

Mat-Su Valley Hosts APA Annual Meeting

About 150 representatives of the Alaska electric utility industry convened in Wasilla last month for the 60th annual membership meeting of Alaska Power Association.

The annual meeting is a three-day event in which directors and staff of electric utilities gather to work on electric industry-related issues, hear topical presentations and conduct business of their trade association.

The annual meeting had a theme of “Power in Unity.” It was jointly hosted by Matanuska Electric Association, Anchorage Municipal Light & Power and Chugach Electric Association.

Noteworthy speakers who addressed APA members during the general sessions included Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell; U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff member Chuck Kleeschulte; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Senior Vice President of Government Relations Kirk Johnson; and Alaska Energy Authority Large Hydro Project Manager Bryan Carey.

The association’s Mason LaZelle Achievement Award—the highest level award conferred by the APA membership—was given to Ron Bergh, a 31-year director on the board of Golden Valley Electric Association and past president of the NRECA.

“During the past 31 years, the Golden Valley Board of Directors moved forward with numerous major infrastructure projects, including the Northern Intertie, HCCP, BESS, the North Pole Expansion Project and, most recently, Eva Creek wind,” said APA Board President Brad Reeve, who presented the award. “Ron Bergh has been a supporter and proponent of groundbreaking projects such as these and has served the GVEA membership well. He has also made an invaluable contribution in bringing electric issues, and especially Alaska issues, to the forefront.”

The achievement award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the electrification effort in Alaska.

Speaker Mike Chenault (R-Nikiski) was recognized with the APA David P. Hutchens Public Service Award.



Mike Chenault

Reeve remarked during the awards presentation, “The future of the state of Alaska is tied to energy and Speaker Mike Chenault is a proven leader in that area. From his commitment to getting an in-state gas line built, to encouraging oil and gas exploration in Cook Inlet, to supporting electric utility infrastructure improvements, Speaker Chenault is at the forefront of the effort to ensure a viable energy future for Alaska.”

Joe Gallagher, public relations coordinator for Homer

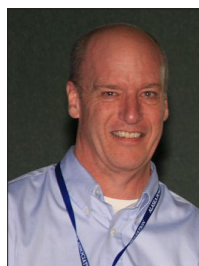
Electric Association, received the Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award for service to his electric cooperative and community.



Top, Ron Bergh accepts the Mason LaZelle Achievement Award.



Above, APA members tour the Eklunta Hydro Plant.



Left, Joe Gallagher was presented with the Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award.

Photos by Brenda Somes

Electric Association, received the Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award for service to his electric cooperative and community.

Gallagher’s involvement in civic activities and APA, and his well-established role as an ambassador for HEA, were primary reasons he earned this distinction.

At the conclusion of the meeting, several attendees toured the 44-megawatt Eklutna Hydroelectric Power Plant jointly owned by Anchorage Municipal Light & Power, Chugach Electric Association and Matanuska Electric Association. ■