



# THE CURRENT

Fall 2025



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## CEO Corner

It has certainly been a busy and very productive year for AEIC. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the AEIC staff, I want to thank all of you for your continued support and active participation this year. Even if you only participate in one particular committee, collectively the participation in AEIC has grown to nearly 1,000 utility representatives across all of our committees, workshops, webinars, and other activities. Through this newsletter and other communication channels, we will continue to raise awareness of everything we do.

I continue to be impressed with the work all of you are doing at your utility. The pressure our members face continues to escalate. Front page news often raises the visibility of these issues through both information and misinformation, making our jobs that much more challenging. AEIC's mission has never been



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more important; sharing successes and innovations with each other and making operational excellence our top priority.

Many of us recently gathered in Charleston for our 141st Annual Meeting. Bigger and better than ever, this annual meeting highlighted the critical issues we face and the innovative approaches you are all using to address and solve these issues.

I'm looking forward to 2026 and the new activities we have planned. Under Elizabeth Cook's leadership, the Center for Operational Excellence will be growing and expanding our continued work with the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity. We will be hosting a series of workshops this coming year that build on our past efforts and focus on Load Forecasting as a way to tie together the various segments of utility planning and operation. We are also pleased that Emerson, Siemens, Quanta and Stellar Energy have signed on as Founding Donors of the Ops Center and committed to providing resources to help us expand these efforts and provide meaningful tools to address the challenges we face today and capitalize on the opportunities ahead.

I challenge you to not only increase your participation in AEIC this coming year, but also to recruit your colleagues both within your utility and your peers at other utilities. The value of being part of the AEIC family is growing. Through your active participation, peer-to-peer collaboration, and knowledge sharing, you enhance that value, not only for yourself and your company but for your fellow members as well.

*Steve*

Steve Hauser, CEO, AEIC

## A Message From Our 2026 President



### Looking Ahead to 2026: Addressing the Challenge of the “AND”

My involvement with The Association of Edison Illuminating Companies (AEIC) has been an invaluable asset throughout my career at Southern Company, so it is both an honor and an exciting opportunity to serve as AEIC president for 2026.

Engaging with and learning from leaders at other utilities on a wide range of critical industry issues has significantly advanced my thinking as an operations leader within my organization. Now, in these transformative times, as our industry faces dynamic challenges that demand unprecedented knowledge-sharing and collaboration, the value of AEIC is more significant than ever.

There is much work to do together in 2026 to continue to elevate operational excellence throughout the industry. In the coming year, we must work together to address the challenge of the “AND.”

*We must manage accelerated growth AND deploy new technologies AND meet the rapid demand for generation AND still work toward carbon-reduction goals.*

*We must maintain AND improve infrastructure AND address supply chain constraints AND economic fluctuations AND workforce challenges.*

*We must keep customers at the center of everything we do AND address reliability AND affordability.*

Last month, at AEIC's 141st Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, more than 120 senior operations leaders from 41 member utilities and 100 executives from 23 industry partners came together to address many of these “AND” challenges.

We spent a considerable amount of time discussing the application of new technologies to optimize operations through advanced data analytics, AI tools and machine learning. There is no doubt that technology is driving massive change in our industry. We also focused our attention on approaches to expanding grid infrastructure and building capacity to meet the skyrocketing demand that is also being driven by many of those same technologies and the data centers required to run them.

However, woven throughout all these discussions was a common, essential thread: people.

Southern Company and our peers in the electric utility industry are firmly committed to putting the customer at the center of industry transformation. And, to do that, we need the right people within our organizations – with the right skill sets and best-in-class training – to lead us into the future. Without a people-first approach, all the best technology available to us can't deliver operational excellence to our customers.

This sentiment was driven home for me on the last morning of the meeting as I listened to team leaders from AEIC member companies describe their award-winning projects. Eleven projects from nine member utilities were recognized with 2025 AEIC Achievement Awards. I'm proud to note that Southern Company was recognized with three awards this year.

Each of AEIC's award-winning projects, while technology-driven, was focused on putting people first.

Central Hudson has implemented a new tagging mechanism within its Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS) to keep front-line crews safe in the field. Arizona Public Service has developed a virtual power plant that connects thousands of customer-owned devices – such as smart thermostats, batteries and electric vehicles – which collectively act as an energy resource to reduce demand during peak periods. Southern Company has introduced its Storm Planning, Estimated Time of Restoration and Reporting (SPEAR) application to better anticipate and prepare for severe weather, ensuring the safety of both customers and employees while maintaining a high-quality customer service experience.

These projects were conceived and led by an emerging generation of industry leaders within our utilities, who are advancing operational excellence through purpose-built solutions developed by and for people. The accomplishments of these emerging leaders fill me with great pride and confidence that the future of our electric grid is in very capable hands.

I am excited about the year ahead and I look forward to collaborating, sharing insights and gaining new perspectives along the way. I hope you'll join me on this journey.

*Jim*

Jim Heilbron, Senior Vice President, Technical Shared Services, Southern Company  
AEIC President - 2026

## 2025 Annual Meeting

### Annual Meeting Highlights

AEIC's 141st Annual Meeting brought together more than 250 industry leaders from 40+ member companies for two days of insightful discussions under the theme *Elevating Excellence*. Highlights included:

#### **A Fresh Kickoff**

In a dynamic "man-on-the-street" style opening, Steve Hauser and Dr. Elizabeth Cook started the meeting by engaging directly with attendees, asking real questions, sparking conversations, and setting an energizing tone.



## 8 General Sessions on Today's Most Pressing Operational Challenges



Panelists discussed how utilities can prepare the workforce for future needs, including upskilling for renewable technologies, adopting digital tools, and enhancing customer engagement.



This panel examined strategies to scale infrastructure for rising energy demand while integrating bulk generation, natural gas, and DERs, and strengthening grid resilience for a 2035-ready system.

## Executive Insights

The agenda also featured **2 business breakfast sessions** and **6 lunch interviews** with industry partner executives, offering candid perspectives on emerging trends and utility priorities.



## Networking Opportunities

From informal conversations to structured networking blocks, there were countless opportunities for attendees to connect with peers from across the nation to exchange ideas, share experiences, and spark new collaborations.



## Congratulations to our 2025 Achievement Award Winners

*NERC Information Command Center (NICC) - Florida Power & Light Company*

*Virtual Power Plant for Targeted Grid Support - Arizona Public Service*

*Crew on Site Tagging for Safe, Automated Switching - Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.*

*Data Center Capacity Request Solution - Dominion Energy*

*POSEIDON: Personalized and Optimized Storm ETR Information Delivery and Outage Notification Tool  
Exelon Corporation*

*Driving Efficiency: Automating Fleet Invoice Processing with RPA - Ameren Illinois*  
*IBR Operational Readiness - Salt River Project*  
*RAMP: Reliability Analytics, Metrics, and Performance - Southern Company*  
*SPEAR: Storm Planning, ETR, and Reporting - Southern Company*  
*Southern Company - WorkerPass*  
*Smart Detection, Safer Grid: AI-Powered HPFF Monitoring System - Eversource Energy*



**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR 2025 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS**



**AEIC's Center for Operational Excellence**



**AEIC's Center for Operational Excellence Announces Founding Donors**

During this year's Annual Meeting in Charleston, AEIC proudly announced four Founding Donors for the Center For Operational Excellence.

**Emerson, Siemens, Stellar Energy, and Quanta** have each made a three-year commitment to provide funding to support the work of the Ops Center and we are grateful for their partnership at a time when all aspects of the electric industry,



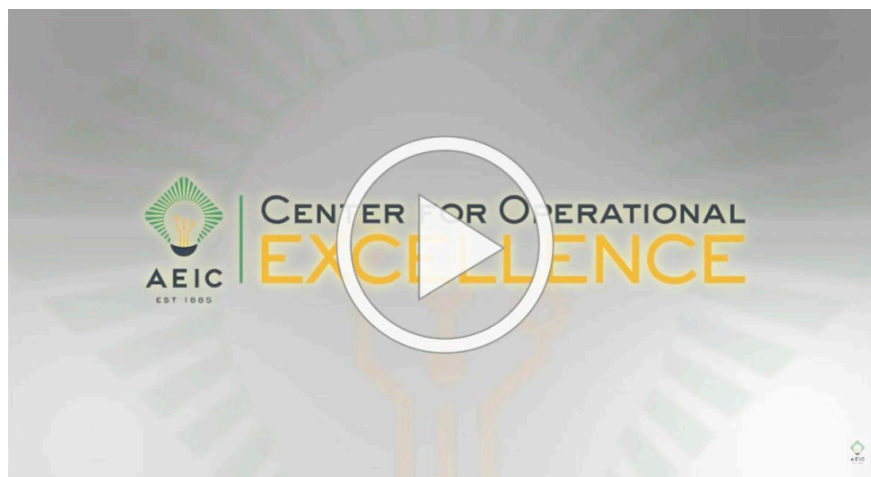
from regulations to the grid itself, are evolving at a rapidly increasing rate. The electric utility sector is at a tipping point. Digital and operational maturity are fragmented. Skills gaps are growing. Regulatory and customer pressures are intensifying. Utilities need clarity and coordination—not more theory—in order to respond to current and emerging challenges with creative, advanced solutions. It is imperative that industry partners and stakeholders have access to this information so they can make informed decisions. That’s where the Center for Operational Excellence (Ops Center) comes in.

Founded as a 501c3 extension of AEIC, the Ops Center serves as a catalyst to unite vendors, utilities, and solution providers around actionable frameworks, hands-on guidance, and data-driven best practices.

Through its Data Strategy Curriculum, strategic workshops, AEIC member projects, publications, and additional resources, the Ops Center is empowering the electric utility industry to overcome operational challenges and harness opportunities. The Ops Center’s vision is to transform the electric utility industry by accelerating digital transformation, operational excellence, and workforce evolution through collaboration and structured support.

Funding from our Founding Donors will support the following efforts:

- Engage member utilities and industry stakeholders to advance collective knowledge.
- Facilitate projects addressing key challenges like integration of new energy sources, supply chain
- Real-world operational implementation support
- Strategic workforce and data curriculum development
- Cross-functional alignment between IT, OT, strategy, and field operations



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## Advanced Analytics Course Concludes

AEIC's Center for Operational Excellence Advanced Analytics Course for Executive Leadership has officially wrapped, bringing together 34 executives and their peers from 17 utilities for six, high-impact sessions throughout 2025. Over the course of the program, participants built a shared framework for advanced analytics, learned how to avoid vendor lock-in, sharpened communication around complex data concepts, strengthened decision-making, and expanded their industry networks.

As we close out this successful first offering, we're already looking ahead. A new, expanded course will launch in 2026, with fresh content and even more opportunities for utility leaders to accelerate data-driven strategy across their organizations. Stay tuned for details!

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## Register for Our Final Workshop of 2025

### The Future of Grid Resilience & Asset Reliability

Friday, December 12 | 2:00–3:00 PM ET

*Members-only Virtual Webinar*

Join Dr. Elizabeth Cook as she explores how utilities can build resilient, future-ready systems amid extreme weather, aging assets, and the rapid growth of DERs.

This session will cover:

- Tools and frameworks for long-term grid resilience
- Strategies for proactive asset management
- How utilities are integrating planning to enhance reliability



[REGISTER NOW](#)

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## Introducing Our 2026 Workshop Series Load Forecasting During Uncertain Times

Next year's series includes **four in-person** and **three virtual** sessions, focused on:

- Incorporating uncertainty and real-world variability into forecasting
- Organizational structures that strengthen forecast integration
- The expanding role of data, analytics, and emerging technologies
- Lessons learned from utilities applying research to operations

### Workshop Dates:

- January 28, 2026 – Virtual
- February 11-12, 2026 – Austin, TX
- April 15-16, 2026 – Pittsburgh, PA
- June 24-25, 2026 – Denver, CO
- September 16, 2026 – Virtual
- November 12-13, 2026 – Chicago, IL
- December 9, 2026 – Virtual

More details to come!

## AEIC Committees



Committee leaders convened during the Annual Meeting to share progress, address common challenges, and strengthen cross-company collaboration. If you're interested in contributing to industry-leading discussions and projects, our committees are always eager to welcome fresh perspectives from engaged members. **To attend any of the upcoming committee meetings or to request support as a committee leader, contact us at [aeic@aeic.org](mailto:aeic@aeic.org).**

## Upcoming Committee Meetings



### Power Generation

February 24-25, 2026  
Scottsdale, AZ



### Safety

March 25-26, 2026  
Fort Worth, TX



### Grid as a Platform

March 31-April 2, 2026  
Juno Beach, FL



### Customer Service

April 14-16, 2026  
Tampa, FL



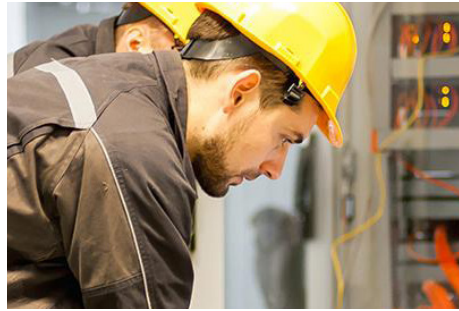
### EPAC

April 20-22, 2026  
Golden, CO



### Meter & Service

April 26-28, 2026  
San Antonio, TX



## Cable Engineering

April 30-May 1, 2026

Carlsbad, CA



## Moments in Grid History



### Leading the Way *A historical timeline of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies*

AEIC's Vice President of Technical Strategy, Dr. Elizabeth Cook, a self-professed grid history nerd, has been digging deep into our archives to explore the rich history of AEIC. In the coming months, we will share her observations and insights, beginning with the very first Association meeting in 1885, and moving through the past 141 years to the present day role our organization and member companies play in continuing to lead the industry in all areas of operational excellence.

We encourage you to explore AEIC's rich history with us. Click on the button below to read the second chapter of this historical timeline, *The Decade the Grid Grew Up*, which covers the period from 1900-1910.

[READ CHAPTER 2](#)

## Member Engagement Opportunities

### Member Spotlight Webinar

Showcase your achievements in a Member Spotlight virtual presentation on Microsoft Teams. Held biweekly on Fridays at 2:00 pm ET, this platform allows you to share successful projects and insights with fellow AEIC members. You choose the topic and the presenters for your 45-minute presentation. We'll promote the event to all AEIC member companies and track pre-registered attendance. With your approval, we'll record your presentation and post the video and slides on the AEIC member portal for continued visibility.



### Grid Mod Pod Episode

Join The Grid Mod Pod, AEIC's podcast series, as an interview guest to share your insights. Hosted by Dr. Elizabeth Cook, VP of Technical Strategy, this opportunity allows for a 20-minute interview, scheduled at your convenience. Following the interview, the edited version is posted on AEIC's YouTube channel and promoted across platforms, enhancing your presence in the grid modernization discourse.

*Interested in sharing your insights through one of our member opportunities?*

Click [here](#) to let us know you are interested.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### January

1/28 – Ops Center Workshop 1

### February

2/11-12 – Ops Center Workshop 2

2/24-25 – Power Generation

### March

3/25-26 – Safety

3/31-4/2 – Grid as a Platform

### April

4/14-16 – Customer Service

4/15-16 – Ops Center Workshop 3

4/20-22 – EPAC

4/26-28 – Meter & Service

4/30-5/1 – Cable Engineering

