

## TMEPA Spring E&O Conference Packed With Many Highlights

Knoxville, TN—The Spring E & O conference had an action packed agenda with many great presentations and tours. This year over 110 people gathered at the Holiday Inn, World's Fair Park, in Knoxville to engage on a wide array of topics. The exhibit hall was buzzing with 22 exhibitors from across the region and created many networking opportunities. TMEPA Executive Director, Brian Solsbee said "I'm very pleased with the level of attendance from both our utilities and our suppliers. I think there is an opportunity to build on this level of excitement and grow the event."



The event kicked off with Dr. Leon Tolbert, UTK Department Head of EE & CS, as the keynote speaker. He addressed many items including research and partnership with battery storage. UTK also had several EE students attend throughout the event which brought additional networking opportunities. This was a great

chance to highlight public power and encourage students to seek opportunities in the utility industry. Ray Johnson tied into Dr. Tolbert's message on energy storage by highlighting lessons learned from the two battery storage projects at EPB. Many other topics were covered including Rates in an Evolving DER World and SCADA. Dickson Electric System's Zach Spicer had everyone's undivided attention as he told "The Friday that changed my life". He survived a contact with 7200 volts in the substation and his story provided the reminder as to how dangerous the work is that our electric systems do every day.



Attendees were able to get a tour of the TVA River Forecast Center and see demonstrations from the KUB High Voltage Demonstration Trailer and the KUB



Mobile

Fieldwork Management System. TVA explained the many duties surrounding the river system. The center requires 24-7/365 staffing to monitor and release water at the dams and coordinate hydro generation. They also blend the water from the colder lakes to ensure the required temperatures are met at the discharge location for the generating plants. KUB demonstrated many arc flashes ranging from a shovel digging into an underground cable to a kite getting into the primary

voltage. There were many bangs and arc flashes that kept the crowds attention. The KUB Mobile Fieldwork Management System provided insight into how the KUB team integrated numerous software systems to allow their employees throughout the company to process work orders through a single mobile application. This streamlining eliminates many steps and allows the field staff to complete tasks more efficiently.



Lastly, the great support of the sponsors/exhibitors make the event better every year. "The quality of the events is made possible by our sponsors who continue to support TMEPA," expressed Solsbee. "This is a great chance to bring utility members and suppliers together to learn what new products are available to get the job done better. It's always good to build your network and know where to go when you need a product or service." If you missed this one, please plan to attend the Fall E&O Conference in October. If you want to be added to the E&O distribution list, please let Susan Sherrill ([susans@tmepa.org](mailto:susans@tmepa.org)) know.

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