



UTA 2026 IT CONFERENCE

October 5 – 8, 2026 | Chattanooga, TN

[The Westin Chattanooga](#)

801 Pine St | Chattanooga, TN | 37402

HOSTED BY:
EPB

In this new era of artificial intelligence (AI) at the center of many debates, utilities are needing to figure out where AI fits and doesn't fit in with our delivery of technology, solutions, communications and even leadership. And of course, the familiar topics of cyber-security and OT vs IT are still prevalent in the utility landscape. A mix of presentation formats including utility spotlights, vendor led, panel, and round table discussions will be sure to capture your attention across a broad range of topics. This is your chance to network with leaders in the utility and telecom sectors, swapping tales of triumphs and lessons learned. If you're grappling with your technology and need a supportive audience, join us for this 2 ½ day conference and leave with a renewed mindset to address at least some of your challenges.

EPB is more than just Chattanooga's world-class energy and connectivity solutions provider, we are anything our community needs us to be. In 1939, we served our first customer with electricity and began a more than 80-year mission to enhance the quality of life for our community. In keeping with

our mission of service, in 2010, we began offering every home and business in our service area access to gigabit-speed internet, putting Chattanooga on the national stage as a “Gig-City”, attracting tech companies, startups, and entrepreneurs. Using our community-wide 100% fiber optic infrastructure, we reinforced our commitment by launching EPB Quantum Network in 2022. When it comes to big ideas, innovative technologies, and life-improving services, EPB is your “anything-is-possible” energy and connectivity solutions provider. As the host utility for the UTA 2026 Conference we welcome you to our city and look forward to providing the logistics of this year’s conference events and activities.

There’s a reason Chattanooga was named *North America’s First National Park City* by National Geographic - it is where the outdoors and the city don’t compete - they show off together. Chattanooga has undergone a remarkable revitalization - a transformation that comes with riverfront trails, premier outdoor recreation, and a thriving cultural scene. Chattanooga is a place where your days can swing from mountaintop trails to riverfront concerts without ever leaving the city. Whether you are here for a weekend or wandering deeper, expect soul-filling scenery, effortless adventure, and good vibes. Check out what all Chattanooga TN has to offer by clicking on the following link: [visitchattanooga](https://www.visitchattanooga.com)

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The UTA program committee is hard at work selecting several exciting topics and speakers for the 2 ½ day agenda. The most pressing technology, security, and customer service implementations pertinent for utilities today are being investigated. Your host utility is working on securing a dynamic and interesting Keynote to kick off our conference. As the agenda takes shape, you will find a good mix of presentations, panels, and *Utility Spotlights* showcasing successes from your member utilities.

Pre-Conference Event

The UTA program committee will be offering a **Cyber Security Round Table as a pre-conference event**. This event will take place on **Monday 10/5/26 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm** at the **Community Room, 7th floor, EPB downtown building 10 W MLK Blvd Chattanooga, TN 37402**. No additional registration is needed. Steve Morrison, Manager IT Operations and Tim Shaver, Manager Security Operations, both with EPB, will be our moderators this year. We will also have FBI and DHS from the region on hand at this year’s cyber security round table event. Bring your thoughts, your actions, your plans, and your concerns to the table and let your peers help you as you share in the discussion. **UTILITIES ONLY PLEASE.**

Directions to Pre-Conference Event

Adequate parking is available at the EPB parking garage located behind the EPB Building on E 10th Street. No assigned parking, you can take the first available parking space. Take the elevator to 1st floor, Market Steet, to enter the building lobby.

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION will OPEN SOON FOR THE 2026 CONFERENCE

Conference Fee: \$300 for utility members - \$300 for vendors - \$500 for vendor booths (limited space). More Vendor info below.

Breakfast and Lunch each conference day will be included with your paid conference fee, as well as an Opening Night Networking Event and a Closing Night Dinner with Entertainment.

OUR WEBSITE

USE OUR WEBSITE AS A RESOURCE

Please visit our website at www.utilitytechnology.org where you will find all you need to know about the Association, Past Events, Upcoming Events, and to register for the conference. Once registration is open, you can register as a Utility or a Vendor and add additional conference attendees to your company's registration. You will be able to pay with Credit Card or Check. This website uses Stripe subscription for processing Credit Card payments. Checks can be mailed to UTA or brought to the conference. You can print the **Registration Confirmation** page or the email you receive. You should be able to use one of those to request a check from your AP department. If you need an invoice, please request that via email to ebarnett@jaxenergy.com. You should find the online registration and payment facility pretty intuitive, but if you have any problems with your online registration experience, you can direct emails to ebarnett@jaxenergy.com.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Westin Chattanooga located at 801 Pine St Chattanooga, TN 37402 will be our conference hotel. The host utility has secured a block of rooms for 2026/10/5 - 2026/10/7. **To get the group rates, reservations must be made prior to September 14, 2026 5:00 pm. This is a strict cutoff and will not be extended. Any reservations made after the Cut-off Date shall be based on availability and at rates determined by the Hotel.**

- Run of House Guest Rooms \$189 + fees & taxes.
- Run of House includes both Traditional Kings and Double Queens, you can choose when you book your room.
- Make hotel reservations using the [Utilities Technology link](#) or call The Westin Chattanooga direct at **1-(866) 912-1083** and tell them you are with "Utilities Technology Association Conference" or give them the Group Name of "UTA".
- Room reservations may be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to the Arrival Date without a penalty. No shows and Cancellations that occur less than 48 hours of Arrival Date will be charged for one night at the contracted Room Rate. Room reservations are personal to each guest and are not transferable or assignable.
- Room reservations will be guaranteed with a card, but the card will not be charged until check-in.
- If you have any issues creating, editing or canceling hotel reservations, you can call **1-(866) 912-1083** for assistance and tell them you are with "Utilities Technology Association Conference" or give them the Group Name of "UTA".
- Group rate is honored three (3) days before and after event, subject to availability.

- Complimentary access to fitness center and pool deck with room key.
- Complimentary basic Wi-Fi in guest rooms for attendees.
- This is a smoke-free hotel. This includes all guest rooms and public space. Designated smoking areas available outside the building.
- Parking - The Westin Chattanooga only has Valet-Parking available. This fee will be \$28 for Overnight Parking and \$15 for Day Parking plus applicable taxes.
- Check In: 4:00 pm Check Out: 11:00 am
- **UTA will provide full breakfast and lunch selection included in the price of your conference registration.**

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN

We will have an early check-in table set up in the **Lairie Kincaid Ballroom Pre-function area on Monday 10/5/2026 4:00 - 7:00 PM** for all conference attendees, vendors, and speakers.

FINAL EVENING

ALL ABOARD the Southern Belle Riverboat!!! After our second full day of utility spotlights, presentations, panels, speakers, and vendor expos, your host utility will be arranging a fun-filled night of dinner and entertainment. Since 1985, the Southern Belle Riverboat has been providing a unique and spectacular experience for those visiting the beautiful city of Chattanooga. We will enjoy a fantastic meal, drinks and a band on our private, just for UTA, dinner cruise all while taking in the beauty of both the river and the city. The cost of this experience will be included in your paid registration. You can bring guests at an additional cost of \$100 per guest. You will simply need to include a guest count during registration, and the cost will be added to your registration total in your cart.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Chattanooga Airport (CHA), 1001 Airport Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421

HOTEL DIRECTIONS

Please use the link in the Hotel Accomodations Section above for directions to the hotel.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact Kelly White, UTA President, Steve Morrison, UTA VP & host utility or Vicky Wilson Turner, UTA Communications Coordinator, for additional information or questions about this year's conference.

Kelly White
 Appalachian Electric Cooperative
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 423-231-9511

Steve Morrison
 EPB
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 423-660-7261

Vicky Wilson Turner
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VENDORS

- We value the relationship we have with our vendors, and we appreciate your continued support.
- We will have Vendor Exhibit space available for up to 30 vendors to set up displays to showcase their products and services.
- Fees for vendors are \$500 for each exhibit space and \$300 for each person attending from your company. To allow for the maximum possible utility member attendance, **we ask that vendors plan for a maximum of (2) people only.**
- *Please register as soon as possible to reserve your exhibition space. You will register for both the Vendor Booth and all Vendor Attendees via the website, once registration is open.*
- **Steve Morrison will be the vendor liaison this year.** For more details or questions please find Steve's Contact Information above.
- **UTA is offering limited Special Event Sponsorship options** to help with the cost of some of the bigger ticket items. More information about this can be found using the **Vendor Sponsorship Information** link on the Current Events page of the website.
- The exhibition space will include a clothed 6-foot table, 2 chairs, and electricity.
- Vendors will be allowed to set up during the conference check-in, on Monday evening 10/5 beginning at 4 PM and ending at 7 PM or Tuesday morning 10/6 beginning at 7:30 AM. Program begins 8:30 AM.
- If you have packages or boxes you are bringing with you, the hotel valets can assist with unloading and taking to your vendor exhibit table.
- **Receiving Packages Shipped to The Westin Chattanooga:** the Hotel will only accept packages as follows:
 - If you plan to ship packages to The Westin Chattanooga for the conference event, please follow the below Westin instructions.
 - **Packages should be addressed as follows:**
 - The Westin Chattanooga
 - Attn: Guest name/Company Name/UTA Conference
 - 801 Pine St.
 - Chattanooga, TN 37402
 - Please call the front desk for further instructions
 - @ 423-531-4653
 - Packages should not arrive before September 28, or they will be subject to a daily storage fee.
 - Packages that arrive between 9/28 and 10/5 will be placed on your table in the Vendor Exhibit room Kincaid BCD. If upon conference check-in, you do not find your packages at your table, you will check at the front desk.

- Hotel will not be responsible for any shipping charges, damage or losses to any packages or boxes.
- Vendors will break down their booth space on Wednesday afternoon 10/7/26 after the last break.
- **Out-going Shipments:**
 - Outgoing packages must be sealed and the shipping label on the outside. Be sure you have supplies for this.
 - Vendors must schedule their own pick up with carrier and attach Shipping labels to each package. Schedule pick up for The Westin Chattanooga, and they will hold at the front desk until pickup.

DOOR PRIZES

****Please plan to bring a door prize per Company**
(Value not to exceed \$25)**

**We look forward to seeing you at this year's UTA Conference in
Chattanooga, TN!**