



In May, MEA celebrated 5 years of self-generation with the Eklutna Generation Station power plant.

**MAY / JUNE 2020**

## Voter Turnout Increases in 2020 Election

The 2020 MEA Election had an increase in voter turnout this year, including a 41% increase in online voting compared to the 2019 election. MEA would like to eventually move to a paperless voting system to help save the co-op money and paper. Both incumbent Board candidates including Susitna West Director Bill Kendig and Susitna East Director Bob Doyle retained their seats in the election. Members passed all of the proposed bylaw changes and the advisory vote. MEA's bylaws have been updated online with the new amendments and can be viewed on the website at [www.mea.coop](http://www.mea.coop) under the "About MEA" section.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Annual Meeting was postponed by the Board of Directors until it is safe to have larger gatherings. All MEA members will be notified when the Annual Meeting is rescheduled. Also due to COVID-19, in-person voting was not offered in the 2020 election. This year's election was certified by the MEA Board of Directors in a Special Meeting held on Monday, April 27, 2020.

## MEA 2020 Member Election Results

### Bylaw Changes

**Proposition 1:** Adjust Board of Directors election schedule so At-Large Directors' terms are staggered.

Yes - 5,150 (89%)  
No - 605 (11%)

**Proposition 2:** Reduce time a candidate has to withdraw from the election to five days after filing deadline.

Yes - 4,492 (78%)  
No - 1,239 (22%)

**Proposition 3:** Provide additional reasons for Director Removal by the Board of Directors.

Yes - 4,552 (80%)  
No - 1,144 (20%)

**Proposition 4:** Clarify procedures for member submittal of a Bylaw amendment.

Yes - 5,093 (90%)  
No - 589 (10%)

### Advisory Vote

Should the MEA Board, in conjunction with the member-led Bylaw Committee, undertake a review of the MEA Bylaws to make them more readable and understandable while retaining the unique needs and character of the cooperative?

Yes - 5,108 (89%)  
No - 621 (11%)

### Susitna West District Board Seat

Bill Kendig (Incumbent) - 585 votes (43%)  
Randall Kowalke - 199 votes (15%)  
Molly Wood - 578 votes (42%)

### Susitna East District Board Seat

Robert Doyle (Incumbent & Unopposed) - 916 votes (100%)

## At-Large Director Retires from MEA Board

At-Large Director Janet Kincaid has retired from the MEA Board of Directors after 12 years of service on the Board. Kincaid announced her retirement at the Board's Special Meeting on April 27, 2020. The Board elected to hold a candidate application process in June to replace Kincaid's seat. According to MEA's bylaws, the remaining board members will vote on the seat's replacement. Interested applicants can visit the MEA website for more information and to apply. Applications are due by June 30. MEA would like to thank Director Kincaid for her years of dedication and service to our electric co-op.



Director Kincaid retires after 12 years of service on the MEA Board of Directors.



Be safe with your summer projects and call "811" at least three days before you plan to dig to get your utility locates.

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**2020 Scholarship Winners**

MEA is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Scholarship Awards:

- Daniel Kehoe – \$7,500 – Su Valley Jr./Sr. High School
- Brooklyn Kopsack – \$3,000 – Colony High School
- Emerson Moser – \$2,500 – Mat-Su Career & Technical School

The MEA Scholarship Committee, which is made up of MEA members from various professions and communities to select scholarship applicants, reviewed 86 applications this year. MEA would like to congratulate this year's recipients and wish them the best in all their future studies.

**MEA Rates Continue to Decline**

MEA's typical residential-use member (using approximately 641 kWh/month of electricity) saw a small decrease of about \$0.12 to their overall bill as a result of the second quarter cost of power adjustment rate which went into effect April 1, 2020. This is the third overall rate decrease within the past year. The MEA Board of Directors continues to look for ways to provide affordable power to members, and in the May board meeting they voted for a 1% decrease in base rates for third quarter, pending approval by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. While rate declines have been modest, MEA is committed to minimizing the impacts of rising power generation and distribution costs to members.

**Summer Clearing and Improvement Projects**

MEA clearing crews and contractors will begin their work in June clearing the rights of way in the areas of Chugiak, Palmer, Sutton, Willow, and Wasilla. Crews will be clearing all vegetation within the full width of the easement with mowing machines, bucket trucks and hand cutting. Members will receive an auto-call ahead of clearing activity in their neighborhood and a door hanger within a week of clearing activity near their property. Crews will also be removing danger trees reported by members to the clearing department. For any questions about our clearing operations, please call 907-761-9306.



Other summer projects include pole relocation along the Parks Highway, cable undergrounding in Eagle River, and upgrades to the Herning Substation located in Wasilla. In conjunction with state road construction, poles will be relocated along the Parks Highway from Pittman Road to Big Lake Road starting in July. MEA's Herning Substation serves many of the commercial and industrial members in the Wasilla area. The Herning Substation upgrade project will replace equipment in the substation that has reached the end of its useful life and will provide two transmission feeds to the substation to increase reliability. The project is expected to start in mid-June and be completed by spring of 2021. Currently there are no planned outages for local businesses during the substation upgrade project. For more information, please visit MEA's website at <https://www.mea.coop/about-mea/majorprojects>

**MEA's 2019 Annual Report Now Available**

MEA has released the 2019 Annual Report featuring the co-op's yearly accomplishments, future priorities and financial information. The printed version features a fun "bulls-eye" design that leads the reader to a free "I heart my Co-op" sticker at the end of the report. To request a printed copy of the report, please email your mailing information to [pr@mea.coop](mailto:pr@mea.coop). The report is also available in an online version and can be reviewed here: <https://www.mea.coop/about-mea/annual-reports/> or can be picked up in our Wasilla or Eagle River lobbies which are now open to members.



**Contact MEA**

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