



The Live Wire takes a break this month as we dedicate this issue to an overview of the upcoming 2021 PMEA Annual Conference to be held September 8-10, 2021, at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center.

Sessions and More at the PMEA Annual Conference

This year's conference kicks off with a reception on Wednesday evening followed by a full day of informative session on Thursday. At Thursday's luncheon, we will be presenting the first James J. Havrilla Public Power Service Award! The conference concludes with the annual business meeting which will include a review of a model ordinance for the new Act 50 (small cell facilities) and a draft mutual aid agreement. We will also be electing three board members to the PMEA board.

Highlights of Thursday's sessions include:

Smart Cities:

Smart cities -we have been hearing about them for years now. Where are they and what do they look like?

Battery Storage 101 and PJM BTM Economics

GDS Associates reviews with the PMEA members some of the basics of Battery Energy Storage Systems and also provides economic considerations regarding the use of batteries in PJM behind the substation meter to avoid key PJM transmission and capacity costs.

Behind the Meter Peaking Project

In 2018, AMP looked closely at industry. The forecasted increase of PJM's capacity and transmission charges throughout the AMP footprint were of chief concern. The first phase of the Behind the Meter Peaking Project is integrating PowerSecure generation systems into fourteen member utilities in Ohio and Pennsylvania, providing benefits to a total of 27 communities.

What can we do with our ARPA funds?

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) has allocated \$6.15 billion to Pennsylvania counties, cities, and local governments to support COVID-19 response efforts; replace lost revenue; support economic stabilization for households and businesses; construct water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; and address systemic public health and economic challenges. This presentation will discuss ARPA current regulations and provide guidance regarding eligible uses of the funds and compliance requirements.

For managers and elected officials, we have a session on engaging with the media. And superintendents will be discussing options for training new and experienced line crew.

AMP Board Seat Nominations

Pennsylvania is seeking another seat on the AMP (American Municipal Power) board. We currently hold one seat but have a substantial membership in AMP. This September, AMP will be electing new board members and there is an opportunity for a PA municipality to grab an at-large seat.

If your municipality is interested in being nominated or in self-nominating and standing for election, please send an email to Diane at bosak@papublicpower.org. If PA has a nominee, then we will be asking the PMEA members (who are AMP members) to support the nomination and vote in the upcoming election. Once again this year, voting will be remote as was last year.

We Want to Hear From You

Please share with us your exciting projects and photos for future newsletters. Your submissions should be sent to bosak@papublicpower.org at any time and we will use them in upcoming editions.