



# ignite

co-opsconnect  
workshop2025



## WORKSHOP AGENDA

**MAY 12–14**

The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club  
St. Petersburg, Florida

**PRE-WORKSHOP EVENTS**

**Monday, May 12**

**10:45 AM**

Shuttle departs for The Vinoy Golf Club

**12:00–5:00 PM**

The Vinoy Golf Club

Co-ops Connect 2025 Golf Event sponsored by Dycom Brands



**6:00–7:30 PM**

Grand Ballroom

Welcome Reception & Workshop Check-In

**DAY 1 | 7:00 AM–9:00 PM**

**Tuesday, May 13**

**7:00–8:00 AM**

Grand Ballroom

**Breakfast**

**8:00–8:15 AM**

Grand Ballroom

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**Randy Klindt**, Founding Partner and co-CEO

**8:15–9:15 AM**

Grand Ballroom

**THE FUTURE OF FUNDING**

**Jonathan Chambers**, co-CEO

**9:15–10:15 AM**

Palm Court Foyer

**CONEXON FIBER-TO-THE-HOME EDUCATION SHOWCASE**

**Conexon Account Management Team**

**9:30–10:15 AM**

Royal 1A, 1B, 2, 3

**ROUND TABLES & NETWORKING**

**Fast-Tracking Fiber Construction and Design**— John Gilmore & Mike Byrne  
**Smart Grid Communications and Network Hardening**— Carl Meyerhoefer  
**Broadband Operations A to Z: NOC, Engineering and Call Center**— Andy Burger  
**Co-op Boards: Education and Challenges**— Randy Klindt & Jonathan Chambers

**10:15–10:45 AM**

Palm Court Ballroom

**PANEL**

**Streamlining Your Build: Innovations in Fiber Construction and Design**

**Moderator**

**John Gilmore**, SVP, OSP Construction

**Panelists**

**Mark Cook**, Cumberland EMC (TN)

**Kevin Morris**, Washington EMC (GA)

**Ben Thomason**, Central Georgia EMC (GA)

**Gary Ervin**, Ervin Cable Construction (KY)

**10:45–11:30 AM**

Palm Court Ballroom

**PANEL**

**The Transformational Power of Smart Grid for Cooperatives**

**Moderator**

**Carl Meyerhoefer**, SVP, Business Development

**Panelists**

**Ron Barnes**, Coast Electric (MS)

**Gary Highley**, Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative (OK)

**Brandon Northcut**, MidSouth Synergy (TX)

**11:30–12:30 PM**

Grand Ballroom

**Lunch**



**12:15–12:45 PM**

Royal 1A, 1B, 2, 3

**ROUND TABLES & NETWORKING**

**FTTH Marketing, Communications and PR**—Cindy Parks & Chesley Vague  
**Growing Your Commercial Sales**—Kip Tibbitts & Abby Carere  
**Member Services Success**—John Walburn & Abby Carere  
**Essential Network Regulatory and Compliance**—Terie Hannay

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**12:45–1:15 PM**

Palm Court Ballroom

**PANEL****Sales Strategies and Organizational Structures for Subscriber Acquisition****Moderator****Kip Tibbitts**, Vice President of Sales and Account Management**Panelists****Coby Brown**, Ozarks Electric Cooperative (MO)**Jennifer Brown**, Cumberland EMC (TN)**Darren Farnan**, United Electric Cooperative (MO)

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**1:15–2:00 PM**

Palm Court Ballroom

**PANEL****Expanding the Role of Member Services for Customer Acquisition, Retention & Upsell****Moderators****John Walburn**, Chief Operating Officer**Panelists****Melissa Gay**, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (VA)**Rhee Ivey**, Central Georgia EMC (GA)**Adam Starr**, Grady EMC (GA)**Tommy Thurmond**, Habersham EMC (GA)

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**2:00–2:45 PM**

Palm Court Ballroom

**PANEL****Broadband Breakthrough: Communications, PR & Marketing****Moderator****Abby Carere**, Chief Customer Experience Officer**Panelists****Leslie Barr**, Kenergy (KY)**Mary Beth Horton**, Habersham EMC (GA)**Leif Munkel**, Pearl River Valley EPA (MS)**Jana Rosier**, Osage Valley Electric Cooperative (MO)

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**2:45–3:00 PM**

Palm Court Foyer &amp; Terrace

**Break & Networking** (panelists available for Q&A)**3:00–4:00 PM**

Grand Ballroom

**KEYNOTE PANEL****Lighting the Way to FTTH Success: The Conexon 100 Club****Moderator****Jonathan Chambers**, Conexon co-CEO**Panelists****Chris Davis**, Cumberland EMC (TN)**David Goodspeed**, Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (OK)**Julius Hackett**, Tri-County Electric Cooperative (FL)**Gary Wood**, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (VA)

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**4:00–5:15 PM**

Grand Ballroom

**THE CONEXON 100 CLUB AWARDS & CHAMPAGNE TOAST****Moderator****Randy Klindt**, Conexon Founding Partner and co-CEO

5:15–6:00 PM

Break

6:00 PM

The Vinoy Dock

DINNER CRUISE CHECK-IN AND BOARDING

6:30–9:00 PM

CO-OPS CONNECT SUNSET DINNER CRUISE

DAY 2 | 8:00 AM–12:00 PM

Wednesday, May 14

7:30–9:30 AM

The Grand Ballroom

Breakfast

8:00–9:30 AM

Royal Ballroom

BROADBAND BEGINNER BREAKFAST

**Moderator**

**Carl Meyerhoefer**, SVP Business Development

**Panelists**

**Denny George**, Central Florida Electric Cooperative (FL)

**Virginia Harman**, Mountain Parks Electric (CO)

**Erik LaVine**, Pearl River Valley EPA (MS)

**Tony Tucker**, Mitchell EMC (GA)

9:30–10:30 AM

Palm Court Ballroom

PANEL

Maturing Your Fiber Network: Where Do We Go Next?

**Moderator**

**Randy Klindt**, Conexon Founding Partner and co-CEO

**Panelists**

**Herschel Arant**, Central Georgia EMC (GA)

**Bryan Ferguson**, Habersham EMC (GA)

**Ray Grinberg**, Tri-County EMC (GA)

**Kerry Kelton**, MidSouth Electric (TX)

10:30–10:45 AM

Palm Court Foyer & Terrace

Break & Networking (panelists available for Q&A)

10:45–11:45 AM

Palm Court Ballroom

PANEL

Managing in the Face of Disaster: Solutions for Success

**Moderator**

**John Gilmore**, SVP, OSP Construction

**Panelists**

**Julius Hackett**, Tri-County Electric Cooperative (FL)

**Mike McWaters**, Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative (FL)

**Ronnie McWhorter**, Conexon (MO)

**Adam Wolfe**, Conexon (MO)

11:45–12:00 PM

Palm Court Ballroom

ADJOURN: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER FOR FTTH SUCCESS

**Moderator**

**Randy Klindt**, Conexon Founding Partner and co-CEO

12:00 PM

DEPARTURE – GRAB-AND-GO LUNCH



# THANK YOU

## FOR SUPPORTING OUR EVENT

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