - Demand side management is employed with various goals and methods which can include sustainability, improving load factor, reducing generation requirements, reduction in transmission congestion, and reducing wholesale power costs. This webinar will address the tools used in the industry to manage the system demand. The advances in communication such as RF mesh radio systems and smart thermostats have increased the number and types of tools available for deployment.	Free	

Please check all or the individual webinars you are interested in, complete the information below, and email to: jennifer@amea.com - 334-387-3502 - 80 TechnaCenter Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117

Company Name _____ Company Contact _____

Mailing Address _____ Contact Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Contact Phone _____

Webinars conducted by:

