



Member Newsletter

2021: Quarter 2



MEA celebrates 80 years as an electric co-op.

Members Elect Board Directors in 2021 District Seat Elections

This year nearly 3,500 members in the Matanuska and Eagle River Districts voted in the 2021 MEA election with a 12% voter turnout among eligible voting members. The 2021 MEA election included two district Board seats: Matanuska and Eagle River. Mark Hamm won the Eagle River District Board seat with 27% of the votes, and Director Mark Masteller retained his Board seat for the Matanuska District with 75% of the votes. The election was certified by the Board in a special meeting held on May 10, 2021.



Director Mark Hamm was elected for the Eagle River District Seat.

Additionally, MEA’s Annual Membership Meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. More than 340 members joined the Annual Meeting by Zoom or phone. Members can watch a recording of the meeting on MEA’s YouTube channel. The 2020 Annual Report is also available online and at office lobbies.



Director Mark Masteller retained the Matanuska District Board seat.

MEA Board Sets Carbon Reduction Goal of 28% by 2030

As part of MEA’s strategic initiatives, MEA has been researching a carbon reduction strategy over the last few years. In the 2019 and 2020 annual membership surveys, more than 75% of MEA members expressed support for their electric co-op to develop a carbon reduction goal. MEA staff reviewed best practices among other electric utilities for carbon reduction, compiled important metrics about MEA’s current generation mix and recent carbon reduction gains, and held listening sessions with members to get their feedback and ideas moving forward with this initiative. Detailed studies were also conducted to determine different options and trade-offs to achieve carbon reduction.

At the regular April Board meeting, MEA’s Board of Directors passed a resolution for MEA’s carbon reduction plan, including a carbon reduction goal of 28% by year 2030 compared to the 2012 baseline year. In addition to a carbon reduction goal, the resolution contained other member choice initiatives. MEA will be updating members about the development of these carbon reduction related programs and how you can be involved.

MEA Hosts Open House for Transmission Line and Substation Siting Study

More than 40 members joined MEA at an open house event for the Fishhook to Pittman Power Improvement Study and Project. The open house included several displays with maps and information about the study which focused on:

- preliminary route options for a new transmission line to supply more power to the growing area.
- potential sites for two new substations to support power load for homes and businesses.
- a timeline for the study and project to develop important electric infrastructure for reliable power.

The preliminary routes and sites were put together with feedback and guidance from MEA members that are participating in a project working group. The working group is comprised of residents in the study area and representatives from a variety of community groups and agencies including aviation, schools, state agencies, Mat-Su Borough planning, and local developers. The study includes a route option for a 20-mile transmission line and two substations (one in the Meadow Lakes area and the other in the Palmer Fishhook area) and would be constructed in a few years. At the open house, members reviewed the different route and site options and provided feedback on links they preferred. MEA plans to host another open house in the fall to present a preferred route along with three alternative routes. Members can learn more about the project and provide feedback directly on our website.



MEA members at a recent open house reviewed route and site options and provided feedback on the study.

Join us at the Ballpark for MEA Kids Day Events

MEA is hosting two Kids Day events this summer at our local ball parks. Join us with your kids for free entry, goodies and giveaways on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, June 15 - Mat-Su Miners Game (free tickets available at all MEA offices two weeks prior). Game starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Hermon Brothers Field at the Alaska State Fairgrounds.
- Friday, July 23 - Chugiak/Eagle River Chinooks (all entry is free, no tickets required). Game Starts at 6:00 p.m. at the Lee Jordan Field located at 18100 Old Glenn Hwy.

Members can Join Monthly Board Meetings by Zoom

MEA will continue to offer members the ability to participate in Board Meetings through Zoom, giving members another way to be engaged with their electric cooperative. Members can register for the monthly Board meetings on the MEA website and receive the Zoom meeting information to either call-in or join online. Members can also select an option in the Zoom registration to speak during the 'Persons to be Heard' portion of the meeting. The 'Persons to be Heard' section is held at the beginning of the Board meeting and members can provide comments during this time. Unless otherwise noted, all Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m.