

1. The whole is better than the sum of the parts.
A simple statement that contains the primary reason for membership in TMEPA. All municipal electric systems standing together gives a unified body that represents 70% of the electric customers in the state. Members of the General Assembly consider us as one of the stronger voices “on the Hill” and listen when we take a position. That unified voice benefits Public Power in general. But it goes further than that. We believe that any issue that affects a single system has the potential to affect all. If your system finds itself the object of an offensive movement that would limit or degrade your effectiveness, policies, ability to provide electric service, in any way, the “whole” stands with the individual system. In other words if any system has a problem or an issue, all other systems stand with them with a unified voice. Should you find yourself in need, just let us know. We’ll bring the sum total of 60 utility systems to stand beside you.
2. TMEPA and its member systems have a shared history of good relations and dealings
 - a. Each system is a valued member and can play a huge part in TMEPA’s direction and in its decision making.
 - b. The board of directors is composed of a balanced board representing East, Central and West Tennessee utilities plus a representative from each of the “Big Four”. Your representative on the Board helps determine our policies, our budget and legislative directions as well as overseeing all the services offered to the members.
 - c. Our primary committee is the Legislative Committee. They assist Staff in developing needed legislation, reviewing introduced legislation to be presented to the Board and the Members and oversee our actions during Session. Their recommendations on legislation to the board provides our guidance in working “on the Hill”. Membership on the committee is open to any system that wishes to have a voice. Just call the Chairman.
 - d. The Long Range Planning committee keeps us on track regarding the future. The Pole Attachment Committee assists in protecting your right to charge a fee for companies who wish to attach to your poles and just what that fee will be. Our Resolutions Committee brings recommendations on both legislative, political and even social resolutions to the Members to provide guidance to the Staff. Once the Board approves a meeting location, the Annual Meeting Committee plans what is typically one of the best value meetings that any of our members attend during the year. TMEPA’s Fiber Committee is a resource for municipal electric systems by assisting with the many unique needs and challenges fiber presents, including intrasystem communication, dark fiber leasing, broadband, and mutual aid information regarding fiber equipment.
 - e. Serving on TMEPA committees gives each member the opportunity to have a voice and a significant impact on the direction and decisions of TMEPA.
3. Representing Your System in the Legislative Arena – TMEPA’s primary objective. TMEPA is, and always has been, ready and willing to lobby for the benefit of municipal electric systems. We stand as your representative on the Hill and not just during legislative session. Committees often meet out of session and when they do, we scrutinize their activities also. Since our inception we have stood alongside all our systems for any issue that concerns Public Power.
 - a. TMEPA can be a huge asset in passing a local bill or a bill that municipal electric system is pushing, and it can be an asset to oppose any bill municipal electric systems deem harmful. TMEPA brings to the table, not just a professional lobbyist, but the other 59 municipal electric systems to its efforts.
 - b. TMEPA serves as a cost effective way to have an additional lobbyist and lobbying assistance on any issue or bill that could affect it. With the cost of a professional lobbyist rising each year, most systems simply can’t afford to have someone helping them. Members of TMEPA have a professional lobbyist on staff who is happy to work with each individual system on legislation critical to their utility or city.
 - c. As an example, in 2015 a bill was filed that would have affected only a single member system, putting into state law how its board is selected. TMEPA was ready to stand with this system because the bill would have set a bad precedent for all our systems, but primarily because they are a TMEPA member.
 - d. TMEPA is your “watchdog”. TMEPA updated its members regularly about county highway officials across the state imposing restrictive rules and regulations on utilities in county road right of way. This timely information to TMEPA members led many of them to put a stop to these efforts locally, and it helped to

inform municipal electric system about these rules and regulations being implemented in Sumner and Wilson counties.

4. TMEPA also provides value in a number of other services to the members.
 - a. Training Room – our state of the art training facilities are available to any member systems for use at no charge, after all, you own it. We can very comfortably seat 30 at the training tables and an additional 10 if needed.
 - b. Board Room – our Board Room isn't just for use by your Board of Directors. Members have already made use of it for their own board meetings when they feel a need to meet off site from their usual location. Strategic Training, long-term planning, economic development meetings, the list goes on. We can provide a very comfortable setting for meeting with that potential new employer away from home.
 - c. Surveys – TMEPA typically performs 6-10 surveys each year at the request of a member. These surveys are of huge value to all members and provide timely information to help form policies, monitor employee activities, gauge billing practices, compare benefits, and provide a tool to evaluate most any service provided by a municipal system. A typical survey can be developed, administered and the results returned in about two weeks. Of course, there's no charge to the systems.
 - d. Daily News Clips – each of our members systems (and any within their system who requests) receive our daily news clips service. This is a valuable service which pulls articles pertinent to our industry from hundreds of newspapers, not just in Tennessee but nationwide, that keep you updated on what's happening within the electric industry. They may contain information on legislation, telecommunications, safety, advances in equipment, issues on copper theft or weather related events, most anything that you need to stay abreast of the news. The clips go out 7 days a week and yes that includes weekends and holidays. If you're not getting the daily clips just send us an email – susans@tmepa.org or mvinson@tmepa.org.
 - e. **Outlook** – the monthly digital newsletter of TMEPA. This exciting publication was started July 2015 and has already gained a substantial following. The newsletter allows us to give you more intensive articles, training news, national issues and more. If you're not receiving it, let us know and we'll get you on the mailing list. Use the same email addresses in d. above.
 - f. Research – Have a question about our industry, legislation, state statutes, products or training? Give us a call and we'll do the research for you. We're always available to assist the members in their needs.
 - g. Board Member Training – we offer an annual training session for the board members of your system. This one day seminar will swiftly bring them up to date on specific areas needed to be effective as your governing board. This seminar is also beneficial for general managers and staff. All participants give rave reviews. The session is offered once each year, typically in the fall. Cost is based on our expenses (speaker fees, meals, snacks, materials) and normally runs about \$125. That's for a 7-hour training session. Great value with great results.
 - h. Attorney on Staff – our Director of Government Relations is also an attorney. He's eager to talk to you about matters of a legal nature, with an emphasis on municipal law and especially the Municipal Electric Plant Act. As a licensed attorney, he can assist with research, legal advice and opinions from outside your organization or city, giving a system unbiased information should it be needed. Give him a call, he's anxious to be of assistance.
 - i. The E & O Section – Engineering and Operations section of TMEPA holds 2 conferences each year in the spring and fall. These bi-annual gatherings provide timely information to your operations team with topics chosen by the Engineers and Technicians from your member utilities.
 - j. NJUNS – National Joint Utilities Notification System is a fantastic program to assist in managing your attachment issues. TMEPA pays the annual fee for participation in the NJUNS program for all municipal systems in Tennessee. Should you need any assistance in becoming a part of NJUNS, give us a call.
 - k. TMEPA offers and arranges trainings for its members JT&S – TMEPA serves on the JT&S Committee providing direction to JT&S programs and activities.
 - l. TMEPA serves as a representative for all Tennessee municipal power providers, including municipal electric system officials and staff, to APPA at both the APPA Legislative and the APPA Annual Meeting as well as other APPA committees.
 - m. TMEPA is holding its 50th anniversary meeting in Downtown Nashville at the Omni Hotel July 13-15, 2016. Make your plans now to attend.