

Call for Board Candidates: Two At-Large Seats up for Election this April

Candidate applications are being accepted from members who wish to run for the two At-Large Board of Directors seats that are up for election in April. Candidate applications are available on MEA's website (www.mea.coop/2023elections) or can be picked up at any MEA office. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2023. For an At-Large seat, an applicant can be from any part of MEA's service territory which includes Eagle River, Chugiak, Eklutna and the entire Mat-Su Borough.

As an electric co-op, MEA is run by its seven-member Board of Directors including four District seats and three At-Large seats. Regular board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Each board seat serves a four-year term; seat terms are staggered, and board seat elections are held in April. Interested members can visit MEA's website for more information on the Board candidate requirements and to download an application. Members will receive election materials and can vote for board candidates in April.



Board Appoints New Director to Susitna East District Seat

The MEA Board of Directors selected Maxwell Sumner to fill the vacant Susitna East District Board seat. Sumner was sworn in at the regular January board meeting and will fill the seat until April 2024 when the district seat is up for election. Sumner was born and raised in the Matanuska Valley and is a resident of Wasilla. Sumner is also a co-owner of a local construction company and looks forward to serving on the MEA Board.

1Q Rates: Overall Remain Unchanged

A typical MEA member consumes approximately 673 kWh per month and can expect to see roughly no change to their monthly bill due to first quarter rate revisions. MEA's Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) is decreasing by 4.45% from the previous quarter, which is subject to RCA review and approval. The COPA decrease is being offset by a 2.5% increase in base rates, which took effect January 1, 2023, and was approved by the RCA. The COPA component of rates primarily includes fuel

and purchased power costs, while the base rate component (consisting of the "energy" and "demand" charges) includes the bulk of the other costs necessary to bring power to co-op members. MEA's Board of Directors voted to increase base rates in the first quarter of 2023 by 2.5% due to inflationary increases to the cost of bringing power to members' homes and businesses.

Scholarship Applications Now Open

Students have until March 17, 2023, to apply for an MEA scholarship. A total of \$25,000 in scholarships will be awarded this year. The MEA scholarship program is designed to encourage individuals who are first-time college students, returning students, students participating in a vocational program, or students pursuing professional development that leads to a degree or certification. Applicants must be active members of MEA or a dependent of an active MEA member. For more information and to download the scholarship application, please visit: www.mea.coop or pick up a printed application at any MEA office.



The first and second place residential winners for MEA's 2022 annual holiday lights contest.

Congratulations to our Annual Holiday Lights Contest Winners

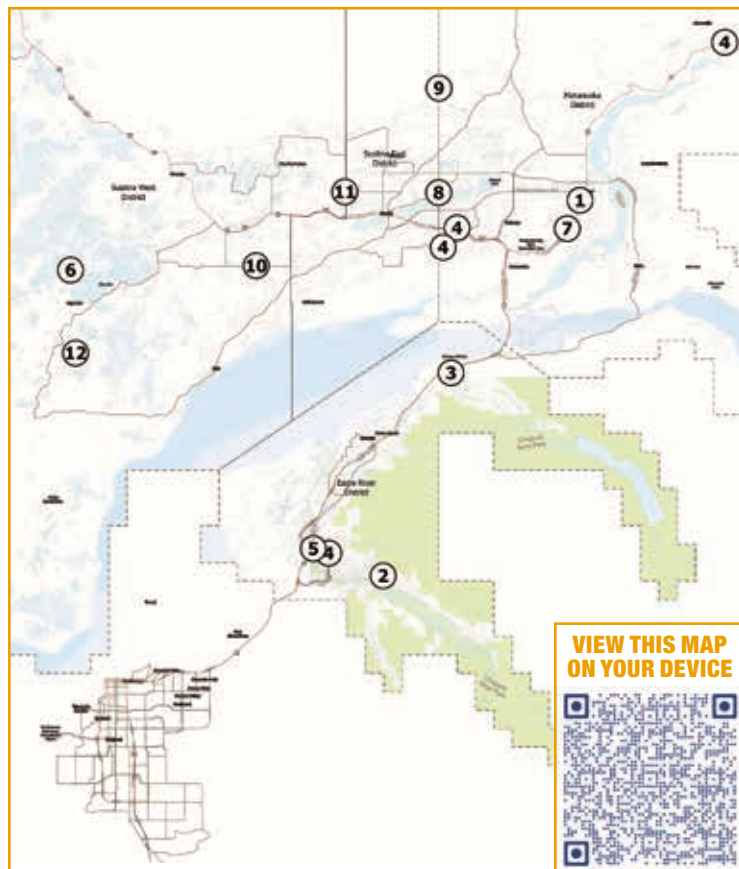
This year, MEA received nearly 40 entries for the annual holiday lights contest. Members could submit a photo of their holiday lights display at the end of November through mid-December. Photos were shared on MEA's Facebook page where folks could like and vote for their favorite entry. Taking first place among residential entries, was the Kudlacek home with Matanuska Peak in the background. In second place, was the Lukin home with a wildlife northern lights themed display. Only one commercial/business entry was submitted and that winner was The Fairview Inn located in Talkeetna.

Improving Reliability in 2023

MEA's Board of Directors approved the 2023 budget which includes a dozen capital power improvement and maintenance projects aimed at increasing reliability for co-op members. The 2023 capital improvement projects include upgrades to the Palmer and Eagle River Substations. Crews will also be replacing aged underground cables off Eagle River Loop Road, Sutton, E. Fairview Loop, and along the E. Palmer Wasilla Highway. Other projects consist of converting overhead lines in Eagle River to underground and rebuilding approximately 1.5 miles of overhead line in Big Lake. To check out an interactive capital project map, visit MEA's website at www.mea.coop

2023 CAPITAL PROJECTS MAP LIST

1. Lucas Substation Upgrade
2. Briggs Substation Upgrade
3. Reed Substation Maintenance
4. Underground cable replacements
5. Overhead to underground line conversion
6. Big Lake Overhead Rebuild
7. Glenn Hwy Utility Relocation
8. Seward Meridian Utility Relocation
9. Fishhook to Pittman Power Improvement Project
10. Hollywood Road System Improvements
11. Meadow Lakes Substation Design
12. Anderson-Redington Substations Tie



VIEW THIS MAP
ON YOUR DEVICE