



News from Alaska Power Association

June 2008

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Northwest Public Power Association

Renewable Energy Alaska Project

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HMH Consulting is an Alaska-based environmental management company offering the following services:

- Air and water quality permitting, monitoring and

Conservation hits home

Energy conservation is something Alaskans in Bush communities have been doing for many years. Juneau residents, when recently faced with a five-fold increase in electric rates resulting from an avalanche that downed transmission lines, reduced their energy consumption by 30 percent in a week. Railbelt residential customers are now feeling the pressure to conserve energy as rates continue increasing.



I recently made some energy saving improvements to my home and I am seeing a dramatic change to my monthly electric bill. To see if energy conservation measures really do make a difference, I made a spreadsheet that tracks my monthly kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage from January 2004 to the present. I went from a high of 850 kWh in January 2004 to my last bill for 285 kWh. The average during that time was 565 kWh per month. In the last six months, I replaced my front door, purchased an Energy Star-rated refrigerator, and have gradually been replacing my lights with compact florescent bulbs.

I like to share this story because it shows how a few relatively simple home improvements can help save thousands of dollars in energy costs. The [Alaska Housing Finance Corporation](#) recently posted information about home energy rebates and weatherization programs on its web site.

Until next time,
Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

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APA members take issues to the nation's capital

Alaska Power Association was well represented at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference May 4-6 in Washington, DC with more than 20 members participating in the national legislative fly-in. Roughly 3,000 electric cooperative representatives from across the country participated in the conference and lobbied on the Hill.

Representatives from APA, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association, Homer Electric Association, Kodiak Electric Association and Naknek Electric Association met with John Katz and Larry Persily in Governor Palin's DC office, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Chuck Kleeschulte, Congressman Don Young and Kevin Kennedy, and Senator Ted Stevens and Kevin Simpson.



Shown left to right: Bill Digan, GVEA; Phil Steyer, Chugach; Crystal Enkvist, APA; Charlie Curtis, AVEC; Bill Nordmark, GVEA; Cory Borgeson, GVEA counsel; Brian Newton, GVEA; Rick Eckert, HEA; Brad Evans, Chugach; Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), Rick Schikora, GVEA; Seated: Marilyn Leland, APA; Robert Beans, AVEC; Cliff Davidson, KEA; and Tom Hartnell, GVEA.

The Alaska Delegation is well aware of the energy crisis Alaska is facing. Topics discussed in the APA meetings include cap and trade programs, natural gas supply and deliverability, renewable energy tax credits, Clean Renewable Energy Bond financing, Rural Utilities Service loan and grant programs, and the Denali Commission's impacts on rural Alaska.

APA plans to meet with members of Congress from other states to explain the challenges and opportunities the electric industry faces during Alaska's energy crisis.

Movers & shakers



Robert Beans, Vice Chairman of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC), (*pictured left*) was presented with the John M. George Public Service Award at the Northwest Public Power Association annual meeting last month. The award is given to recognize policymaking officers of member systems who have demonstrated remarkable service to public power. "Rural Alaska

has had a voice through Robert, and his energetic personality has made him a leader in rural electrification, sanitation, public safety, and everything else that defines quality of life for rural Alaskans," said Meera Kohler, President and CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative. According to Kohler, Beans' leadership has brought AVEC to the cutting edge of innovation in many arenas, most recently winning AVEC the Alaska Engineering Company of the Year and Wind Cooperative of the Year.



Steve Haagenson, former President and CEO of Golden Valley Electric Association and Executive Director of the Alaska Energy Authority, (*pictured right*) received a Life Membership Award from NWPPA at the trade association's recent annual meeting in Anchorage. The

award is given to public power leaders as a "thank you" for work performed on behalf of public power by policymakers and managers who are retiring from member utilities.

Jeff Lipscomb, Chugach Electric Association Director, was re-elected to the Northwest Public Power Association Board of Trustees at the association's recent annual meeting in Anchorage. **Frank Corbin**, Nushagak Cooperative General Manager, was also elected to the board. Other Alaska Power Association members serving on the 2008-2009 NWPPA Board of Trustees are: **Meera Kohler**, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative; **Tom Kuckertz**, Copper Valley Electric Association; **Bill Nordmark**, Golden Valley Electric

Association; **Gary Saleba**, EES Consulting (Associate Member Representative) and **Russell Green**, Ruralite Services (Associate Member Representative).

Golden Valley Electric Association President and CEO **Brian Newton** was awarded a Doctorate in Management on May 18. He earned the degree from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. "I've always been a non-traditional student, working and taking classes at the same time," Newton said. "I think there is great value in mixing education with work." Newton started working towards his degree three years ago, and hopes to begin teaching at the University of Alaska Fairbanks within the Masters of Business Administration program.

Annual meeting reports

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative held its 39th Annual Meeting on March 25, 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska. Seven board members and 63 delegates representing most of AVEC's 53 member villages met to conduct the annual business of the cooperative and elect board members. Incumbents **Robert Beans, Sr.**, formerly from Mt. Village, and **Charlie Curtis** of Kiana were elected to fill three-year terms on the board of directors. The board elected the following officers: Charlie Curtis, Chair; Robert Beans, Vice Chair; **Phyllis Clough**, Secretary; and **Walter Sampson**, Treasurer.

Naknek Electric Association: Representative **Bryce Edgmon** and **Robin Samuelson**, CEO of Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, were guest speakers at Naknek Electric Association's (NEA) Annual Membership Meeting held at the Bristol Bay Borough School auditorium on March 30. Edgmon outlined the State's budgeting process and summarized what was accomplished during the legislative session.



Jeff Currier, NEA Director, (left) talks with Rep. Bryce Edgmon at the Naknek Electric meeting.

The main message Samuelson offered was that of hope, asserting that the price of sockeye salmon in the Bristol Bay fisheries could reach as much as \$1 per pound in the near future. **Tiel Smith**, Land

Manager for Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC), attended the meeting and discussed with members the necessity for BBNC to partner with NEA in an effort to lower energy costs for the Bristol Bay Region.

Chugach Electric Association: **Rebecca Logan, Janet Reiser** and **Elizabeth Vazquez** were elected to three-year terms on the Chugach Electric Association Board of Directors. Election results were announced at the cooperative utility's annual meeting on April 24. About 24 percent of the 65,146 Chugach members of record voted in the election.

Logan (*pictured right*) is president and chief executive officer of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Alaska Chapter. Reiser is an engineer and chief executive officer of Salus Management Services. Vazquez is an attorney with the State of Alaska. Logan and Vazquez were re-elected. This was Reiser's first time running for the board.



Immediately after the annual meeting, the board met to elect new officers to serve for the next year. Rebecca Logan was elected Chair, **Jim Nordlund** was elected Vice Chair, **Dr. P.J. Hill** was elected Treasurer and **Alex Gimarc** was elected Secretary.

Golden Valley Electric Association: "At Your Service" was the theme of the Golden Valley Electric Association annual meeting which 1663 people attended on April 29. The theme helped the co-op highlight the many ways GVEA serves its members.

During the program, members heard about: the energy crisis facing residents in the Interior, how GVEA met the 2007 goals of its Green Power Pledge, and efforts GVEA is taking to help members use energy more efficiently. Eight academic scholarships totaling \$20,000 were also awarded.

Prior to the business meeting, bucket truck rides gave kids a birds-eye view of the Chena River. Members also enjoyed a live 10,000-volt electrical safety demonstration, had the opportunity to talk with GVEA board members, and watched a cooking demonstration.

Homer Electric Association: Incumbent Homer Electric Association directors **Hugh Chumley** of Sterling and **Mike Pate** of Homer were re-elected to three-year terms by the membership of the electric cooperative. Also elected to a seat on the board was **David B. Thomas** of Kenai. The results were

announced at the Homer Electric Association Annual Meeting at Soldotna High School on May 1. There were 4,321 votes cast in the election, which is a 21 percent return.

The HEA annual meeting featured several informational booths with an emphasis on Automated Meter Reading (AMR) and renewable energy. The Alaska Division of Forestry's Firewise program also had an informational booth and representatives of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation were on hand to distribute information about the state's home weatherization and rebate program.

APA members to meet at the top of the world

Alaska Power Association is hosting its 57th Annual Meeting August 13-15 in Barrow, Alaska.

The annual meeting is APA's largest event. It is a forum for electric industry leaders to come together and learn more about new technologies and discuss the state and national issues impacting the industry.

The registration packet is available on the APA web site and it includes nomination forms for the Mason Lazelle Achievement Award, the David P. Hutchens Public Service Award, and the Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award.



Donations of door prizes and auction items are being sought along with event sponsorships. Several types of sponsorship opportunities are still available to suit various budgets and they are outlined in a flyer posted on the APA web site.

APA is now accepting credit card payments for annual meeting registration. The first annual meeting registration packets e-mailed to members contained an error. An updated registration form is available on the web site.

For more information, contact Crystal Enkvist, Director of Member and Public Relations, at 907-771-5711 or cenkvist@alaskapower.org.

▶ [APA Annual Meeting information](#)

GVEA sponsors Interior Alaska Green Star programs

Golden Valley Electric Association recently presented a check for \$7,500 to Interior Alaska Green Star to support Green Star's efforts to promote the protection of public health and the environment through pollution prevention and energy efficiency in Interior Alaska.

GVEA was a founding sponsor of the Interior Alaska Green Star program which launched in 1995.



Pictured are, from left, GVEA Environmental Officer Kris Dubois, GVEA President & CEO Brian Newton, and Green Star Executive Director Darcie Warden.

Meetings & events calendar

APA Managers Forum: June 5, 2008, Anchorage Municipal Light & Power

REAP Renewable Energy Fair: August 9, 2008, Anchorage Park Strip

Alaska Power Association and ARECA Insurance Exchange Annual Meeting: August 13-15, 2008, Barrow, Alaska

NRECA Region IX Meeting:
September 15-17, 2008, St. George, Utah

APA/AIE December Meetings:
December 5, 2008, Anchorage, Alaska

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

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