



GCPA

**emPOWERing
Women**

REGISTER NOW

8th Annual emPOWERing Women Leadership Conference

Monday, November 7, 2022

The AT&T Conference Center ~ Austin

Conference Chair: Alicia Rigler, Rigler Energy Development

Co- Chair: Jennifer Littlefield, Haynes & Boone LLP

Join us for this one-day, in-person conference focused on community, leadership and career advancement for women in the electric power industry!

All-inclusive conference registration includes:

A full day of keynote speakers, presentations and panels

Interactive Q&A sessions with speakers

Networking opportunities

Lunch, beverages and breaks

Cocktail reception

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To discuss your participation as a sponsor, view the sponsor brochure [HERE](#) and contact Mary Armstrong, Director of Member Services & Marketing at 281.460.3054 or marmstrong@gulfcoastpower.org

This is our favorite conference of the year, so it's been a real joy to brainstorm programming that provides all the things we love about it – guidance and inspiration from industry leaders and networking within our especially close-knit community. But since this is a time of redefinition, both within and outside the workplace, we also wanted to “flip the switch” a bit. On that front, we'll be holding our first-ever book club, taking communication lessons from an improv comedian, and exploring how neuroscience can inform our reactions to challenging situations. And of course, we'll still host lively panels with insights from C-suite execs and inspiration from industry risk-takers.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our 8th Annual emPOWERing Women Leadership Conference — and **don't forget to pick up a copy of *She Thinks Like a Boss* by Jemma Roedel in time to read it before the conference!**

Alicia Rigler and Jennifer Littlefield

Chair & Co-Chair, GCPA emPOWERing Women Leadership Conference Planning Committee

THANKS TO OUR PLANNING TEAM

Chair: Alicia Rigler, Rigler Energy Development

Co-Chair: Jennifer Littlefield, Haynes & Boone LLP

Donna Benefield, NRG Energy

Grace Cammack, ENGIE

Barbara Clemenhagen, Customized Energy Solutions

Carrie Eberhard, Principle Services

Cherie Fuller, EDF Energy Services

Theresa Gage, Theresa M. Gage Consulting

Patricia Gardner Young, Pinnacle Power Consulting

Cathy Garza, Eversheds Sutherland

Stephanie Kroger, Hunt Power

LaShunda Patrick, Oncor

ABOUT GCPA & emPOWERing WOMEN

Since 1983, GCPA has served Texas and the Gulf Coast as a regional electric power trade organization dedicated to promoting an improved understanding of the issues and opportunities impacting contemporary power markets. Today, GCPA has grown to a total membership of over 2,000 including 125+ member corporations. Our emPOWERing Women program was introduced in 2013 with the dual goals of offering opportunities for support, development and networking among women working in the electric power industry while also encouraging younger women pursuing technical degrees to consider careers in the electric power arena.

[Visit the GCPA website](#)

[Visit the emPOWERing Women website page](#)

AGENDA - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

8:00 AM **REGISTRATION ~ CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:45 AM GCPA Welcome **Kim Casey**, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Power Association
Welcome by Chair & Co-Chair **Alicia Rigler**, Rigler Energy Development
Jennifer Littlefield, Counsel, Haynes & Boone LLP

9:00 AM **KEYNOTE - Value of Diversity and Inclusion**

In times of crisis, diversity and inclusion (D&I) can get pushed to the sidelines. But science and experience prove that D&I is essential to help organizations weather the storm. Companies that invest in developing inclusive leaders and cultures and building balanced teams fare better than others in crisis. Inclusive cultures band together in disrupted conditions; drive resilience; improve problem solving, risk management and opportunity identification; and forge a deeper sense of connection with employees, clients and communities. Kelly Tomblin is a passionate leader who has built her teams into healthy, diverse organizations that have weathered storms and pandemics successfully. Kelly will share stories of things that worked and some that didn't, so we might all learn the value of D&I.

Keynoter: **Kelly Tomblin**, President & CEO, El Paso Electric

9:20 AM **INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION - Learning to Lead in a REALway®**

The fundamental tenets of Design Thinking and Improvisational Comedy come together during this interactive keynote session led by Amanda Austin, a business founder/owner and improv comedian. We'll explore the four tenets of REALway® - Respect, Empathy, Action, and Listening - and how, when paired together, they can teach us to work collaboratively and not competitively, while pushing the boundaries of innovation to create a more people-focused brand.

Presenter: **Amanda Austin**, Comedy House

10:35 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**

11:05 AM **PANEL - Risk! What's Your Appetite?**

Ever wondered if you could start your own venture, take a leadership role in a cutting-edge company or start-up and not only live to tell the tale but also thrive and succeed? Risk is an essential element of any new venture and the last few years have shown us risk is also always with us. Listen to our panelists detail how they managed taking risks in their own careers, and what female leaders need to succeed in new spaces and take the chances that bring their careers to the next level.

Moderator:

Theresa Gage, Theresa M. Gage Consulting

Panelists:

Hala Ballouz, President, Electric Power Engineers

Audrey Fogarty, Chief Operating Officer, Jupiter Power

Allison Piper Kimball, Managing Partner, Wave 27 Ventures

11:50 PM **CONVERSATION - A Call to Action**

Inequities for both women and underrepresented minorities in the corporate ladder begin early. Starting with manager-level promotions, the percentage of women and minorities advancing trails men and the inequities only increase with each step in the ladder. The pandemic also continues to take a toll on employees, but especially women, with stress levels escalating much faster among women than men as the work-life balance changes. Adding to these issues, the gender gap in pay has remained relatively stable in the United States for about 15 years. In 2021, women earned 83% of what men earned and the gap for Black and Latina women is far worse. What are companies doing to disrupt these inequities and support and help women and minority leaders to be successful? Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) professionals will share the initiatives and tools their companies are deploying to drive results.

Facilitator:

Barbara Clemenhagen, Vice President, Market Intelligence, Customized Energy Solutions

Presenters:

Kim Hughes, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager, AEP

Michelle Smith, Sr. Manager - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, NRG

Cindy Steffen, Director, Employee Development, Austin Energy

12:20 PM

LUNCHEON

1:50 PM

AFTER LUNCH YOGA ENERGY BOOST: Kim Goyette, Leader

Yoga is for more than just relaxing! Through breathwork and office-attire friendly postures, we will ignite your internal flame to step toward accomplishing your goals and manifesting your dreams.

2:00 PM

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION - The Brain: Building Resiliency in Uncertain Times

Do you ever wonder why we react to things a certain way? Is it by conscious action or are we hardwired to respond? Join Cherie Fuller as she leads an entertaining and interactive discussion that touches on concepts gleaned from author Dr. Helena Boschi's book *Why We Do What We Do: Understanding Our Brain to Get the Best Out of Ourselves and Others*. Complicated neuroscience research is simplified and applied to real life situations which will be used to facilitate table conversations about topics such as negativity bias, effective leadership in times of change and building resiliency.

Presenter:

Cherie Fuller, Vice President, Retail Operations, EDF Energy Services

3:00 PM

NETWORKING BREAK

3:30 PM

WOMEN IN POWER BOOK CLUB - *She Thinks Like a Boss: Leadership* by Jemma Roedel

Have you ever been reading one of the many leadership how-to books on the market and wondered what female leaders in your industry would have to say? Join us as a circle of influential female executives in the power industry discuss Jemma Roedel's *She Thinks Like a Boss: Leadership* and share their own hard-earned advice on how to tackle leadership challenges, build high-performance teams and effectively communicate and negotiate your way to success.

Moderator:

Kim Casey, Executive Director, GCPA

Panelists:

Donna Benefield, Sr. Vice President, Program Office, NRG

Deanna Rodriguez, President & CEO, Entergy New Orleans

Alexandra Williams, Vice President, Origination, Industrial Sun

4:15 PM

PANEL - C-Suite Roundtable

You won't want to miss this signature conference event as we bring together a phenomenal group of women serving in executive roles across the power industry for a candid discussion on leadership, risk taking, and career longevity.

Moderator:

Beth Garza, Senior Fellow, The R Street Institute

Panelists:

Mary Anne Brelinsky, President, EDF Energy North America

Sally Shaw, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Broad Reach Power

Judith Talavera, President & Chief Operating Officer, AEP Texas

5:15 PM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION**COVID PROTOCOL AT THE CONFERENCE**

GCPA will follow the guidelines established by the AT&T Conference Center at the time of the conference. To learn more about AT&T Conference Center's safety protocol, [CLICK HERE](#). Masking is highly recommended for the unvaccinated as well as for those with health conditions that make them more susceptible to COVID.

CONFERENCE PRICING INFORMATION

| Conference Pricing | Early Bird Registration through 10/24/22 | Regular Registration 10/25/22 - 11/4/22 | Onsite Reg. 11/7/22 |
|------------------------|--|---|---------------------|
| GCPA Members | \$500 | \$550 | \$600 |
| Non-Members | \$550 | \$600 | \$650 |
| State Agency Employees | \$245 | \$245 | \$295 |

- **CONFERENCE PRICE:** Includes full day conference with breakfast, lunch, breaks, and cocktail reception.
- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION PRICING:** Available through COB on Monday 10/24/22
- **ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSING:** Closes on Friday 11/4/22 at 12:00 Noon.
- **ON-SITE / WALK-IN REGISTRATION:** Opens at 8:00 AM on Monday 11/7/22.
- **REFUND POLICY:** Cancellations must be received by 5:00 PM on Monday 10/24/22 in order to receive a refund. A 10% service fee (minimum fee of \$10) will be charged against all refunds. (Because of COVID, cancellations due to illness will be accepted up to November 7th as long as the request is received no later than 12:00 PM on November 7th.) Please direct all cancellation requests to [Mary Armstrong](#).

[CLICK HERE](#)
to visit the website and register

VENUE, PARKING & HOTEL ROOM INFORMATION

VENUE: The conference and reception will be held at the [AT&T Hotel and Conference Center](#) at 1900 University Avenue, Austin, TX 78705.

PARKING: Parking is available in the attached Conference Center Garage. Guests may self-park for 8-24 hours for \$21 per day. Valet services are also available at the University Avenue entrance for \$21 per day or \$35 for overnight.

HOTEL ROOMS: GCPA does not have a room block for this conference. To reserve a room at the AT&T Hotel at their currently published rate, go to the [AT&T Reservation Site](#) or call (512) 404-3600. You may also elect to stay at another area hotel of your choice.