

**AMERICAN
PUBLIC
POWER
ASSOCIATION**

Powering Strong Communities



The State of Public Power

NEPPA Annual Conference

Joy Ditto

American Public Power Association

Monday, August 23, 2021

About APPA

The voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide

- **Public power serves more than 49 million customers – 15% of all electric utility customers in the U.S.**
- **Public power employs 96,000 people**
- **Public power utilities represent 60% of the nation's electric utilities**

Serves nearly 1,500 utility members & 220 corporate members

- **APPA also has joint action agency and state/regional association members**

Diverse membership:

- **Very large members, like LADWP (14 million customers)**
- **Very small members, like Orlando, OK (93 customers)**
- **Approximately 50% of members serve less than 5,000 meters**

65 full-time staff including lobbyists, engineers, lawyers and other subject matter experts

NEPPA's Participation in APPA

Mutual Members

66 of NEPPA's 78 utility members are also members of APPA

APPA Board of Directors

**Nick Lawler, General Manager, Littleton Electric Light & Water Departments, Littleton, MA
(Executive Committee)**

Ellen Burt, General Manager, Stowe Electric Department, Stowe, VT

DEED (Demonstration of Energy Efficiency Developments), Region 8

Chris Roy, General Manager, Shrewsbury Electric Light

Advisory Committee

Daniel Sack, Secretary-Treasurer, Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts, Hudson, MA

Bonnie Biocchi, Executive Director, NEPPA, Littleton, MA

NEPPA's Participation in APPA (Cont.)

Policy Makers Council (Region 8)

Gabrielle Stebbins, Chair, Burlington Electric Department Commission, VT

Robert Holland, Commissioner, Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations, MA

Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC)

Jackie Crowley, General Manager, Middleborough Gas & Electric Dept., Middleborough, MA

Information Technology Committee; Chair, Jim Boyle, Information Technology Manager, Braintree Electric Light Department, Braintree, MA

Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Review Panel

Transmission & Distribution Committee Officers; Craig Foley, Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant, Massachusetts

*****14 NEPPA members are RP3 Designated**

APPA's Strategic Priorities

Advocating for Public Power. Promote policies before the federal government; educate decisionmakers and stakeholders; increase awareness of the public power business model.

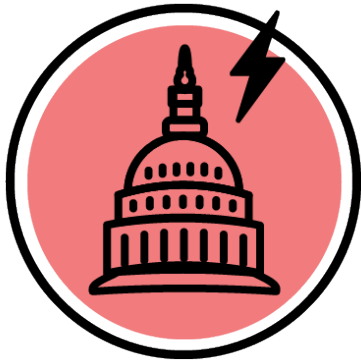
Moving Public Power Forward. Assist members in addressing technological and regulatory changes; support innovative activities; assist members in meeting workforce challenges.

Strengthening Grid Security. Taking an all-hazards approach to create a more resilient and secure grid.

Promoting Association Excellence. Work to increase member engagement and internal efficiencies; grow non-member dues revenue to deliver cost-effective services to members.

APPA's Strategic Priorities

Advocating for Public Power



**Promote policies
before Congress
and federal
agencies**



**Engage with
stakeholders**



**Educate
policymakers**



**Increase
awareness of the
public power
business model**

APPA's Strategic Priorities

Advocating for Public Power

- APPA represents public power before Congress, the White House, and federal agencies

Priority Issues



Energy



Environment



Tax



Cybersecurity

APPA's Strategic Priorities

Moving Public Power Forward



**Technological and
regulatory changes**



**Research and
development**



**Meeting workforce
challenges**

APPA's Strategic Priorities

Strengthening Grid Security

- **Continue to improve public power's cyber and physical preparedness posture and culture through education, products, and services.**
- **Facilitate members' response to, and recovery from, events that could impact grid security and facilitate communications for situational awareness and mutual aid, including engaging with senior federal leadership.**
- **Cooperative agreements with the Department of Energy – leveraging federal dollars to help public power.**

APPA's Strategic Priorities

Promoting Association Excellence

- **Work to increase member engagement, enhance internal efficiencies, and leverage data to make informed decisions to deliver maximum value to members.**
- **Grow strategic partnerships and revenue streams outside of utility member dues to deliver cost-effective services to members.**
- **Financial health and planning for the future – business plan.**

Public Power Challenges (no big surprises)

Changing customer expectations

Addressing climate change concerns and related regulatory complexity

Managing weather and other hazards (um, a global pandemic being one)

Understanding digitalization versus cybersecurity – a classic yin and yang

Balancing changing political winds

Acknowledging and filling education given the lack of understanding of electricity generation, transmission and distribution in general – and, lack of understanding of the public power business model – sometimes leading to:

Buyouts and sellouts of public power utilities

Recognizing blind sides – who should we really be worried about?

Public Power Opportunities

Telling our story – more platforms to do so

Better educating our public power policy makers and creating champions

Leveraging federal dollars

Continuing to leverage our collective knowledge and resources

Developing and maintaining partnerships!! Traditional and non-traditional (frenemies)

Remembering who we are and why we are in the business of public service

Creating future leaders

Recognizing we as public power represent a microcosm of a diffuse, but also strong, country – red, blue and purple

APPA's Ongoing Response

Engaging in business planning process

Enhancing member services through improved financials

Prioritizing activities based on member feedback

Better engaging with our public power leaders to harness their expertise and innovation

Using targeted federal grants to benefit our members

Increasing engagement in media relations to communicate the public power story

Applying benchmarking tools and data analytics for members' use

Redoubling efforts to engage with partners like NEPPA

Continuing to tell the truth in our advocacy efforts even when it isn't popular

Keeping our feet on the ground and continuing to reach for the stars (paraphrasing Kasey Kasem)

How to Stay Informed

- **Listservs:**
 - **government relations, accounting and finance, IT, security, legal, environmental, safety, T&D, HR, FERC, RTOs, customer service, and more**
- **PublicPower.org**
- **Public Power Current e-newsletter**
- **Public Power Magazine**
- **Public Power Now podcast**
- **APPA Mobile App (including events)**
- **Social media**

Knowledge-sharing and education

The Academy — public power's resource for professional education and development

- **Six major national conferences**
- **High-level summits and education institutes**
- **Certificate programs**
 - **Energy Efficiency Management, Customer Services Management, Key Accounts, Public Power Manager**
- **In-house, on-demand, and virtual training**
- **Webinars**

Upcoming Events

Conferences

Business & Financial Conference
Sept. 19–22

Legal & Regulatory Conference
Oct. 17–20

Customer Connections Conference
Oct. 24–27

On-Demand Learning Resources
Access a library of courses, webinars
and other recorded events anytime

Questions?

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