

Communiqué

The **AMEA Communiqué** is a monthly publication of the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority
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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.

Dedications set for solar research projects in Sylacauga and Foley in September



Photo by Robert Fouts

Dedication ceremonies have been set for solar projects in Sylacauga and Foley in September.

The AMEA-Sylacauga Utilities Board Solar Research Project, located at 304 W. Highland Avenue in Sylacauga, is set for Tuesday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m.

The AMEA-City of Foley-Riviera Utilities Solar Research Project, located at 100 E. Section Avenue (Alabama Highway 59) in Foley, is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.

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 in June.

AMEA Board of Directors approve 2018/19 fiscal year budget; elects board officers for new fiscal year

During its August 23 meeting, the AMEA Board of Directors unanimously approved the 2018/19 fiscal year budget.

In other action, the board approved the slate of officers for the new fiscal year. Officers elected include: Don McClellan of Alexander City, Chairman; Mayor Gary Fuller of Opelika, Vice Chairman; and, Morris Tate of Luverne, Secretary/Treasurer.

AMEA Election Committee re-elects three members to AMEA Board of Directors; committee elects new board member

The AMEA Election Committee, comprised of 11 representatives of AMEA's Member cities, met August 16 to elect, re-elect or replace directors whose terms expire at the end of the 2018 Annual Meeting, which was held August 23.

The committee re-elected the following members to the AMEA Board of Directors: Louis Davidson, City of LaFayette; Albert Kirkland, City of Dothan; and Harold Washington, Utilities Board of the City of Tuskegee. Casey Ponder, City of Piedmont, was elected to serve a three-year term.



AMEA Members recently appointed three new Election Committee members. They are responsible for re-electing/electing board members to the AMEA Board of Directors whose terms end at the Annual Meeting of the board each August. New Election Committee reps who met for the first time on August 16 were: Mike Werneth, Riviera Utilities; Tom "Mack" Morris, City of Opelika; and Merrill Sport, City of Luverne.

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.

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. For more information, contact Miller, (800 239-2632, Ext. 118, or lmiller@amea.com).

AMEA employees recognized at August board meeting

Tim Foster, Manager of Operations, and Mark Ennis, Manager of Compliance and Distribution Services, were recognized at the August 23 AMEA Board of Directors meeting for their years of service to the joint action agency and its Members.

Foster received a 15-year service award, while Ennis was recognized for five (5) years of service. Shown with Foster and Ennis are Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO, and Board Chairman Don McClellan.



Piedmont's Lee Young honored as retiring board member

AMEA board member Lee Young of Piedmont was recognized at the August 23 AMEA Board of Directors meeting for his years of service. Young, who has served on the AMEA Board of Directors for the past nine years, retired from the board following the August board meeting.

"We are grateful to Lee for his leadership on the AMEA Board of Directors," said Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO.

"Through his service and tenure, AMEA has been able to provide many new and innovative initiatives for its Members. Lee has always been a true friend and advocate of public power and we thank him for his dedicated service to Piedmont and AMEA's Member cities."



Lee Young is shown with Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO, and Board Chairman Don McClellan of Alexander City.

AMEA kicks off 2019 Scholarship Program this month

AMEA launched the 2019 Scholarship Program this month, providing schools within AMEA Member cities application packets. Packets, as well as posters, have been 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.

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.

Applications are available from school counselors in AMEA Member cities, or students can go to the AMEA web site, www.amea.com, Scholarship, to download an application. **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.

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Mark Ennis, AMEA Manager of Compliance and Distribution Services, accepts an award on behalf of AMEA for the joint action agency's 20-year relationship with Hometown Connections (HCI). AMEA has been the Hometown Sales Affiliate for Alabama and Mississippi since 1998 and a partial owner of HCI since 2002. Shown with Ennis is Tim Blodgett, President/CEO, HCI, and Steve VanderMeer, Senior Vice President, Planning and Marketing, HCI.

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- Electric Diagnostic Testing of Power Transformers for Municipals **Sept. 20**





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.	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	
2.	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	
3.	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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