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Piedmont Municipal Power Agency former general manager receives American Public Power Association's exceptional leadership award

Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021 — Coleman Smoak, former general manager of Piedmont Municipal Power Agency in Greer, South Carolina, received the Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award during the American Public Power Association's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The award is the highest award granted by APPA. It recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power.

Coleman Smoak has served Piedmont Municipal Power Agency (PMPA) in many capacities including five years as board chairman, three years as board vice-chairman, sixteen years on the Executive Committee, and seventeen years on the Rates and Finance Committee. He was also a charter board member and past president of the South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems, which provides mutual aid and training to the electric cities of South Carolina.

After more than 30 years as an active member and chairman of numerous committees, Coleman was elected as chairman of the board of APPA in 2018. Under his leadership, APPA sent out the call asking its members to respond to the plight of thousands in the Navajo Nation who were without electric service, and as a result, the "Light Up Navajo" project was developed. Coleman's vision and leadership helped position PMPA and APPA to compete in a rapidly changing industry and will influence these organizations and their members for many years to come. He is recognized by his peers as an expert in the industry and a strong advocate for public power at all levels.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.