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AMEA *Communiqué*

Vol. 18 No. 5

May 2009

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 Power Supply Conference deemed successful

Some 45 attendees participated in AMEA's Power Supply Conference April 16 and 17 at the Marriott Grand National Hotel and Conference Center in Opelika.



Attendees listen to Power Supply Conference guest speakers at the Marriott Grand National Hotel and Conference Center in Opelika.

Fred Clark, AMEA's President & CEO, said he was very pleased with the attendance and the positive feedback he has received about the conference.

Conference presentations included an Overview of AMEA, Power Supply Overview, Sustainable

Energy Future, Smart Grid, Washington Update, Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) Update, and a State Legislative Update.

"With issues such as fuel costs, climate change, and Clean Air congressional mandates, we felt this was a great opportunity for us to review topics of importance to our Members," Clark said. Clark said he encourages those who attended to provide AMEA with feedback about the conference.

AMEA Joint Action Services Group holds second meeting

A second meeting of the Joint Action Services Group was held on April 16 in Opelika, prior to the AMEA Power Supply Conference.

Member electric managers from 9 of the 11 AMEA Member cities attended the meeting, as well as Ray Phillips, Manager of Compliance and Special Projects, and facilitator, John Miner, President, Collaboration Unlimited.

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Joint Action

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The two objectives of the meeting were to finalize the group's guidance document and to reach consensus on a short list of potential service offerings to be provided by AMEA.

The guidance document outlines and identifies purpose, the strategic planning background that supports the existence of the group, membership and leadership of the group, as well as the expected outputs.

Suggestions and recommendations provided by the attendees at the meeting will be incorporated into the document and then the revised document will be distributed to the AMEA Members.

During the meeting, the group developed a list of five potential service offering, including:

1. Energy Conservation Programs (distribution system audits/loss management, customer energy audits, customer incentives and rebates, customer education programs).
2. Portable Equipment Rental/Leasing/Shared Ownership Sharing (thermography, cable testing, power quality analyzers).
3. Power Quality (testing, customer consultation, conditioning equipment).
4. Employee training and development
5. SCADA/Metering Systems

The group agreed to select an initial service offering from the five identified that was straightforward and clearly achievable in a relatively short period of time. They selected the Portable Equipment service. The type of equipment

in this category ranges from an infrared camera to a substation power transformer.

The group plans to first identify some portable equipment that is needed by a number of the AMEA Members and that is not readily available. Second, the group will formulate a proposal that identifies the equipment, the equipment's purpose, the need for the equipment, the cost of the equipment, and how AMEA will recover the cost of the equipment.

For further information, contact Ray Phillips, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 121, (334) 387-3505, or ray@amea.com.

2008 in Review and AMEA DVD now available

AMEA's 2008 in Review (Annual

Report), *Connecting With Our Members*, focuses on the joint action agency's 11 Member cities, as well as a look back at 2008.

Marlin Wade, AMEA's Chief Financial Officer, said a complete 2008 audited financial statement can be found on AMEA's web site, www.amea.com, Publications, Financial Reports.

AMEA has also updated and revised its 25th anniversary DVD to focus more on its Members. The newer version entitled, *AMEA Highlights*, also provides an overview of the joint action agency and its services.

Copies of the report and DVD have been provided to each Member. For additional copies, contact Lisa Miller, (800) 239-2632, Ext. 118, (334) 387-3501, or lmiller@amea.com.



Scholarship recipients announced

AMEA and its 11 Members have awarded \$80,000 in scholarships to 32 high school seniors in the 2009 AMEA Scholarship Program.

For the past 17 years, AMEA has assisted deserving students in each of its 11 Member cities with their first-year tuition to a state university. Recognizing that many high school seniors seek training in a technical or trade program, AMEA added the technical scholarship in 2004.



Each year, AMEA and its 11 Member cities make available 22, \$2,500 scholarships (two scholarships per Member city), and 11, \$2,500 technical scholarships (one technical scholarship per Member city), for a total of 33 scholarships.

A complete list of the scholarship recipients can be found on AMEA's web site, www.amea.com, Scholarship Program. A list of scholarship recipients can also be found in the May/June issue of *Alabama Currents*.

Hometown Connections® welcomes newest partner, Elster Electricity



Hometown Connections® and Elster, a leader in smart metering and smart grid systems and solutions, have announced an agreement to

market smart meters and smart grid solutions to APPA members.

The agreement includes favorable commercial terms for APPA members. The centerpiece of the program will be Elster's EnergyAxis® System to enable APPA member utilities to offer their business and residential customers

more accurate meter reading services, improved outage management and reliability, and demand side energy management savings.

The EnergyAxis System utilizes two-way wireless mesh network communications, allowing utilities to implement EnergyAxis on a small scale and expand their system over time, making smart metering a cost effective reality for virtually any utility. In addition to capturing usage information from water, gas and electric meters, the EnergyAxis System can also deliver outage notifications, monitor local voltage conditions, and perform remote connect and disconnects. These features reduce costly site visits and eliminate the need for other costly sensing and monitoring equipment on a utility distribution system.

Public power utilities can also take advantage of EnergyAxis's demand response capabilities by providing consumers with real time usage information, allowing consumers and utilities to proactively manage consumption during peak energy demand periods.

"In today's climate of escalating energy demand and economic constraints, it is vital for public power utilities to automate their metering services in ways that promote energy efficiency and savings," said Patrick Corrigan, Vice President, System Sales and Operations, Elster Electricity. "Elster is committed to helping APPA members deploy smart metering in a cost effective manner to provide reliable and efficient energy services to their communities. Smart metering will revolutionize energy management, and Elster is delighted to be partnering with Hometown Connections to bring the advantages of smart metering to public power."

For more information on Elster or any of Hometown's products and services, contact Lisa Miller, AMEA's Manager of Communications and Marketing, (800) 239-3092, Ext. 118, (334) 387-3501, or lmiller@amea.com.