

# Successes in 2022 and Goals in 2023

Kudos to Our Members

BY AEIC'S CEO STEVE HAUSER

The end of the year is a natural time to reflect on achievements over the past twelve months and to look forward to what we hope to accomplish in the new year. In looking both back and ahead, I see one clear overriding factor that was essential to AEIC's success in 2022 and will be even more important to achieving our ambitious goals in 2023 – active and engaged members.

Volunteer participation by hundreds of operations and engineering experts who work at AEIC's member companies is what generates the experience and expertise that runs our organization and distributes knowledge throughout the industry. These professionals participate in thirteen committees focused on key operational areas including generation, distribution, transmission, storage, safety, and customer service.

Each AEIC committee has a robust roster of technical and subject matter experts who serve in leadership roles within their companies. Committee members come together to roll up their sleeves and perform the hard work needed to solve challenges of mutual concern, share best practices, and ensure that manufacturers are prepared to meet the needs of the industry.

In 2022, our committees held dozens of in-person and virtual meetings, participated in our one hundred thirty-eighth annual meeting, engaged with and provided critical feedback to industry vendors, conducted trainings, and issued guidance to the industry in the form of best practices, technical specifications, podcasts, and white papers. To support this important work, we launched a member portal this year to facilitate workflow and communication

both within and between committees.

Here are some examples of the industry issues AEIC's committees were focused on in 2022:

The Power Generation Committee, chaired by Jim Heilbron, SVP - Production, at Alabama Power Company, focused attention on issues related to transitioning the generation fleet, including retiring coal plants, maintaining and bridging with gas, growth of renewables and storage, and ESG implications of closing facilities.

Activities for the Data Analytics Council, chaired by Ankush Agarwal, Director of Grid Analytics at Exelon Corp., included work in the areas of operationalization of image intelligence, big data and advanced analytics in smart-grid applications (in partnership with EPRI), and virtual assistant analytics. In addition, the Council conducted two online workshops engaging more than a

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hundred fifty employees of AEIC member utilities.

The Distributed Energy Resources Subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Cook, General Manager, Advanced Grid Solutions at Duquesne Light Company, was focused on forecasting DER growth and impact on load, planning for electrification and EV growth, DER hosting capacity, non-wires alternatives in lieu of traditional wires investments, and data analytics in the DER planning and operation space. In addition, Dr. Cook launched a new AEIC podcast series, "All Things DER," where she engages with industry leaders on these issues and more.

The Cost Optimization Committee, co-chaired by Joseph Somma,  
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Steve Hauser is CEO of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies.

DOE Clear Path exercise that has done that, and we look forward to working with the DOE to learn how to best incorporate that into NGX.

**PUF:** Generally speaking, on security, how is the industry feeling right now?

**Amanda Sramek:** Security is an iterative process and we have over two hundred members operating many types of systems, serving drastically different customers based in numerous

geographic areas. Every company is different and has a different approach to security. This diversity is one of the things that keeps the system safe.

AGA offers a variety of ways to help industry learn from each other, from monthly security updates to semi-monthly topical security discussions and informational webinars, we are constantly engaging our members to share leading practices with one another to improve the security posture of the industry. **PUF**

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General Manager, Con Edison, Inc. and Russell Hinton, Director of Envision Tomorrow, Dominion Energy, focused on sharing and benchmarking cost-saving initiatives being considered by member companies with the goal of reducing cost in operations, maintenance, and capital, while maintaining safety, reliability, and meeting customer expectations. Key areas of focus included technology, innovation, and data visualization.

AEIC's Storm Team launched the Mutual Assistance Resource Coordination software tool to aid in storm response and service restoration. The MARC application has been developed to simplify resource management, distribute remote work packet assignments, and can be accessed from any device.

The industry greatly benefits from this tool due to its ability to potentially reduce Estimated Time of Restoration by assigning responding companies directly to the needed restoration location, its ability to create repeatable processes, and cost savings generated by efficient roster management.

At AEIC's annual meeting in October, we had strong participation and engagement from our member companies, industry partners, keynote speakers, and panelists. We added two new member companies and six new

members to our board of directors.

In addition, we presented seven AEIC Annual Achievement Awards to member companies that demonstrated significant contributions to advancing the operations of the electric energy industry. Many of these award-winning projects were led by member company representatives who are active on one or more AEIC committees.

Looking ahead to 2023, we plan to expand the focus of AEIC in key areas such as electrification, supply chain, energy storage, and the critical need for workforce development and investment. To advance AEIC's leadership in these areas and others, we're incorporating a new 501c3 organization, which will allow us to secure outside funding to support industry research and education.

We will continue our recently launched webinar series with the U.S. Department of Energy to keep our members informed of important programs and activities taking place at the federal level that can support near-term planning and operations within their organizations.

This spring, we'll engage our committee leaders, industry partners, and key stakeholders in the First Annual Edison Congress to be held in Washington, D.C., May 15-17, co-sponsored with Public Utilities Fortnightly. This meeting will take a deep dive into many of the operational issues our

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committees are working to address.

These are just a few items on our ambitious agenda for the coming year. Achieving our goals in 2023 will no doubt require even broader participation and engagement by representatives from AEIC's member companies as we seek to expand our visibility, leadership, and influence in the industry.

I am confident that our members will respond positively to these challenges and to the opportunities our efforts will create for all our members. How can I be so sure? This model of collaboration, cooperation, and sharing of ideas and experiences that is the foundation for AEIC's committees isn't new.

They've been doing it without interruption since 1885. That's why our motto since the earliest days of the organization, "To make the knowledge of one, the knowledge of all," still holds true today. **PUF**

To learn more about AEIC's committees, visit <https://aeic.org/focus-areas/>.