



Clearing crews work during the summer to remove Danger Trees and clear the rights-of-way to improve power reliability.

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COVID-19 Member Update

MEA has been monitoring coronavirus activity in our service territory and is making adjustments as needed that are consistent with national, state, and local guidance. Lobbies of the Wasilla and Eagle River offices were reopened in May with new safety practices. The Palmer lobby has remained closed to members as the space is not as adaptable to limit contact between the public and our essential employees. As we work with members to help slow the spread of COVID-19, we ask our members to take the following health and safety precautions during their lobby visit:

- If you are feeling ill or showing symptoms, please do not visit our lobbies in person.
- Face coverings are highly encouraged for those that can wear them.
- Please follow the social distancing markers inside of the lobbies.
- Hand sanitizer is available for members to use in the lobbies.
- Water and coffee stations are not currently available.
- Consider other options for completing your business such as using your SmartHub account to pay your bill online, utilize our payment drop boxes located just outside of our offices, sign up for service using our online fillable form or contact our Member Services via phone for assistance at 907-761-9300.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation with these safety measures and working to keep our essential employees healthy and safe.

Annual Meeting Canceled Due to COVID-19 Case Increases

In their July Board meeting, Directors unanimously voted to cancel the Annual Meeting this year with increasing cases of COVID-19 in the service territory and safety concerns with holding a large gathering. The Board originally voted to postpone the meeting in April when coronavirus was spreading in Alaska and residents were asked to hunker down and cancel large events. After a few months of monitoring the virus activity, there have been a growing number of cases reported throughout the state.

“We will miss seeing everyone at the annual meeting but look forward to reconvening in 2021. Please know that your Board of Directors are always available by phone or email,” said Board President Bob Doyle.

MEA will provide an online presentation for members to review that includes the co-op’s 2019 achievements, a financial report, and 2020 priorities. Members can also review the 2019 Annual Report on the MEA website or request to have a printed version mailed to them.

Third Quarter Rates Increase Slightly

MEA’s typical residential member (using approximately 641 kWh/month of electricity) saw a slight increase of about \$2.27 to their overall bill as a result of the third quarter cost of power adjustment (COPA) rate which went into effect July 1, 2020. The COPA rate, which increased 6.86% in 3Q, fluctuates quarterly as fuel and purchased power costs change based on global and Alaska-specific factors. MEA’s Board of Directors voted to decrease base rates for members by 1% in the third quarter. The combined effect of the increased COPA rate and decrease in base rates resulted in an overall slight increase to rates for third quarter. This is the first overall rate increase this year.

Board Interviews Applicants for Vacant Seat

During the month of June applications were accepted from members interested in filling the vacant At-Large Board seat following the retirement of former Director Janet Kincaid in May. The Board elected to hold an application process to fill the seat. A total of 12 members submitted applications for the Board to review. The Board of Directors will conduct interviews with the applicants in July and select a candidate to fill the vacant seat. MEA will announce the new Director in the next edition of Power Lines.

Right-of-Way Clearing Kicked off in June

Our in-house and contract clearing crews are hard at work clearing the way for reliable power this summer. Last year our crews completed the final year of our 7-year vegetation management plan. By reclaiming the rights-of-way and clearing the full width of the easements, it will make



MEA hosts "Tasty Treat Tuesday" in Palmer providing free ice cream to members.

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Right-of-Way Clearing Article Continued...

future clearing much more efficient and manageable. These proactive clearing efforts have also greatly reduced outages caused by fallen trees and has improved power reliability for our members. This season's easement clearing efforts will be focused on the areas of Willow, Caswell Lakes, outer Palmer, Chugiak to Peters Creek, Talkeetna, and Wasilla from the Fred Meyer area to Seward Meridian. Crews are also responding to Danger Tree reports provided by members.

The standard right of way measures 30 feet (or 15 feet to each side from the center of the pole), although some easements can be as little as 20 feet up to 40 feet wide. Members will receive a postcard mailer and auto-call ahead of clearing activity in their neighborhood and a door hanger within four days of clearing activity near their property. Our goal is to cause the least amount of disruption in your area and we appreciate our members keeping easements clear of debris, fences and animals.

In addition to right-of-way clearing other MEA summer projects include pole relocation along the Parks Highway, cable undergrounding in Eagle River, and upgrades to the Herning Substation located in Wasilla. For more information on our summer projects please visit our website under the "About MEA" section.

MEA Employee Retires After 42 Years with Co-op

Senior Technology Advisor Johnnie Davis has retired after 42 years of working at MEA. Davis is MEA's longest standing employee and



Sr. Technology Advisor Johnnie Davis retires after 42 years of service with MEA.

was hired in 1978. He was instrumental in helping MEA with many technological upgrades over the past four decades from punch card

systems to giving members digital account access. Davis was always kind and helpful to his colleagues and will be thoroughly missed by his MEA family. We wish him well in his retirement and some well-deserved fun and adventure.

Members Celebrated with 'Tasty Treat Tuesday'

Every summer MEA is out in the community participating in fun family events and getting to know our members, from ballgames to rodeos to parades and local fairs. But with COVID-19 many of those summer happenings were canceled. We still found a way to get out and safely show our members our appreciation with "Tasty Treat Tuesday." Along with the The Original Gourmet Ice Cream Bars, Inc, each Tuesday in July we hosted a free ice cream night for our members in each major part of our service territory including Palmer, Wasilla, and Eagle River. We set up markers so families could social distance from one another while they waited for their delicious dessert. It was a great time and it was a great way to reconnect with so many of our members and the wonderful communities we serve.



More than 300 members and their families were safely served ice cream during our Tasty Treat event in Palmer.

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