



# FMEA

FLORIDA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

## Our Mission ...

*FMEA supports and promotes Florida's public power communities through information, advocacy and service. The organization accomplishes this goal by:*

- Representing and advocating municipal electric utility interests to legislative and regulatory bodies.
- Facilitating information exchange, innovation and productivity improvements increasing members' efficiency and effectiveness through publications, training, conferences and networking.
- Promoting a positive image and enhancing public confidence in municipal electric utilities.

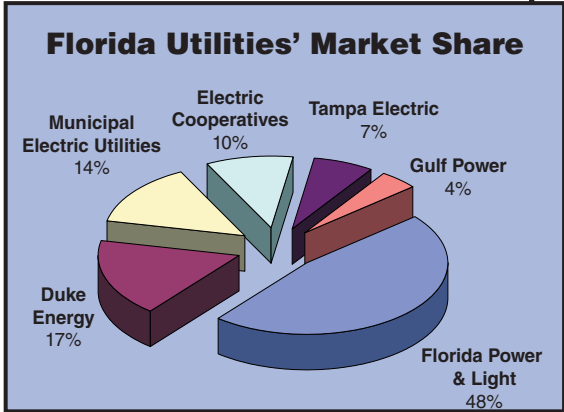
## Promoting Public Power ...

The Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) is the trade association for Florida's family of 34 public power communities located across the state, from cities as varied as Jacksonville, Orlando, Lakeland, Tallahassee and Gainesville to smaller towns such as Havana, Clewiston and Bushnell.

Together, these community-owned utilities serve 3 million Floridians — collectively, they are the third largest source of power in the state. As community-owned and locally managed organizations, these utilities are focused on serving local needs and interests with profits reinvested back into the community for services such as police and fire protection, rather than sent to distant stockholders.

FMEA represents the unified interests of this important community through three major functions: 1) government relations; 2) communications, news and information; and 3) education and training. Through these services, FMEA focuses on public power's outstanding service, superior reliability, and significant local investment.

**Government Relations:** FMEA has a broad legislative team actively representing member cities' interests on a wide variety of state and federal issues including environmental protection, electric competition, power regulation and more. FMEA also works closely with the American Public Power Association (APPA) on federal legislative and regulatory issues.



**Communications, News and Information:** FMEA is a huge information clearinghouse, providing members access to a comprehensive news resource, industry statistics, legislative updates, and safety and technical information. The organization keeps members informed through Relay magazine ([www.RelayMagazine.org](http://www.RelayMagazine.org)) and a weekly news e-mail, FMEA Headline News. Relay is Florida's only electric utility magazine with a statewide readership that includes municipal utilities, electric cooperatives, private utilities, legislators, regulators, utility suppliers and consultants. A wealth of information is also available on FMEA's Web site ([www.publicpower.com](http://www.publicpower.com)), which is updated daily with energy news. Of particular interest, the site includes a monthly bill comparison for Florida's municipal and private electric utilities and annual statistical information on Florida's municipal, investor-owned and cooperative utilities.

**Education and Training:** FMEA offers educational programs aimed at improving member safety, business practices and operational procedures. These include frequent workshops, training programs and online interactive training courses. Examples include a safety and training workshop; customer service, energy auditing, GIS, tax and legal seminars; a communicators' forum; and lineworker training activities.



**Supporting and strengthening Florida's public power communities and the 3 million Floridians they serve.**

## Getting Plugged In ...

FMEA is proud of the level of involvement and support provided by its member utilities. There are many opportunities for involvement, including several standing committees that drive FMEA's policies and programs.

**Board of Directors:** Meets three times per year and is charged with overseeing FMEA policy and direction.

**Legislative & Regulatory:** Meets on an as-needed basis, generally two or three times a year, and oversees the legislative and regulatory activities of FMEA.

**Safety and Training:** Meets quarterly and consists of representatives charged with safely operating their local electric utilities, including safety coordinators and directors.

**Customer Connections:** Meets three times per year and consists of representatives working

directly with customers (customer service, key accounts, energy conservation, demand-side management, and public relations).

**Engineering & Operations:** Meets once a year and includes representatives working in operations, primarily transmission and distribution.

**Renewables & Efficiency:** Shares information on effective utility renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, as well as discusses public policy issues.

**Mutual Aid:** Consists of representatives available 24/7 to: 1) discuss needs of the electric utility after a storm or other emergencies, and 2) provide assistance—work crews, equipment and supplies—to other cities/utilities after an emergency.



## Powerful Events ...

**The FMEA Annual Conference:** This three-day event features top industry speakers, informative workshops and discussion groups, and much more. The conference is designed for upper-level utility managers and directors; city managers and directors; and local policy makers from Florida's municipal utilities, investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives. **Contact: Amy Zubaly (ext. 7)**

**The Energy Connections Conference & Trade Show:** FMEA hosts a two-day event delivering cutting edge information to members about improving their daily operations. The event is held in Orlando, featuring in-depth and comprehensive workshops on transmission and distribution, customer connections, safety, and lineworker training. There is also a trade show open to vendors showcasing a variety of new products, services and technologies.

**Contact: Cheryl Anderson (850) 251-5465**

### The Florida Lineman

**Competition:** This annual day-long event pits utility lineman teams against one another in competitions demonstrating their skills, knowledge and teamwork. The Florida Lineman Competition emphasizes working safely in all aspects of utility operations and promotes positive safety training development.

**Contact: Cheryl Anderson (850) 251-5465**



**FMEA Legislative Rally:** FMEA members meet in Tallahassee during Florida's legislative session to discuss legislative proposals affecting public power communities. Working together, this grassroots effort is an effective tool for communicating consumer issues to state legislators.

**Contact: Amy Zubaly (ext. 7)**

## Making the Connection ...

FMEA is a trade association. Our success depends on the regular communication with, and feedback from, our members. If you have any comments or questions about the organization, please let us know!

### Staff:

**Interim Executive Director** — Amy Zubaly (ext. 7)

**Office Manager** — Brenda Thompson (ext. 3)

**Director of Communications & Marketing** —  
Garnie Holmes, Jr. (ext. 5)

**Information Technology Specialist** — Denise Hill (ext. 6)

**Deputy Executive Director of Education, Member Services, Facilities & Mutual Aid** —  
Cheryl Anderson (850-251-5465)

### FMEA Officers:

**President** — Clay Lindstrom, Fort Pierce

**President-Elect** — Chip Merriam, Orlando

**Vice President** — Joel Ivy, Lakeland

**Secretary-Treasurer** — Mike Poucher, Ocala

**Immediate Past President** — Mike New, Newberry

**Past President** — Barbara Quiñones, Homestead

**Past President** — Arthur J. Lacerte, Jr., Kissimmee