

Members Attend First In-Person and Virtual Annual Meeting

More than 540 members attended the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting both in person and on Zoom. This was the first time MEA held the Annual Meeting in a hybrid format and was also the first in-person meeting since 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting included a presentation of the co-op's recent achievements, financial health, and future priorities. Members also provided comments and feedback about their electric co-op during the meeting. The winners

of two big prize giveaways were announced at the meeting. MEA member Ruth Wolfe won the coveted retired work fleet vehicle, and member Robert Link won the year of electricity (up to 10,000 kWh) for voting. Preliminary election results were announced at the meeting and then certified at a Special Meeting of the Board on May 9, 2022. A video recording of this year's Annual Meeting can be viewed on MEA's website.



2022 Member Election Results

This year's full membership election saw an 11% voter turnout (up from 9% in the last at-large election). Among members who voted, 51% voted online using their SmartHub account while 48% voted by mail-in ballot, and 1% of voters voted in-person at the Annual Meeting. The preliminary election results (shown on the right) were shared at the Annual Meeting after in-person voting closed and the final ballots were tallied. The election results were certified in a Special Meeting of the Board on May 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Next year's election will include two At-Large Directors seats. Candidate applications will be posted in December, and the election will be held in April 2023.

RESTATED BYLAWS

Shall MEA adopt the Restated MEA Bylaws?

Yes 90% (5,465 votes)

No 10% (586 votes)

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR SEAT

Christian Hartley 44% (2,647 votes)

Arthur Keyes 56% (3,435 votes)

EAGLE RIVER DISTRICT SEAT

Lee Cruise 6% (87 votes)

Mark Hamm (Incumbent) 53% (733 votes)

Paul Park 18% (247 votes)

Robert (Bob) Seitz 23% (322 votes)



Easement Clearing Plans for Summer 2022

Clearing rights-of-way is one of the primary ways MEA provides safe and reliable power for members. Proactive clearing efforts have helped reduce the number of in easement tree-caused outages and allows safe, year-round access for crews to power lines and other equipment. MEA currently works on a 7-year clearing cycle to safely mitigate hazardous trees and vegetation in the rights-of-way. This summer, clearing work will include ROW in several specific areas:

- Butte (from S Old Glenn Hwy Exit up to Maud Road)
- Wasilla (from Lucille Lake up N Church Road)
- Eagle River (Eagle River Road up to Eagle River Nature Center, and Old Glenn Hwy from Northgate to S Birchwood Loop)
- Big Lake (from Big Lake Airport area to Crooked Lake and over to Stephan Lake)

To see a detailed map of 2022 clearing projects, visit www.mea.coop



For the safety of the public and MEA's crews, please keep clear of the work zone while crews are accessing and clearing rights-of-way. Members are notified at minimum two weeks in advance of when clearing will occur in their area with a postcard. They will also receive an auto-call at least one week in advance, and a door hanger will be placed on their door within four days of when clearing will start.

2Q Rates – Base Rates Unchanged, COPA Rate Increases

In second quarter of 2022, members saw a slight overall increase in rates due to an increase in the Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) rate. A typical MEA member consumes approximately 673kWh per month and could expect an overall increase of about \$1.12 (or 0.8%) on their monthly bill due to the 2.4% increase in the COPA rate. The COPA component of rates, which primarily recovers fuel

and purchased power costs, increased due to projected purchased power. Rates are reviewed quarterly by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) and are subject to a variety of factors including member electric use, weather, inflation, and other economic factors. The MEA Board continues to prioritize stabilizing rates despite global price increases and a challenging economy.

Committee Hears and Reviews Appeals for Transmission Line Routing Study

An Appeals Committee is in the process of reviewing and responding to appeals submitted by the public regarding MEA's Decisional Document for the Fishhook to Pittman Transmission Line Routing and Substation Siting Study. The Decisional Document was submitted to the Mat-Su Borough on April 5, 2022. Appeals for the document were accepted up to 21 days after the filing. A total of 6 appeals were heard by the Appeals Committee at a hearing held on April 28. The Appeals Committee will issue a final written decision on each appeal within 30 days of the appeal hearing (no later than

May 28); decisions on appeals will also be submitted to the Mat-Su Borough Planning Department. Following the appeals process, MEA will start work on design and permitting of the project later this year. In 2021, MEA conducted a year-long study to identify a 20-mile long transmission line route and two substation sites to serve the current and growing power needs of the communities of Fishhook, North Lakes, Tanaina, and Meadow Lakes. Construction and completion of the project will take several years.