



NEWS RELEASE

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Cordova Electric Cooperative employee recognized for exceptional service to community and cooperative

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 awards banquet 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.

Covell, 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 Koplun, 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."

Covell'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, 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.

Alaska Power Association, formerly known as the Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is the 58-year old statewide trade association for urban and rural electric utilities. It provides advocacy and program services to member utilities. APA members supply power to more than a half-million Alaskans in communities from Barrow to Unalaska and down the Inside Passage.

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