

# Vice President of Governmental Affairs

Little Rock, AR, USA

Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI) is an organization with a rich history and a bright future. As a leader in the energy industry we look to our employees to help us grow, change, and provide power to over 500,000 members of our 17 electric distribution cooperatives.

The VP of Governmental Affairs leads and coordinates all activities related to legislation and public policy initiatives on behalf of the electric distribution cooperatives, statewide services company (AECI) and generation and transmission cooperative (AECC) in Arkansas. This involves developing and maintaining relationships and being an active liaison with elected officials and governmental agencies at the local, state and federal levels to ensure electric cooperative concerns are appropriately considered in the legislative process. In this position, you will be given the opportunity to work alongside peers who are versatile, enthusiastic and continue to strive to push AECI/AECC and our mission forward.

## Responsibilities

- Provides leadership and coordinates the legislative agenda set forth by the AECI/AECC Board of Directors and AECI/AECC President and CEO, both at the Arkansas General Assembly and the United States Congress.
- Serves as the lobbyist, electric cooperative liaison and point of contact with governmental agencies, elected officials, and other organizations concerning issues important to electric cooperatives. Must be able to understand and articulate the position of the electric cooperatives to government officials and the public.
- Plans and leads activities involved with an annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C. with the Arkansas Members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives. This includes meetings with our Congressional delegation and their staff, as well as a social event for them and other individuals from various governmental agencies. This includes coordinating logistics and planning with our host hotel and the dissemination of information to our electric distribution cooperatives to assist them in their attendance and travel.
- Participates and attends legislative and political functions in Arkansas and Washington, D.C. including legislative committee meetings, legislative sessions, and candidate fundraisers.
- Communicates orally and/or by writing to the general public and government officials the position of the electric cooperatives as it relates to specific issues. This may include writing a column or article for Arkansas Living magazine or other statewide publications, as well as delivering speeches and presentations.
- Monitors legislation and policy initiatives in order to inform our member systems and to ascertain whether action is required to influence these matters. Disseminates this information to staff members, employees, members systems and government officials as appropriate.
- Serves as Executive Director of two Political Action Committees (PAC's). One being the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) and the other Arkansans for Rural Development (ARD). Directs and coordinates the fundraising and disbursement of both in consultation with the officers of both PAC's and the member cooperatives. In this role, must possess an understanding of state and federal election laws and guidelines and must be knowledgeable about state and federal ethics laws and guidelines.
- Supervises the activities of the Governmental Affairs Specialist in the performance of planning and completing various division initiatives, including but not limited to: updating our legislative app and directory, filing lobbyist and PAC reports with the Arkansas Secretary of State, planning and

executing special events in Arkansas and Washington, D.C., monitoring and advising on current events and legislative/political issues.

- Supervises the activities of the Community and Economic Development Department and the Manager of Community and Economic Development. This department promotes the enhancement of the quality of life in rural Arkansas through community development improvements and job creation; and does so by maintaining a close working relationship with the Arkansas Department of Commerce, site location consultants and local community officials.
- Represents AECL as a voting delegate to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), and the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC). Requires attendance at the regional and annual meetings of these organizations to vote on resolutions, board director races and other issues.
- Fosters, develops, and maintains positive relationships with elected officials, government agency officials and other individuals and organizations in the public and private sector as it relates to the promotion and advancement of electric cooperative issues.
- Handles stress effectively and works well with others.

## Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree and 15 years related experience and/or training, and 10 years related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- **Pursuant to the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Act 593, this position is a designated safety-sensitive position according to AECC/AECL standards and processes.**

## Benefits

- 401(k) Retirement Plan and Retirement Security Pension Plan
- Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance
- 9 Paid holidays
- Educational assistance
- Paid time off accrual
- Short-term disability
- Long-term disability
- Free & confidential Employee Assistance Program