



News from Alaska Power Association

August 2009

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Thank you to our Annual Meeting Sponsors

Alaska Power Association and ARECA Insurance Exchange would like to thank the generous sponsors of our 2009 annual meetings. They are listed in alpha order:

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The power to make a difference

As I watched Harold "Hap" Symmonds, Chair of Cordova Electric Cooperative, receive our lifetime achievement award, it reminded me of how volunteer directors like Hap truly have the power to effectively fight for and make positive changes for electric consumers.

In his 15 years as an electric cooperative director, Hap has advocated at local, state and national levels to have hydro power classified as a renewable and alternative source of energy. This would allow more electric utilities to have access to federal funding for the development of small and large hydroelectric projects.

I can recite many other important issues on which Hap has promoted the interests of the industry and its consumers: Power Cost Equalization, grant assistance, high cost energy assistance, environmental regulations, and net metering, among others. The short of it is that Hap has been there for his local utility and many others over and over again.

Hap's passion for carrying Alaska electric utility issues to policymakers is known statewide. APA lobbyist Larry Markley describes the Ocean Beauty processing plant manager's personality as "equal parts pleasant and pit bull." Although Hap works full-time, has a family, and is involved in the Cordova community, he always manages to rearrange his hectic schedule to testify at important legislative hearings.

I watched Hap's jaw drop during the awards banquet when he realized he was the one being honored. A humble and hardworking man, I don't think it ever occurred to him that his work would someday be honored by his peers in the industry. This made his recognition even more special. Our thanks go to Hap and others like him who help our member utilities provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric power 24/7 to Alaskans.

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Until next time,
Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

Alaska electric industry reps, policymakers meet in Kenai

The Alaska Power Association Annual Meeting drew a record 180 attendees to the Kenai Peninsula during the first week of August for three days of electric industry meetings, general sessions and events.



Homer Electric Association was the host utility for the statewide trade association's 58th annual membership meeting.

The group, which included representatives from nearly 20 Alaska electric utilities with service areas ranging geographically from Barrow to Hooper Bay to Kodiak and down the Inside Passage, was welcomed to the area by Speaker of the Alaska State House Representatives Mike Chenault and Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Dave Carey.

Chenault and Carey each stressed the importance of the work being done by the electric utilities and urged them to continue pursuing innovative technology so that Alaskans can have affordable, sustainable power in the future.

Meeting attendees also heard presentations on key topics such as funding for renewable energy projects, the State of Alaska's statewide energy plan, federal cap and trade

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legislation, and a possible omnibus energy bill in the state legislature.

Presenters included Senator Lesil McGuire (R-Anchorage); Steve Haagenson, Executive Director of the Alaska Energy Authority; George Canelos, Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission; Montee Wynn, Senior Counsel for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; and Kellie Donnelly, Republican Deputy Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Energy Committee.

Donnelly, who works for U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), said the senator is working to ensure that Alaska's interests are protected as federal cap and trade and climate change legislation works its way through the committee process.

On the last afternoon of the annual meeting, several Alaska legislators and staff members from their respective offices joined Alaska Power Association members for lunch at the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska. The policymakers were in Kenai for a Joint Senate House Special Committee on Energy legislative hearing that was held immediately following the association's meeting.

The committee heard testimony from electric utility managers and local citizens about legislation dealing with the creation of a State department of energy, renewable energy grant requirements, and the development of statewide energy plan.

Steve Haagenson, center, Executive Director of the Alaska Energy Authority, participates in a meeting of the Joint Utility Task Force of the six Railbelt utilities that was held during the APA Annual Meeting. Photo credit: Brenda Somes, Ruralite.

Symmonds lauded by industry for leadership and advocacy

Harold "Hap" Symmonds, Chairman of Cordova Electric Cooperative (CEC) Board of Directors, received the Mason Lazelle Achievement Award from Alaska Power Association at its 58th annual membership meeting awards banquet August 6 in Soldotna, Alaska. The award is given by the Alaska electric utility industry to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to electrification efforts in Alaska.



*Brad Reeve, left, APA President, hands the Mason Lazelle Achievement Award to a surprised Hap Symmonds of CEC.
Photo credit: Brenda Somes, Ruralite*

Symmonds, the plant manager for Ocean Beauty Seafoods in Cordova, Alaska, was praised for his leadership of the CEC board and his advocacy for the electric industry, specifically for statewide and national lobbying efforts to have hydro power classified as a renewable and alternative source of energy.

According to Cordova Electric Cooperative CEO Clay Koplin, Symmonds' efforts to promote renewable energy resulted in the member-owned electric cooperative "receiving a precedent-setting exemption from the Green-E organization and the Environmental Protection Agency to certify CEC's Power Creek Hydroelectric Project as a renewable energy project."

Koplin said the proceeds from the sale of green power from the project were used to purchase and distribute compact florescent light bulbs to members and to retrofit street lights with energy efficient LED (light-emitting diode) fixtures.

A director who has served on the CEC board in several leadership positions including Chairman, Symmonds is also credited by his cooperative for "creating a board culture of service to the membership," Koplin said.

Fellow CEC director Mike Butler said, "Hap has been a vital contribution to our success for the past 15 years. He has led our organization through some extremely difficult times and, as a result of his leadership, Cordova Electric Cooperative

has emerged as a successful example for all the state of Alaska."

Mason Lazelle, for whom the APA award is named, was General Manager of Matanuska Electric Association in the 1960s, a time when cooperatives were helping communities establish central station service. Lazelle was very active in this effort. Under his leadership, the utility built generation and distribution facilities for villagers in Stony River and Unalakleet, and provided consultation for the community of Tyonek.

Lazelle disappeared Feb. 27, 1968 piloting a Cessna 185 on the way to Nulato and Unalakleet with fellow MEA employees Phil McRae and Alex Fuller. Four months later, a Bush pilot spotted the wreckage. It was determined that Lazelle, McRae and Fuller perished during their journey to help residents of remote Alaska villages have access to safe, reliable electric power.

Cordova Electric employee honored for service to co-op and community

The Alaska Power Association membership recognized the work of Cordova Electric Cooperative employee, Valerie Covell, with the Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award for exemplary service to her electric cooperative and community.

The award was presented to Covell at Alaska Power Association's 58th Annual Membership Meeting in Soldotna, Alaska on August 6 by two of its namesakes: Robert Hatcher, former Kodiak Electric Association and Alaska Power Association director, and Fred Williams, Treasurer on the Copper Valley Electric Association Board and Vice President of the Alaska Power Association Board.



Valerie Covel of CEC received her plaque from award namesakes Fred Williams, left, and Robert Hatcher. Photo credit: Brenda Somes, Ruralite.

Covel, a 28-year employee of the cooperative, worked her way up the ranks from being a temporary office assistant to her current position as manager of administration and finance.

Clay Koplin, Chief Executive Officer of CEC, said in a nomination letter, "As a peer, I admired her as a role model and strove to emulate the qualities that set her apart. She listens sympathetically and empathetically, but aggressively and assertively advances the goals and requirements of the cooperative, guided by an ethic of service to the membership."

Covel's career highlights include: serving as interim general manager of the utility in 1998, her department consistently scoring the highest in the co-op's comprehensive customer satisfaction surveys, and having a record of exceeding board and CEO expectations by meeting or surpassing annual business plan targets for her department.

The longtime resident of Cordova has an extensive history of effective community leadership including serving as Chairperson of the Cordova School Board and her related participation in the Alaska School Boards Association. Covell has also been a leader in the Cordova quilting guild, which annually raises thousands of dollars for high school scholarships through hundreds of hours of donated time.

The APA award is named after Hatcher, Williams, and Robert Turkington, a former board member of Homer Electric Association. All are past recipients of the Mason

Lazelle Achievement Award, the highest level award presented by the Alaska's electric industry trade association.

Rep. Bill Thomas receives APA public service award

Representative William "Bill" Thomas (R-Haines) received the David P. Hutchens Public Service Award from Alaska Power Association (APA) in recognition of his leadership on behalf of Alaska's electric consumers and their utilities. The trade association announced the award at an awards banquet during its 58th annual membership meeting in Soldotna, Alaska on August 6.



The electric utility trade association's David P. Hutchens Public Service Award is presented to individuals outside the utility industry who have provided exceptional public service in the interests of electric consumers in Alaska. Thomas was nominated for the award by Cordova Electric Cooperative and Inside Passage Electric Cooperative.

The award was announced by Brad Reeve, APA Board President, at the association's awards banquet. Reeve said, "Representative Thomas has been a vocal and consistent advocate for statewide energy issues, particularly those of the electric power industry. His commitment to funding alternative and renewable energy projects crosses regional and demographic boundaries to provide statewide public benefit."

In the 25th Alaska legislative session, Thomas co-sponsored with former Speaker John Harris House Bill 152 that established a renewable energy grant fund. The Haines legislator worked hard to build solid support for the bill from a variety of stakeholder groups. The bill passed, was signed into law by former Governor Palin, and funded at \$100 million for the first year and \$25 million in year two.

In the 26th session, Thomas crafted and successfully pushed for House Joint Resolution 25 that recognizes hydro power as a renewable energy on the federal level. This resolution was necessary for utilities to seek federal funding for hydro power projects which the federal government currently does not recognize as being from renewable energy sources.

"A lifelong Alaskan born and raised in Haines," Reeve said, "he has been a stalwart advocate for Power Cost Equalization program funding at 100 percent since many rural Alaska villages will never have the low cost power equivalent to the urban areas."

Since Thomas was not able to accept the award at the APA banquet, it was accepted on his behalf by Harold "Hap" Symmonds, Chairman of Cordova Electric Cooperative, and Jodi Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer of Inside Passage Electric Cooperative.

The David P. Hutchens Public Service Award is named after Alaska Power Association's first executive director who worked with utility leaders and public officials for 18 years to improve the affordability and reliability of electric service for consumers in Alaska.

AIDEA board approves modified HCCP purchase agreement with GVEA subsidiary

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) Board recently approved the execution of a new Asset Purchase and Sale Agreement which will continue the sale and transfer of the Healy Clean Coal Project (HCCP) to Tri-Valley Electric Cooperative (Tri-VEC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA). The new agreement is substantially similar to a previous agreement between the parties, but had to be modified to address the departure of Homer Electric Association (HEA) from the transaction.

The new agreement will enable Tri-VEC to purchase HCCP, refurbish the plant and put it back into commercial operation to generate electric power for GVEA members.

"The new agreement is confirmation that the AIDEA and GVEA boards continue to work in good faith to put an end to years of discord for the benefit of Alaskans," said AIDEA Board Chairman Pat Galvin. "Good faith efforts continue to achieve results that will put a non-performing asset back into operation for the direct benefit of thousands of people."

"GVEA appreciates AIDEA's efforts to keep this transaction on track. What makes owning HCCP such good news is that it helps us kick our oil habit. Last year, we relied on oil for 36 percent of our power generation," said GVEA President & CEO Brian Newton, whose Board also approved the

modified agreement. "HCCP has been idle long enough. It's time to 'kick some of our oil habit' by getting this valuable resource online and lowering electric bills for Interior Alaskans."

AIDEA, Tri-VEC and GVEA will terminate the February 13, 2009 Asset Purchase and Sale Agreement (which included HEA's participation) upon execution of the new agreement.

Electric industry cultivating next generation of leadership

According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 17% of electric cooperative employees will be eligible to retire in the next five years. Several of Alaska's electric cooperatives are meeting this challenge by offering youth leadership programs and providing educational scholarships to co-op members.

Youth Rally in Caldwell, Idaho

For many years, member-owned electric cooperatives such as Copper Valley Electric Association, Homer Electric Association and Alaska Village Electric Cooperative have sent high school students to a one-week youth leadership program in Caldwell, Idaho called the Idaho Cooperative Utility Association Youth Rally.

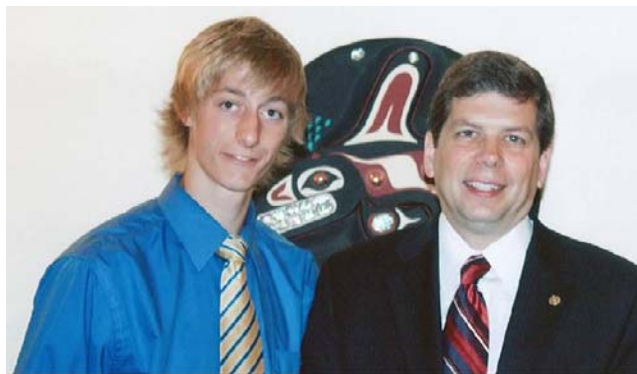
At the youth rally, students hear the history of the rural electrification program and how the Rural Electrification Administration supplied electric power to families in the poorest, most rural communities in the country. The participants learn how public power utilities are governed by citizen volunteers on boards and commissions. The youth rally offers opportunities for personal growth, leadership, scholarships, and prizes. During the week, the teenagers take part in team-building exercises and hear presentations by motivational speakers.



Alaska's participants in the 2009 ICUA Youth Rally, held July 6-11, are (left to right): Ben Gilman, Homer Electric Association (HEA); Jenna Redford (Returning Student Director), HEA; Keaton Shepherd, Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA); Denali Crichtett, HEA; Quinn Verfaillie, CVEA; and Sharon Crisp (chaperone, not pictured) of CVEA. *Photo credit: Sharon Crisp.*

NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

Alex VanWyhe of Copper Center, Alaska was among more than 1,500 high school students from across the country who participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour held June 13-19 in Washington, D.C.



Alex VanWyhe met with Senator Mark Begich (D-Alaska) during the NRECA Youth Tour of DC. Photo credit: Office of Sen. Begich.

As the NRECA Youth Leadership Council delegate for Alaska, the high school senior from Kenny Lake High School represented his local cooperative, Copper Valley Electric Association, and Alaska Power Association, the statewide electric utility trade association.

Each year in June, an action-filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues. The theme of the 2009 youth tour was "Our Energy, Our Future." The students convened for National Youth Day on June 15 to learn about current energy issues and electric cooperative history.

While in D.C., VanWyhe and his chaperone, Brenda Mead, Chief Financial Officer of ARECA Insurance Exchange, met with Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Mark Begich (D-Alaska), and Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska).

Setting sail for wind energy at Unalakleet Valley Electric Co-op



The Westward Trader left the Port of Anchorage on July 14 bound for Nome and Unalakleet. The majority of project supplies for the Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative (UVEC) wind project are on board. Construction activity at the project site began at the beginning of July and STG, Incorporated said it is working to have the six turbine, 600 KW system operational this fall. UVEC is also in the process of redesigning its powerhouse, an energy development project scheduled for next year.

Photo credit: Clinton White, STG Incorporated

Alaska utility communicators receive national awards

Alaska Power Association members recently received

recognition in the 2009 "Spotlight on Excellence" national awards program sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The spotlight awards competition is an annual event recognizing the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations.

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative garnered Awards of Excellence for Best Individual Ad and Best Photo Essay. It also received Awards of Merits in the following categories: Best News Story, Best Photo, Best Photo Essay, Best Annual Report, Best Wild Card and Best Web Site. Amy Murphy wrote, produced or coordinated the award-winning entries with the exception of the best photo, which was taken by Dave Myers.

Copper Valley Electric Association earned an Award of Excellence in the Best Web Site category.

Chugach Electric Association received an Award of Merit in the Best Web Site category.

Golden Valley Electric Association received an Award of Merit in the Best Special Publication Category.

Matanuska Electric Association took home Awards of Merit in the Best Photo Essay and Best Individual Ad categories.

"The judges' descriptions of this year's entries ranged from 'extraordinary' to 'impressive,'" said Maggie Tilley, administrator of Spotlight on Excellence. "The consistent comment was that consumers are being well-served by communications that seek to inform and to add value for co-op members."

Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted more than 744 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its twenty-first year. Faculty members from the University of Missouri Columbia and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill judged the entries.

GVEA aides Boy Scouts in their quest for merit badges



Golden Valley Electric

Association Power Supply Engineer Paul Park led Boy Scouts from the Lost Lake Boy Scout Camp Adventure Week on a tour of the co-op's North Pole power plants. The tour included work underway for the North Pole Heat Recovery project. The scouts, from different troops around the state, are working on earning their Engineering Merit Badges.

The North Pole Heat Recovery Project involves pumping 90 degree Fahrenheit waste glycol heat from the new North Pole Expansion Power Plant to heat the older North Pole Power Plant. This would replace ½ megawatt of parasitic load and save up to \$200,000 per year based on current rates.

GVEA received state funding for 80 percent of the project, which is expected to cost \$1.1 million. The Interior Alaska member-owned cooperative is scheduled to break ground on the project this summer.

Photo credit: Andrew C. Johnson

Professional Computer Systems, Co. partners with Powel, Inc.

Professional Computer Systems, Co, (PCS) announced its partnership with Powel, Inc., located in St. Paul, MN. PCS specializes in the development and support of multi-service utility billing and accounting software. Powel provides WorkStudio, a mobile work management platform with office-based analysis.

Partnering with Powel allows PCS to offer clients tight integration between the PCS applications and Powel's WorkStudio Suite, including StakeOut for field design. PCS has already developed an interface with the StakeOut application that ties directly to PCS's accounting application, Utilit-e Insight.

A new interface is in development for the WorkStudio Suite application which ties PCS' Utilit-e Connect Service Orders to Powel Work Management. This interface is expected to be available by late 2009.

"PCS strives to provide an enterprise solution," said Kim Ingerslev, President and CEO of PCS. "Not only do we want to bring our core accounting, billing, e-commerce and

hosting options to our utility clients, we want to provide options to integrate seamlessly to other third party applications. PCS can provide this enterprise by integrating with key vendors like Powel who are experts in their field. It is just one more way to bring increased value to our customers."

Meetings & events calendar

CFC BudgetPro Workshop: September 8-9, 2009, Anchorage, AK

NRECA Region 9 Meeting: September 23-25, 2009, San Diego, CA

NWPPA-APA Alaska Utility Conference: October 29-30, 2009, Anchorage, AK

APA/AIE December Meetings: December 4, 2009, Anchorage, AK

NRECA Annual Meeting: February 11-18, Atlanta, GA

APA Legislative Conference: March 9-10, 2010, Juneau, AK

NRECA Legislative Conference: May 2-5, 2010, Washington, D.C.

APA/AIE Annual Meetings: August 11-13, 2010, Fairbanks, AK

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

Employment opportunities

Cordova Electric Cooperative, located in scenic Prince William Sound, is a progressive utility that encourages a participatory work environment. The **Journeyman Lineman** position has a competitive salary with an excellent comprehensive IBEW benefit package. Come join a great team in a beautiful place that is renowned for breathtaking scenery and world class outdoor recreation. Submit resume and cover letter detailing your interest and qualifications for the position with three professional references to Cordova Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 20, Cordova, AK 99574-0020, or e-mail this information to info@cordovaelectric.com. CEC is an Equal Opportunity

Employer. Recruiting will continue until a qualified applicant has been hired.

The **Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA)** is recruiting to fill the position of **Operations Manager**. A bachelor of science degree in electrical, civil, mechanical engineering, or equivalent discipline with at least fifteen years professional experience is required. Demonstrated experience will include electrical power system operations and maintenance including electric power utility or an equivalent public agency work experience. Hydroelectric power generation and operation experience is preferred. SEAPA offers an excellent compensation and benefit package including health, retirement, paid time off and paid holidays. For additional information about this job opportunity, contact: Shannon Webster, Southeast Alaska Power Agency, PO Box 110987, Anchorage, Alaska 99511-0987; (907) 258-2281; Fax: (907) 258-2287; Email: swebster@seapahydro.org. SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Copper Valley Electric Association is seeking a team-oriented professional to join its management team in the position of **Line Superintendent/Manager of Operations**. CVEA serves 3,700 customers with 36 full-time employees over 400 miles of distribution and 106 miles of transmission line in the Copper River Basin and Valdez regions of Alaska. The successful candidate will provide efficient management of the distribution and transmission facilities in the Copper River Basin and Valdez Districts by ensuring all necessary materials, equipment, supplies, and services are provided for the day-to-day operation of the cooperative in an expedient manner. The position is responsible for supervision of a three-person line crew in each district. Ten years progressively responsible experience and system operations experience in the electric utility industry, the ability to work well and communicate with the general public, and a valid Alaska Commercial Drivers License are requirements of the position. A minimum of a two-year technical degree is preferred and a technical certification as Journey Lineman. Travel between the two districts is necessary and outside the service territory as required. Please refer to www.cvea.org, careers section, for more information relative to position qualifications and responsibilities. This position is salary exempt. The salary range for this position is up to \$110,000 annually, depending upon qualifications and relevance of professional experience of the candidate. CVEA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Copper Valley Electric Association
is also seeking a **Journeyman Lineman** to work in Valdez,

Alaska. Wage rate is \$38.00/hr, overtime is 2X, excellent medical and retirement benefits including 401k program, paid holidays, generous PTO, some relocation assistance available. Position requirements: high school diploma or equivalent, area domicile, satisfactory physical examination including pre-employment drug and alcohol screening, Alaska Certificate of Fitness card and CDL Class A driver's license. CVEA has a CBA with IBEW 1547. This position is open until filled. CVEA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To express interest in either position, submit a resume or application to Nancy Heidelberg, Executive Assistant, at jobs@cvea.org, or fax a resume to (907) 822-5586, or call (907) 822-8342.

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