

# FMEA: 80 Years of Advocacy

From Staff Reports



August 21, 1942

## Florida Municipal Utilities Association (FMUA) Formed

FMUA is initially comprised of 8 utilities and headquartered in Lakeland, Florida.



1944

## World War II Response

FMUA pooled resources to procure fuel supplies in response to fuel shortages and soaring prices.



1946

## First FMUA Member Subcommittee Created

The goal of the Subcommittee was to monitor legislative affairs that could negatively impact Florida's municipal utilities. The Committee still stands today.

1948

## First Official FMUA Legislative Resolution Created

This paved the way for Association members to establish a unified policy position on issues.

1953

## FMUA's First Annual Conference

The annual conference would be held in Orlando through 1958 before rotating to locations around the state.

1957

## FMUA's First Full-time Employee

Mac Cunningham (former mayor of Lakeland) will serve as the first Executive Secretary.

August 29 -  
September 14, 1960

## First Documented Municipal Mutual Aid Event

Initiated by Lakeland Electric following Hurricane Donna, communication was through a local HAM radio operator and City of Lakeland employees. Seventeen utilities responded – 14 munis, 3 coops; KUA was first on scene. The storm made landfall in the Florida Keys with sustained winds of 145 mph (modern Category 4).



1965

## First FMUA Engineering & Operations Workshop

Held in Jacksonville, the E&O Workshop was the precursor to what is now FMEA's Energy Connections Conference & Trade Show.

March 1977

## Florida Public Power News Changes Name to FMUA News

Communicating industry news and information remains one of the core functions of the association.

1977

## FMUA Moves to Tallahassee

FMUA moves its headquarters to the then-Barnett Bank building across from Florida's Capitol Complex and establishes PO Box 10114 - still used today.



1978

## New Executive Director Appointed

Edward Charlie Shreve becomes second Executive Director of the Association and is the namesake of FMEA's E.C. Shreve Lifetime Achievement award.

1979

## FMUA Creates Associate Member Category

R.W. Beck joins FMUA as the first Associate Member. They would later be known as SAIC and now Leidos.

1979

## Member of the Year and Associate of the Year Awards are Established

Joe B. Dykes, Jr. (City of Tallahassee) and James J. Berry (Smith & Gillespie Engineers) were the first recipients of the awards.

1979

## FMUA Establishes FMPPA

As an organizational offshoot of FMUA, the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPPA) is formed by state statute for joint power and fuel projects.



1979

**The FMUA Legislative Hopper is Established**

Still produced today, the FMEA Legislative Hopper provides FMEA members with important state legislative actions and activities during each Florida Legislative Session.



September 1982

**FMUA Public Relations Committee Formed**

Public relations and communications continue to serve as one of FMEA's primary functions.

1982

**Municipal Utilities of Florida PAC (MUFPA) is Established**

The state's first municipal utility Political Action Committee is formed.

1982

**FMUA Energy, Communications and Customer Service Committee Established**

This special interest group would later become FMEA's Customer Connections Committee.

1982

**FMUA Mutual Aid Agreement**

The first municipal electric in-state mutual aid agreement is adopted by FMUA members.



June 15, 1988

**FMUA Changes Name to FMEA**

Focusing primarily on municipal electric utilities, the name was changed to reflect the Association's focus.

**FMEA Moves to 417 College Ave**

FMEA purchases and converts our current office space on College Avenue in Tallahassee.

July 1989

**First FMEA Safety Seminar presented in Orlando**

FMEA continues to offer forums, conference sessions and committee meetings on safety.

August 16-29, 1992

**Hurricane Andrew**

Category 5 Hurricane Andrew destroys Homestead. FMEA coordinates mutual aid response.

1996

**New Executive Director Appointed**

Barry Moline becomes the third Executive Director of FMEA.

1997

**Community Telecommunications Council (CTC)**

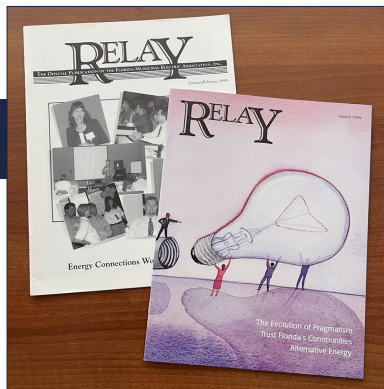
CTC was established to preserve municipal electric utilities' ability to provide telecommunications services. CTC later evolved to the Florida Municipal Broadband Alliance.



1997

**Created Community Service Award Program**

The award recognizes FMEA members that serve their communities with extra services above and beyond power supply and distribution.



March 1999

**Relay Magazine "Now in Color"**

FMEA's RELAY Magazine gets an upgrade to color printing.

1999

**PublicPower.com Launches**

FMEA's first website goes online.

1999

**FMEA Congressional Staff Tours**

FMEA hosts its first formally organized congressional staff tour of member electric utility systems.

2001

**First Female FMEA President**

Susan Frieden, Havana town manager, is elected as FMEA's 49th president, the first female to serve in this capacity.

March 2001

**Florida Lineman Competition**

FMEA's first-ever Florida Lineman Competition was held in Lakeland.

2004

**Historic Hurricane Season**

FMEA coordinates wide-scale mutual aid response for FMEA members impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne.



August 2005

**New Municipal Utility Formed**

FMEA plays instrumental role in assisting Winter Park with formation of new municipal electric utility after residents vote overwhelmingly in support.





2008

**Florida Lineman Assistance Fund Established**

The fund financially assists Florida Public Power linemen and their families in time of emergency due to injury or



October 2012

**Florida Lineman Appreciation Day**

FMEA led efforts to establish Florida's Lineman Appreciation Day through Florida legislative resolution.

April 22, 2017

**Established FMEA Restoring Communities Award**

The award recognizes utilities for either providing or receiving mutual aid following significant weather events or emergencies or providing exemplary service to their community following emergency situations.

September 30, -  
October 13, 2017

**Hurricane Irma**

FMEA successfully coordinated Florida Public Power's largest-ever mutual aid response for Hurricane Irma.



October 2017

**New Executive Director Appointed**

Amy Zubaly becomes the fourth Executive Director of FMEA and the first woman to hold the position.

2017

**Building Strong Communities Awards Established**

FMEA Community Service Awards become Building Strong Communities Awards, established to promote the value that Florida's Public Power utilities bring to their local communities.

2017

**Florida Alliance for Accelerating Solar and Storage Technology Readiness (FAASSTeR)**

FMEA partnered in a \$1.75 million U.S. Department of Energy grant to examine opportunities to expand solar and energy storage among municipal utilities.

2017

**Statewide Mutual Aid Compact**

FMEA led efforts with state investor-owned utilities to establish a mutual aid compact and agreements to provide mutual assistance to each other if needed.

2018

**Communications Toolkit**

With hurricane communications critically important for utilities and their communities, FMEA created a Social Media Hurricane Toolkit for its members.



June 13, 2018

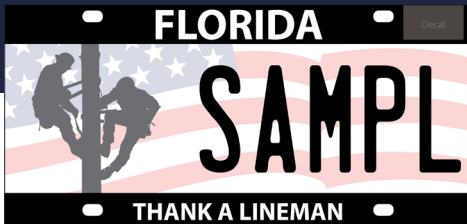
**Florida Celebrates Public Power Lineworkers**

FMEA's efforts garnered resolution by Florida's Governor and Cabinet recognizing Florida Public Power lineworkers.

October 6-16, 2018

**Hurricane Michael**

FMEA successfully coordinated large-scale mutual aid response for FMEA members in Florida's panhandle as they rebuilt from Category 5 Hurricane Michael.



March 15, 2020

**Florida Lineworker Appreciation Tag**

FMEA led a multi-year advocacy effort to establish the Florida Thank A Lineman license tag.

August 3, 2020

**Friend of Florida Public Power Award**

The award is a high honor bestowed on an individual or organization whose leadership, acts, and support have significantly benefited Florida Public Power and Florida's Public Power communities.

2020

**Diversity in Florida Public Power (DFPP)**

DFPP is established to inform, encourage, and support initiatives across FMEA membership that promote inclusion and equity for underrepresented groups within our workforce.

April 7, 2020 -  
May 18, 2021

**Keep Connected & Powering On**

In response to the global pandemic, FMEA keeps the Florida Public Power community connected and informed, even while many work from home and practice social distancing in the office through a series of virtual roundtables and webinars.

May 15, 2021

**FMEA rebrands!**

This logo has been specifically designed to represent the identity and mission of the Florida Municipal Electric Association. We are a member-driven trade association of Florida's community-owned electric utilities. The electrical plug in the logo is symbolic of our core purpose: to connect our members with each other and with industry partners and plug in our members to the latest industry news and information.

