

# A Message from Our Director of Learning and Workforce Development



When I joined NWPPA just over a month ago, the coronavirus was a faraway problem in faraway countries. Never did I think that it would consume our entire world, altering our work and home life in ways that I could never have imagined. One of the things that attracted me most about NWPPA was the mission of helping our members grow and thrive in their industry and in their careers. Focusing on that core purpose has been our guiding light as we figure out what we need to do to ensure we are helping our members succeed during this turbulent time.

That is why I want to let you know what we have been focusing on over this past month.

**!** The safety and well-being of our members is our number one driver, so we will reschedule or cancel all events as needed. Even though learning programs and conferences are a core part of our business, our members' safety will always take priority. For this reason, we made the very difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Engineering & Operations Conference and Trade Show, the 2020 IT Conference, and the 2020 Administrative Professionals Conference. We continue to closely monitor the situation and will keep you updated about events in May and beyond.

 We are aggressively exploring and implementing alternate methods of learning delivery and collaboration. For events that are time-sensitive and conducive to virtual learning, we are exploring technology options that can ensure a great learning experience.



Recognizing that the pandemic has turned our members' worlds upside down and interrupted nearly everyone's standard operating procedure, we are working hard to provide learning programs that can help our members navigate and thrive during this difficult time. At the time we went to print, we have delivered and/or scheduled the following crisis-related webinars for free:

- March 26: What Can a Risk Manager Do in a Pandemic
- March 31: Managing Work and Health During a Quarantine
- April 1: Taming the COVID-19 Workplace Tornado: Legal Update & FAQs
- April 2: Risk Manager Open House
- April 7: Staying Healthy During a Pandemic
- April 9: Maintaining Social Distancing for Utility Personnel
- April 14: Managing Remote Work and Employee Performance
- April 14: Staying Connected When Working Remotely
- April 15: How to Effectively Work from Home
- April 22: How to Thrive During Crisis
- May 7: What Can a Risk Manager Do in a Pandemic

In addition to the above webinars, members can also register for any of several virtual learning opportunities through three distinct webinar series. For our webinar series, you may

register for each one separately or for all within a series at a discounted price. More information about all three can be found at [www.nwppa.org/catalog](http://www.nwppa.org/catalog).

### **1. Employment Law Webinar Series**

Managers, supervisors, and HR staff will benefit from this three-part series on communication skills, which includes Top 10 Employment Law Landmines; Managing Absences, Family Leave, and Reasonable Accommodations; and ADA—Stress, Anxiety, and Mental Disorders as Disabilities. These webinars will be held May 12, 19, and 26 respectively.

### **2. Engineering Webinar Series**

Intended for engineering personnel and others who would benefit from an understanding of current electric utility engineering principles and practices, this webinar series is comprised of 12 webinars from January through December 2020. However, because each one is recorded, it is not too late to register and catch up on past webinars at any time. The next live webinar will be on May 12.

### **3. CFO and Senior Accountant Webinar Series**

CFOs, senior accountants, accounting staff, and finance staff who want to better understand various organizational accounting topics would benefit from this series. Visit page 7 for more information on these webinars.

At this time, NWPPA continues planning for our scheduled in-person classes and conferences this summer, fall, and winter. More information about all our events can be found at [www.nwppa.org/catalog](http://www.nwppa.org/catalog), but here are a few highlights:

#### **Ascend to Leadership**

We have revamped this program to now include more one-on-one coaching. The first session, Basecamp, will be scheduled in late summer or early fall.

#### **Crucial Conversations**

Given all the change in our industry—and the world—learning the skills to foster open dialogue around emotional or high-risk topics is a priority. The class is scheduled for June 23-24 in Richland, Wash., and December 8-9 in Anchorage, Alaska.

#### **Northwest Communications and Energy Innovations**

##### **Conference (NIC)**

September 20-23 in Bend, Ore.

#### **3 C's Conference**

October 13-15 in Seattle, Wash.

I believe we have, and continue to build upon, a strong virtual learning catalog for all aspects of the public power industry. However, I am eager to meet our members in person probably as much as people are ready to network face to face again. The time will come when we can all be together again, but until then, thank you for your support of our learning offerings and please stay safe. **NWPPA**

Mike Hyatt-Evenson  
NWPPA Director of Learning and Workforce Development

## **The NWPPA Learning Team**

Each person on our learning and development team specializes in a different aspect of the utility industry. To know who you should talk to about the right class or event for you, we have listed their areas of expertise and contact information.



Mike Hyatt-Evenson ([mike@nwppa.org](mailto:mike@nwppa.org)): Cooperative director and board leadership; communications; Learning on Demand; and leadership courses and events.



Jenny Keesey ([jenny@nwppa.org](mailto:jenny@nwppa.org)): IT/cyber; finance and accounting; disaster management; records; administrative professionals; Environmental Task Force; and human resources.



Dale Mayuiers ([dale@nwppa.org](mailto:dale@nwppa.org)): Engineering and operations, including the annual E&O Conference and the biennial Alaska Electric Utility Conference.



Janet Denman ([janet@nwppa.org](mailto:janet@nwppa.org)): Annual E&O Trade Show, biennial Alaska Electric Utility Conference Trade Show, sponsorships, hotel room blocks, and event logistics.



Nicole Farabee ([nicolef@nwppa.org](mailto:nicolef@nwppa.org)): Overall questions about classes, events, and learning opportunities.