



## Save these Dates!



**PMEA Spring Superintendents/ Foremen Meeting – *Registration Open***  
**April 11 & 12, 2024 @ The Graduate, State College**

**PMEA Reception – June 2, 2024**  
**@ PSAB Conference, Hershey Lodge**  
*Details coming soon – Reception begins @ 3:00 pm*

**PMEA 2023 Annual Conference – September 4 – 6, 2024**  
**@ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford**

**PMEA Business & Governance Workshop (*\*formerly Finance Workshop*)**  
**– September 4, 2024 @ Omni Bedford Springs, Bedford**

**2024 Training for Line Crews – *\*Watch your email for registration details\****

**Advanced Transformer – *Register today!***

March 18 & 19 - Lansdale  
March 20 & 21 - Chambersburg  
March 25 & 26 - Grove City

**Crew Leadership**

July 15 & 16 - Lansdale  
July 18 & 19 - Chambersburg  
July 22 & 23 - Grove City

**HotStick**

May 2 & 3 - Lansdale  
May 6 & 7 - Chambersburg  
May 9 & 10 - Grove City

**Digger**

September 23 & 24 - Lansdale  
September 26 & 27 - Chambersburg  
September 30 & October 1 - Grove City

**Substation 101**

October 28 & 29 - Lansdale  
October 30 & 31 - Chambersburg  
November 4 & 5 – Grove City



## The Top Four in '24 for Public Power

*The Live Wire asked our top national leaders to share their perspectives on the biggest issues facing our public power communities this year. The Live Wire appreciates the contributions of these national leaders.*

### **Four in '24: Public Power's Priority Issues**

*By American Public Power Association President & CEO Scott Corwin*

The year 2024 is upon us and with it a full agenda of priorities for the American Public Power Association (APPA). Despite the inevitable distractions that come along with an election year in Washington, D.C., we have critical issues to raise with policymakers regarding legislation and regulations that ensure that public power utilities can do what they do best: serve their communities with reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.

While it can be difficult to narrow down the list of many issues that will drive our advocacy work of the in the coming year, there are some matters that rise to the top because of their large impact across the breadth of our membership. Here are four issues I see as the headliners in 2024:



## Four in '24 (continued)

### 1. Federal policymakers must act to alleviate the supply chain crisis.

For the past couple of years, our industry has found itself in an unprecedented supply chain crisis—most acutely felt on the distribution transformer front. Lead times on these critical grid components have swollen to years rather than weeks, and—as a result—20 percent of public power infrastructure projects have been delayed or canceled. APPA is pressing Congress to provide appropriate funding to alleviate labor and material shortages, while urging the Department of Energy to pause efforts to ramp up efficiency standards that are exacerbating the crisis.

### 2. Infrastructure – hold down costs and streamline permitting.

Infrastructure investment is top of mind in the wake of two major pieces of legislation that crossed the finish line in recent years (the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022)—both of which contained significant provisions to spur infrastructure development. Despite these two pieces of landmark legislation, there is still work to be done to make sure public power utilities can provide affordable electricity. APPA is advocating for reinstating advance refunding bonds and making other changes to municipal bonds to keep costs low.

In addition, the process to get pretty much any kind of energy infrastructure permitting across the finish line is lengthy and unpredictable. With the IIJA and the IRA in place, it is essential that we get this right—and quickly. Utilities need clarity and certainty in definitions, processes, and timelines to maintain reliability and ease the transition to cleaner energy resources. This also involves streamlining permitting and siting rules while making sure each project's beneficiaries pay their fair share.

### 3. Climate policies must balance reliability and affordability.

As the electric utility industry continues to reduce its collective carbon dioxide emissions, APPA will pursue federal climate policies that are designed to ensure grid reliability, affordability, and a diverse resource mix. These policies must be grounded in technologies that are proven and readily available. Proposed emissions rules being promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency fail to hit the mark in terms of being cost-effective and practically achievable. Obtaining elective pay tax credits to develop wind, solar, hydropower, carbon capture, nuclear, and storage projects was a huge win for public power in 2022, but rules the Treasury Department is developing need to be clear and as flexible as possible.

### 4. Grid security hinges on strong partnerships.

The electric grid remains a target for those who intend to harm our communities and our country. As these threats evolve, our industry must remain vigilant. The strong (and mandatory) standards that are in place to ensure cyber and physical security are a piece of the puzzle, but we must also lean on nurturing industry-government partnerships to prevent, prepare for, and respond to attacks. Further, we need to continue to hone a system that facilitates and encourages the sharing of timely and actionable threat information while pushing back against mandates that create redundant reporting mechanisms.

This promises to be another busy year for APPA as we continue to advocate on your behalf (on these and other issues). I hope to see you at one of our many conferences or while I'm out on the road, but—as always—feel free to drop me a line with any comments or questions at [scorwin@PublicPower.org](mailto:scorwin@PublicPower.org).

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## Key issues/considerations for public power in 2024

*By Jolene Thompson, President/CEO of American Municipal Power, Inc.*

There are a number of challenging issues facing the electric utility industry in the coming year, and — unlike decades ago — the players, drivers and pace of change is quite different. AMP maintains a list of challenges that seems to grow each year. That said, a handful of items stand out in 2024.

### **Workforce — addressing retention, recruitment, training, and succession planning needs**

Changing workforce dynamics are impacting our industry at all levels. We often hear from our Members about the difficulty they have in filling open lineworker positions. This is a common refrain among our peers nationwide in public power, as well as across the utility industry. Public power systems often find this challenge compounded by the need to compete with the compensation levels offered by our for-profit peers.



As part of our effort to provide our Members with resources in the area of workforce, AMP established a Member-led training task force. AMP Members in Pennsylvania are represented on the task force by Steve Diehl, Superintendent of the Kutztown Electric Department, and Andrew Krauss, Superintendent of the Lansdale Electric Department. The group has been meeting over the past year to help provide our team with direction and feedback on how to best support the increased interest in training from our Members.

In recent years, AMP has worked to enhance our lineworker training program and our training facilities. In the past year,

- We completed a multi-year effort to renovate and modernize the AMP Member Training Center to make the space more accommodating for lineworker training. The facilities include classroom-style learning, tactile-learning areas with transformer and grounding simulators and a training yard;

*(continued on next page)*

## Four in '24 (continued)

- We expanded our regional lineworker training offerings and launched a Utility Leadership Program to help Members develop employees' leadership skills as they advance in their careers; and
- We gained the ability to offer certification for our apprenticeship training program through the U.S. Department of Labor. This certification allows us to serve as a group sponsor and is a game changer for our lineworker apprentice training program.

In addition to enhanced training, AMP is looking at ways to assist our Members in the areas of succession planning and talent development and we are extremely pleased to be partnering with PMEA on regional training sessions for PMEA Members this year.

### **Grants and Incentives — navigating the numerous state and federal opportunities**

The scale and scope of grant opportunities currently available in the areas of generation, cybersecurity and grid modernization is unprecedented. Likewise, the resources needed to pursue the grants — and then, if you are awarded grant dollars, to comply with the grant requirements can be significant. In 2022, AMP engaged The Ferguson Group (TFG) to help AMP and its Members sort through the various opportunities. More than 40 AMP Members have leveraged resources from TFG on individual community efforts to date.

Grants and incentives can help improve the economics on certain projects and programs; however, the application and compliance processes can be complex and the timelines for data collection and submittal can be very tight.

AMP has filed or is in the process of filing letters of intent or applications for a number of large-scale grant opportunities that would benefit our Members. This speaks to the value of public power joint action.

### **Energy transition — the need for a thoughtful approach that balances affordability and reliability**

The electric utility industry is in a state of transition, as decarbonization, decentralization, digitalization and customer engagement converge. As intermittent generation becomes an increasing part of our country's power supply as a result of policy requirements and/or customer demand, AMP recognizes the need to support our Members by providing resources and advocating for a common-sense approach.

Our power supply philosophy has long been rooted in diversity — diversity of resource type, fuel type, location, etc. As our comments filed with various federal agencies state, we believe that decarbonization goals must be balanced with the critical need for affordable and reliable power. After the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rules to regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the power sector, AMP and other like-minded organizations and transmission organizations submitted comments regarding the impacts of those proposed rules on new, existing, and modified coal and natural gas power plants. The comments, overall, discussed the impact the proposed rules would have on grid reliability and the many practical considerations as the grid transitions, including permitting, siting and interconnection time frames, and supply chain constraints.

We will continue to share our views about the need for a balanced and thoughtful plan, keeping in mind that it is possible that the retirement of thermal generation will outpace the rate of new generation, wide-scale deployment of energy storage, etc. As the ISO/RTO Council stated in their EPA comments: "Hope is not an acceptable strategy."

### **Engagement — the importance of advocacy with policymakers and customers**

The concept of engagement is critical to AMP, and we view it from several different lenses, including: public power leaders working together to ensure our voices are heard with state and federal policymakers (both lawmakers and regulators), as well as the relationships that public power systems have with their customers.

Because policy changes impact the nature of our operations, it's critical to have strong representation and a seat at the table as policies are crafted. Increasing transmission costs and changing market rules are top concerns for public power. AMP has a strong presence at PJM Interconnection and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — for example, our team attended 370 PJM meetings in 2023. We also work closely through our national partnerships with the American Public Power Association (APPA), Large Public Power Council, National Hydropower Association, Transmission Access Policy Study Group and Smart Electric Power Alliance to ensure that our Members' views are represented. We also work closely with PMEA to provide support for the association's important state advocacy engagement.

Customers are also considerably more engaged today than a decade ago. They have access at their fingertips to data and information that they have not had before — and some business customers have decarbonization goals driven by corporate policies. It is important that public power systems establish regular touchpoints with customers and communicate the value that their public power system brings to the community. Utilities can take advantage of no- or low-cost ways to communicate the benefits of public power available through PMEA, AMP and APPA such as Public Power Week celebrations, awards programs, and social media content — in addition to promoting the economic development benefits of a public power system. It is important to develop relationships with key customers and local community groups to increase awareness of the public power value proposition.

### **Public power is well positioned**

I'm a firm believer in the public power business model with the foundational attributes of local ownership and community stewardship — as well as the critical role that joint action (PMEA and AMP) can play in supporting public power systems as they navigate the changes taking place in the industry.

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## Nominations Open for Public Power Award

PMEA is pleased to announce that nominations for the James J. Havrilla Public Power Service Award will be accepted beginning March 6. Named after James J. Havrilla, a professional engineer who worked with many of the PMEA members, the award is presented to an individual who, throughout his/her career, has consistently demonstrated a commitment to public power.

An individual elected, appointed, or employed by a PMEA member municipality or a related agency may be nominated by a PMEA member. The winner will be announced at the Annual Conference in September. To learn more about the award, the criteria, and to access the nomination form, please visit <https://www.papublicpower.org/awards>.

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## Associate Member Offers Utility Seminar

TE Connectivity (TE) is hosting a Utility Seminar from March 19th to the 21st in our Fuquay-Varina, NC facility (near Raleigh). The seminar provides an opportunity to learn more about their products and solutions directly from their engineers,



product managers and field service technicians. Attendees will also spend time each day installing many of the products in their labs. You can view the agenda [here](#). Click here for [Hotel Information](#).

[Register Today](#)

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## Fallen Lineman Golf Tournament

The Third PA/NJ Fallen Linemen Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, May 16. The shotgun start is set for 10:00 am at the Golden Oaks Golf Course, 10 Stonehedge Drive, Fleetwood, PA.

Only 34 teams will be accepted with a registration fee of \$150 per person or \$600 per team – which includes green fee, cart, prizes, special competitions, beverages, and a meal.



**FALLEN LINEMEN**  
FOUNDATION

Net proceeds from the tournament will be used to support linemen and their families in the event of injury while working on the job. For more information and to register, go to the registration site at <https://fallenlinemenfoundation.com/pa-nj-fallen-linemen-foundation-golf-tournament/>

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## Associate Member Spotlight



Altec is the leading manufacturer of equipment for the electrical utility industry including primarily bucket trucks and digger derricks, service bodies, and pulling equipment, among others. Altec is a 95-year-old, family-owned company that focuses on putting customers' needs at the forefront. They manufacture, sell, rent/ lease, and service all equipment in house and directly. Please visit their website at

[www.altec.com](http://www.altec.com) or contact Steve Bytof at [Stephen.bytof@altec.com](mailto:Stephen.bytof@altec.com).

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## 2024 Will Be Better If You Share Your News....

Please share with us your exciting new projects, photos, personnel updates, and any other news you want to spread the word about. We know there is much happening in our member communities! Your submissions should be sent to [bosak@papublicpower.org](mailto:bosak@papublicpower.org) at any time and we will use them in upcoming editions. We also welcome your suggestions for topics of interest for our newsletters.

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