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MEAM Communications & Energy Services committee awards 3 of its members with special recognition for outstanding work in the past 2 years

December 11, 2020: Online in MA – In a year dominated by exceptional challenges, the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts Communications and Energy Services committee has singled out three members for their remarkable skills and success. These utility communicators excel in their work engaging customers and the general public with innovative energy programming which, in turn, spotlights the benefits of community ownership and operation.

2019 Communicator of the Year – Becca Keane, Energy Resource Manager at Belmont Municipal Light Department

Becca was nominated in 2019 by then General Manager Christopher Roy who praised her for advocacy of municipal light plant renewable contributions at community forums, promoting the public power business model at weekend community events and even answering midnight text messages from ultra-engaged citizens. Roy adds, “Becca’s communications are engaging, informative and effective. Her ability to interact with any customer in a tactful, respectful and friendly manner has earned her tremendous respect and admiration throughout the community.” He credited the success of Belmont’s Drives Electric campaign, Belmont Goes Solar campaign, Green Communities, HeatSmart, home energy assessments and other programs to her mastery of all communications platforms and behind the scenes support and preparations for public presentations. “If there ever was a role model for communicators and non-communicators alike, it is Becca,” said Roy.

2020 Rising Star Award - Joyce Mulvaney, Communications Manager at Reading Municipal Light

General Manager, Coleen O’Brien described Joyce as a true team leader who is both diplomatic and dependable. “She is intuitive, creative and a true multi-generational communicator who has become highly influential in the four communities we serve.” Joyce became a shining addition to the Reading team in 2017 and hasn’t looked back. Winners of the Rising Star are recognized for the exceptional communications, community outreach, or project management achievement of a public power employee who has been in the utility industry fewer than 5 years at the time they were nominated. Reading’s Integrated Resource Director, Charles Underhill, helped coordinate the remote surprise by crashing the online meeting with the actual (not virtual) presentation for a priceless Zoom moment.

2020 Communicator of the Year – Tammi Lemire, Business Manager at Groton Electric Light Department

Tammi was nominated by General Manager Keven Kelly, saying that she consistently communicates with the ratepayers of Groton in a creative manner which takes the customer service of the Groton Electric Light Department to an outstanding level. “Tammi is a strong leader creating an environment for exceptionally effective customer service,” he said. “In the last 15 years, she’s earned the respect of all customers and community groups,

even those that disagree our positions.” He added that her ability to think and act strategically advances the interests of both Groton Electric and MEAM over the last decade. “Her professionalism and ethics are beyond reproach. Tammi is a strong role model for all in the public power community. She exemplifies the best in Public Power Practices.”

The MEAM Communicator of the Year Award was established to recognize communication and leadership excellence within the Public Power industry. Sandy Richter, the MEAM Communications & Energy Services president said “Though we had hoped to award Becca as a 2019 co-winner in the spring, the pandemic forced us to delay. But we don’t give up easily when it comes to recognizing these shining examples of our of energy communicators. Now that includes an award for our newest members. All of our winners’ experience, community efforts and contribution to group projects are huge assets to the MEAM-CES group. Congratulations to all.

MEAM was formed in 1953 and includes all 40 municipally owned electric utilities in the state, advocating and supporting their management and mutual interests for the benefit of their citizen-owners. The MEAM Communications and Energy Services committee brings together utility professionals to share and monitor information in these fields for the advancement of public electric utility service.

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