

Communiqué

The **AMEA Communiqué** is a monthly publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority
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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 breaks ground on Riviera Utilities and Sylacauga Utilities Board solar projects



Photo by Robert Fouts

Construction on 50-KW solar projects in Foley and Sylacauga began this month. The AMEA-City of Foley-Riviera Utilities Solar Project was started on July 23, and construction began on the AMEA-Sylacauga Utilities Board Solar Project on July 25.

The Riviera Utilities' project is located at 100 E. Section Avenue in Foley, while the Sylacauga Utilities Board project is located at 304 W. Highland Avenue in Sylacauga. Each project will include 160 solar panels.

Arthur Bishop, Project Engineer, said other details of the projects, including gravel, fencing, electrical connections and signage, will take place over the next several weeks. Once those details are completed, dedications and chamber ribbon cuttings will be coordinated with city/utility leadership.

Solar project dedications have been held for four (4) of AMEA's Members thus far. The Dothan and Luverne projects were dedicated in November 2017, while the Opelika and Tuskegee projects were dedicated last month.

Clark honored with W. Wendell Cauley Award at Electric Cities of Alabama Annual Meeting

In recognition of his longstanding commitment and dedication to public power, Fred D. Clark, Jr., AMEA's President & CEO, has been presented the W. Wendell Cauley Award by Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA).

Jonathan Hand, ECA Executive Director, and Bilee Cauley, the wife of the late Wendell Cauley, presented Clark with the prestigious award during the association's 19th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference this week. Named after longtime legal counsel and friend to ECA and public power, the W. Wendell Cauley Award is given each year to an individual who has contributed significantly to the success of ECA and continues to work for the success and advancement of public power.



Cauley, Clark and Hand

Clark served as ECA's first executive director from 1999 until 2006. During his tenure at ECA, he also established the Alabama Public Utilities Alliance, a state legislative monitoring service for Alabama's public utilities. Over the past 30 years, Clark has been involved with energy policy development and advocacy.

He was presented the ECA Public Service Award in 2013.

"Fred Clark is certainly deserving of this award because of his outstanding leadership and dedication to advancing the ideals and goals of public power," said Hand. "Electric Cities would not be as strong and successful today without Fred's guidance and commitment."

ECA represents a coalition of 36 municipally-owned electric utilities that serve more than one million customers statewide.

AMEA kicks off 2019 Scholarship Program in August

AMEA will launch the 2019 Scholarship Program in August, providing schools within AMEA Member cities application packets. Packets, as well as posters, will be provided to Member cities for distribution at city halls and/or utility offices.

AMEA and its Members will make available 44, \$2,500 scholarships (4 scholarships per Member city). Since 1992, AMEA has awarded over \$2 million in scholarship monies to graduating high school seniors who receive their electric service from AMEA Members.

See Scholarship, Page 3

Scholarship

Continued from Page 2

To be eligible for an AMEA scholarship, a student's parent and/or legal guardian must receive electric service from an AMEA Member utility, and the student must attend a four-year college/university, community college, and/or vocational/trade school within the state of Alabama.

Application packets will be available from school counselors in AMEA Member cities in August, or students can go to the AMEA web site, www.amea.com, Scholarship, in August to download an app. **Application deadline is Monday, Feb.11, 2019.**

For more information, students can contact their school counselor, or Pamela Poole, AMEA Scholarship Program Coordinator, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 110, or pam@amea.com.

Main Street Alabama hosts annual aLABama Downtown Lab in August

Join Main Street Alabama Aug. 22-24 at Lakepoint State Park in Eufaula for the 5th Annual aLABama Downtown Laboratory as we bring all of the elements of the Main Street Four Point Approach® together. Learn how working in all areas of the approach simultaneously can be the most significant method to move the needle in your downtown. Come Together with other downtown enthusiasts and build a vital network for your local efforts.as the group examines how focusing details can catapult your revitalization efforts.

Special guests speakers will be a part of the three-day event, with concurrent sessions also planned throughout the event.

On Thursday evening, Aug. 23, the Main Street Alabama Awards of Excellence Dinner, sponsored by AMEA, will be held. Join Main Street Alabama and special guests as the group celebrates the successes of local Main Street programs with a dinner and awards program at Lakepoint State Park Ballroom in Eufaula.

To register, visit the Main Street Alabama web site, www.mainstreetalabama.org, or contact Marylon Barkan, (251) 516-4506, or marylon@mainstreetalabama.org.

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.

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Recorded webinars are also available for purchase. Visit www.PublicPower.org





AMEA partners with GreatBlue Research on customer surveys

AMEA has contracted with GreatBlue Research, a Hometown Connections' vendor/partner, to conduct customer satisfaction surveys on behalf of its Member cities in October, November and December 2018, said Lisa Miller, AMEA Manager of Communications and Marketing.

GreatBlue will conduct the 5-7 minute telephone surveys among 2,800 randomly selected residential and commercial/business customers of AMEA's 11 Members. Similar surveys were conducted in 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, Miller said.

The purpose of the survey is to measure customers' opinions and satisfaction with a variety of services and resources provided by AMEA's Member city utilities. Topics will include, but are not limited to, perceptions of the utility, interactions with customer service and field service personnel, billing and alternative energy resources.

"The survey will be vital in helping AMEA Member cities understand the concerns and priorities of its customers and guide them in making decisions that best reflect the goals and expectations of the communities they serve," Miller added.

Survey instruments were recently provided to Members for their review and input. **Deadline for Member input is Friday, Aug. 3.**

To help prepare Members for possible inquiries from customers about the surveys, AMEA will provide Members with talking points so that they can communicate with their employees about the survey project.

"We encourage our Members to talk to their employees about the project and make sure they are aware of the survey timeline so that they might address possible customer inquiries and/or concerns," said Miller.

Once the survey project is completed, GreatBlue will present the findings to the AMEA Board of Directors. Also, AMEA Members will receive their individualized survey results.

For further information regarding the survey, please contact Miller at (800) 239-2632, Ext. 118, or lmiller@amea.com.

The AMEA Communique' is intended for internal use only.



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.	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	
2.	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	
3.	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	
4.	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

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Webinars conducted by:

