

AAACE Monthly Newsletter



Edited By: AAACE Editorial Board ♦

June 2024



Happy Juneteenth!

Message from our Executive Sponsor, Frank Reynolds,
President & CEO of BGC, CNG, SCG & UI:

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Avangrid African American Council for Excellence Newsletter!

This newsletter will serve as a platform to highlight success stories, share valuable resources, and foster a sense of community and support within our organization.

Through this newsletter, we hope to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion while providing opportunities for networking, mentorship, and personal development.

I am personally grateful for our leadership team's continual efforts to enhance the impact of AAACE across Avangrid and I commend them for introducing this newsletter.

Stay tuned for exciting updates, inspiring stories, and valuable insights in the inaugural issue coming soon!

Sincerely,

Frank Reynolds
President & CEO — BGC, CNG, SCG & UI
Executive Sponsor, AAACE

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Safety Moment: Eye Safety This Summer

When spending time outdoors, especially in sunny conditions, wear sunglasses that provide 100% UV protection. Look for sunglasses labeled as blocking 100% of both UVA and UVB rays. This helps shield your eyes from the harmful effects of UV radiation.

A wide brimmed hat or cap will block about half of UV rays. A brimmed hat or cap can also limit UV rays that hit the eyes from above or around glasses.



‘On The Grid’: Celebrating Juneteenth

AAACE Hosted by: Alexis McDonald & James Dormon.

The latest episode of ‘On The Grid’ is out, and it’s all about Juneteenth and how each location and operating company will be celebrating.

Special Guests:
Tumani Edwards,
David Phillips

[Episode #14- Hosted By Alexis McDonald.mp4](#)



Tech Tip: MS Teams Speaker Coach

Speaker Coach provides private, personalized insight into how you spoke during your meeting or presentation, as well as a summary afterwards. Live insights are only seen by you.

To turn on Speaker Coach during a meeting:

1. Select More options
 2. Select Turn on Speaker Coach.
 3. Once Speaker Coach is turned on, speak as you normally would to get insights.
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Upcoming Events

15

JUNE

Saturday 10:00am

2024 Juneteenth Festival

Parade March

Rochester, NY

15

JUNE

Saturday 10:00am

Nature Walk in East Rock
Park

New Haven, CT

18

JUNE

Tuesday 12:00pm

Kahoot Juneteenth Trivia

Virtual

19

JUNE

Wednesday 9:00am

Juneteenth Flag Raising
Ceremonies

9:00am EDT:

- Avangrid Headquarters,
Orange

9:00am PDT:

- Portland, OR

10:00am EDT:

- RG&E - 3 City Center
- Boston, MA

12:00pm EDT:

- NYSEG - KGO Office
-

Please contact your AAACE local leaders for more information about your location!



AAACE Member Spotlight: Michelle Trail, Senior Executive Assistant

Michelle Trail's journey is a testament to the transformative power of opportunity and community. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, and migrating to the United States at an early age, Michelle's life has been a series of purposeful transitions, each building upon the last. Her academic pursuit in Paralegal Studies laid a foundation for a remarkable career that spanned over four decades in healthcare, contributing in healthcare administration in the fight against cancer at prestigious institutions.

Embracing change, Michelle joined Avangrid, and over the past year has taken on the role of Senior Executive to Sy Oytan, COO Renewables. Her involvement with AAACE BRG underscores her commitment to creating an inclusive environment where every voice is heard and valued, embodying the ethos of mutual care and support.

Moreover, as a member of the Sustainability Committee, Michelle is at the forefront of driving significant environmental initiatives. Her focus on aligning the company with Iberdrola's ambitious net zero emissions goal is not just about meeting corporate targets; it is about fostering a culture of sustainability that permeates every aspect of business operations, from kitchen supplies to office waste management.

Michelle's narrative is not just her own but a shared chronicle of aspiration, dedication, and the collective effort to forge a sustainable future. It is a reminder that individual actions, when united by a common goal, can lead to monumental achievements, paving the way for a greener, more responsible world by 2040.



Event Highlight: AAACE & CARE Presents: Palette of Peace

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, AAACE, in partnership with CARE, hosted a special Art Therapy Workshop that brought together over two dozen employees in Rochester, NY and Orange, CT, during their lunch break. This enriching event featured a presentation from Peter Manelli of Health and Wellness, who shared valuable insights on art therapy, mindfulness, and the mental health benefits available to Avangrid employees.



The workshop was led by Jasmine Knowlin, a dedicated RG&E employee of eight years and AAACE's Membership Coordinator, currently serving as an Analyst and Customer Advocate. Known for her passion for helping others, Jasmine is also a Certified Therapeutic Art Life Coach and the founder of "Painting With Pooka." Jasmine's business focuses on promoting positive mental health through art therapy and guided painting sessions.

Workshop participants had the opportunity to explore their creativity and learn how art can positively impact mental health. The session was hands-on, with all necessary supplies and refreshments provided.

This event highlighted the importance of mental health and the benefits of incorporating creative activities into our lives. The partnership between AAACE and CARE exemplifies our commitment to supporting the well-being of all Avangrid employees.





Have an idea to share? A story to be highlighted?
A question for the AAACE Leadership Team?
Contact us at aaace@avangrid.com.

*Thank you
for reading!*

