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Contact: Crystal Enkvist, Alaska Power Association

Direct: (907) 771-5711

E-mail: cenkvist@alaskapower.org

Main: (907) 771-5700

Fax: (907) 561-5547

www.alaskapower.org

703 West Tudor Road, Suite 200

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6650

Homer Electric Association employee lauded by industry association

Homer Electric Association employee Joe Gallagher received the Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award from Alaska Power Association for exemplary service to his electric cooperative and community.

Gallagher was hired as HEA's Public Relations Coordinator in 2001, with a primary responsibility of implementing the electric cooperative's communications efforts and serving as its legislative affairs liaison. He is the lead staff person for coordinating the HEA annual meeting and its community outreach meetings.

Prior to going to work for Homer Electric, he was the Public Information Officer for the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. Gallagher also has many years of experience in the Alaska media, working with the Alaska Public Radio Network and as News Director for the public radio station in Homer.

APA President Brad Reeve, who presented the award to Gallagher at the Alaska Power Association 60th annual meeting on August 10, said, "Joe's familiar voice from public broadcasting and his friendly, energetic personality have made him highly recognizable ambassador in Homer Electric's service area. Whether it's communicating his utility's positions on contentious issues, serving his trade association as a moderator, or setting a fundraising record for the local United Way, Joe Gallagher is the kind of employee that makes his organization proud to have him as part of its team."

The APA award is named after Robert Hatcher, Fred Williams, and Robert Turkington. All are longtime electric cooperative directors who are past recipients of the Mason LaZelle Achievement Award, the highest level award presented by Alaska's electric industry trade association.

Alaska Power Association, formerly known as the Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is the 60-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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