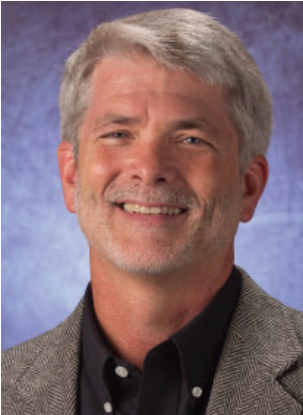


2023 WECA Annual Meeting Speaker Bios



Dr. David Gattie

David Gattie is an Associate Professor of Engineering in the University of Georgia's College of Engineering, and a Senior Fellow in the University of Georgia's (UGA) Center for International Trade and Security and School of Public & International Affairs. He earned his B.S. and Ph.D. from UGA and has 14 years of private industry experience as an energy services engineer and environmental engineer. His research is in the area of energy policy and integrated energy resource planning for the power sector, and he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in energy systems and energy security. Gattie currently works in UGA's Center for International Trade and Security on an Energy Security Initiative, focused on the geopolitical and U.S. national security implications of energy and energy technologies within the challenges of 21st century great power competition. He has provided testimony before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee on

energy, climate and nuclear power policy, various Georgia state legislative committees, and the Georgia Public Service Commission.

Gattie and his wife of 42 years, Zoe have three children and five grandchildren.



Reed Barrett

Reed Barrett is a current qualified F-16 Pilot in the United States Air National Guard serving out of Washington DC. Prior to flying the F-16 Reed spent five years working as a professional magician at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas at the Bellagio Hotel, and also worked as an EMT. Barrett travels across the country and presents for companies, schools, and sports teams about his various career choices, his interesting background, overcoming setbacks, and the triumph of where he is today.

Reed recently told a reporter, "If my story does one thing for the person reading this, I hope it lights the fire inside your heart to go after your wildest dreams. There might be 1,000 people who tell you "no", but there's one who will say yes. Find that person and don't stop until you do. We're all so lucky to wake up each day and love our family, spend time with our friends and live our dreams. Don't take any of it for granted, there's too many people who already have."

When he is not on the road (or in the air), Barrett spends time at home with his wife Marissa and dog, Maverick.



Rob Richard

Prior to joining WECA in 2019, Rob Richard worked as senior director of government relations for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, and spent 16 years as a legislative aide in Assembly and Senate leadership offices, including eleven years working with Steve Freese when he was a state elected official. Richard graduated from UW-Platteville with a degree in history. He currently serves a WECA vice president of government affairs and external relations. He is the executive director of the Federated Youth Foundation, and the area legislative representative for NRECA.

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Jennifer Shilling

Jennifer Shilling currently serves as government relations manager for Dairyland Power Cooperative, and she knows what it is like to be on the inside. She was first elected to represent the 95th Assembly District in 2000, and in 2011 she was elected to the Senate, representing the 32nd Senate District. Served several years at Senate Minority Leader before announcing she would not seek re-election in 2020. That year she joined Dairyland Power.

Shilling is a graduate of UW-La Crosse and a former La Crosse county supervisor.



Jeff Haas

Jeff Haas is the Senior Vice President, Membership & Education for the American Public Power Association which represents not-for-profit, community-owned utilities. This organization advocates for the industry at the federal level, and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. In his position, Haas is responsible for the recruitment and retention of utility and associate members at the American Public Power Association. He oversees member relations and services and manages multiple non-dues revenue streams for the Association.

Haas also serves on the Board of Directors of Hometown Connections, a national, non-profit utility services organization specializing in serving the unique challenges of community-owned utilities. Before joining the Association, Jeff headed up membership and marketing for an agribusiness trade association in Arlington, Virginia. He holds a master's degree in public administration from American University and a BA in political science from the University of Pittsburgh.



Walter "Wally" Haase

Walter Haase, P.E., is the General Manager of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. In 2008, he took over the helm of the multi-utility owned and operated by the Navajo Nation, the largest land-based Native American tribe in the United States. The NTUA service territory is 27,000 square miles, spreading across northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico and a small portion of southeastern Utah (roughly equal to the size of the state of West Virginia).

Haase graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. He later earned his MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management located in Chicago. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, with certification in Illinois and North Carolina and former Chairman of the American Public Power Association board. He has been a member of APPA for more than 30 years. For the past 15 years at NTUA, he has been dedicated to find avenues to connect the homes of thousands of Navajo families living without electricity. "Light Up Navajo" is one project that has brought lifestyle positive change to hundreds of families.

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Kevin Kurtzweil

Kevin Kurtzweil has 34 years of experience working for electric cooperatives. He started his career with Vernon Electric Cooperative in Hillsboro and is currently the Vice President of Operations at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative in Rosholt. After graduating from Edgar High School, Kurtzweil attended Mid-State Technical College to study electrical power engineering. While attending Mid-State, he also wired houses during the summer months. He attended the Chippewa Valley Technical College Apprentice Program as a journeyman lineman, and also completed a Management Internship Program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

In addition, Kurtzweil sits on the following advisory committees: Apprentice Committee and Electrical Power Distribution at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; and the Electrical Power Distribution at Northcentral Technical College.

In his spare time, Kurtzweil enjoys growing cultivated Ginseng, hunting, and snowmobiling.



Jarrett Brow

Originally from Michigan, Jarrett Brow was hired as a Journeyman Lineman by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) in 2021. After graduating from Newberry High School in Michigan, Brow attended Northern Michigan University to obtain an Electrical Line Technician degree. Prior to joining CWEC, he also completed the NJATC Apprenticeship Program. Brow worked for the Village of Newberry Municipal Electric and Water Department for two years and the McCone Electric Cooperative in Montana for four years before joining CWEC.

Brow traveled to the Navajo Nation in 2022 to participate in the Light Up Navajo Project.

During his free time, Brow enjoys hunting, fishing, and woodworking.



Alex Lutz

Alex Lutz is a second year Apprentice Lineman at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) in Rosholt. After graduating from Amherst High School in 2020, Lutz enrolled in the Moraine Park Technical College Line Technician Program, graduating in 2021. Prior to CWEC, Lutz worked as a locator for Wisconsin Public Service in Wausau, to gain experience in the industry. He is currently attending the Line Worker Apprentice Program at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Lutz traveled to the Navajo Nation in 2022 to participate in the Light Up Navajo Project.

In his spare time, Lutz enjoys hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling.

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Carah Koch

Carah Koch is the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Federal Program Officer for Wisconsin. In this position, she works with federal, state, local, and community partners to facilitate the successful implementation of NTIA's Internet for All grant programs and strives to ensure comprehensive engagement from all stakeholders in the high-speed internet planning and funding process.

Carah's background includes more than 25 years of experience in local and regional government in both professional and elected roles. She earned a Master's Degree in Public and Non-Profit Administration from Metro State University, and serves on a number of non-profit boards in her community.



Alyssa Kenney

Alyssa Kenney is the State Broadband and Digital Equity Director for the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin, where she has worked since 2019. Kenney currently manages the team that coordinates the BEAD and Digital Equity program along with many state and federal broadband grant programs. She also oversees the Wisconsin Broadband Map, the State Universal Service Fund and numerous projects and initiatives that support a more connected Wisconsin.

Before coming to the PSC, Kenney Alyssa served as the executive director of a digital equity and community technology focused non-profit. She serves as the Chair of the Madison Public Library Board, and vice-chair of the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board and as an expert on internet affordability.

Kenney is a proud University of Wisconsin-Madison alumna and longtime Wisconsin resident. She was named a Top 25 Doer, Dreamer, and Driver by Government Technology in 2023.