

### Seven members run for Chugach board



H.A. "Red" Boucher



Samuel W. Cason



Alan Christopherson



Patricia B. "Pat" Jasper



Uwe Kalenka



Mark L. Smith



Elizabeth "Liz" Vazquez

Seven Chugach members are running for three seats on the cooperative's board of directors in this spring's election. Each seat is for a three-year term. In addition, members will be voting on three proposed bylaw amendments.

The 2005 candidates are H.A. "Red" Boucher, Samuel W. Cason, Alan Christopherson, Patricia B. "Pat" Jasper, Uwe Kalenka, Mark L. Smith and Elizabeth "Liz" Vazquez. Boucher, Cason and Jasper are incumbents.

Boucher, 84, is a self-employed communications consultant with H.A. "Red" Boucher & Associates. He is also president of Alaska Wireless Technology. Boucher has been a Chugach member for 28-1/2 years. He was nominated by the Nominating Committee. Cason, 45, is a self-employed attorney. He has been a Chugach member for 12 years. Cason was nominated by the Nominating Committee. Christopherson, 52, is a civil engineer with PND. He has been a Chugach member for 14 years. Chris-

topherson was nominated by petition. Jasper, 75, is a small-business owner. She has been a Chugach member for 40 years. Jasper was nominated by the Nominating Committee. Kalenka, 60, is a self-employed property manager. He has been a Chugach member for more than 34 years. Kalenka was nominated by petition. Smith, 44, is the General Manager/President of Yukon Fuel Company. He has been a Chugach member for seven years. Smith was nominated by the Nominating Committee. Vazquez, 53, is an attorney with the State of Alaska. She has been a Chugach member for 16 years. Vazquez was nominated by petition.

Mail-voting packets were mailed to 62,380 Chugach members of record the week of March 28 that included an election brochure with meeting announcements, statements and attendance and voting records, a ballot and a return envelope. Members have until noon on April 25 to return mail ballots. Voting will also be allowed at the cooperative's annual meeting, April 28, at the Egan Civic & Convention Center. Results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting.



### Sparking Interest

Chugach's hours are changing, effective April 25, 2005. The lobby will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Telephone hours will be 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday. Chugach continues to have a convenient drop box available 24/7.

# Cyber security and you

Passwords are a common form of authentication and are often the only barrier between a "hacker" and your personal information. There are programs attackers can use to help guess or "crack" passwords, but choosing good passwords and keeping them confidential, can make it more difficult for an unauthorized person to access your information. ☺

## Message from Chugach

Chugach recently participated in discussions with the Anchorage Assembly on amending the Municipality's underground ordinance. Chugach backed the resulting amendment that updated the 20-year-old ordinance that required new utility construction be placed underground in most instances. The amendment passed by the Assembly in March requires utilities to spend 2 percent of the gross retail revenues on undergrounding existing lines within the Municipality of Anchorage. Chugach members will see this cost as a separate line item on their monthly bills. The amended ordinance also allows the utilities to plan what lines would be buried rather than the Department of Community Planning & Development. Chugach sees these as positive improvements.

Recent articles did not make it clear that transmission or sub-transmission lines would not be buried under this ordinance. In fact, the lines being buried are ones that are a lower distribution voltage.

Other statements have been made saying that underground lines are safer. In reality, Chugach builds all of its facilities to meet or exceed electrical safety requirements. Finally, some of the recent infor-

mation released said that underground lines have a longer life span. Chugach is currently replacing underground lines that were installed in the 70s and 80s due to the significant number of cable failures. Many overhead lines installed more than 60 years ago are still providing reliable power to businesses and homes in our community. No one will argue that underground cable is more pleasing because it is out of sight; however, it does require more maintenance, repair is often more difficult to perform simply because it is under ground and not as accessible, particularly during the winter months, and an underground failure can take longer to repair and create a longer outage.

While there are advantages and disadvantages to both underground and overhead electric lines, Chugach does a good job of maintaining all of its facilities in order to provide safe, reliable and competitively priced electrical service for all of its members. Chugach will continue to bury lines in accordance with the undergrounding ordinance as it looks towards the needs of the future. ☺



Joe Griffith  
Chief Executive Officer



"Red" Boucher  
Chairman of the Board

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## Contact us

Main number	563-7494
Toll free	(800) 478-7494
Customer service	563-7366
Customer service fax	762-4678
Business and commercial	762-7876
Credit	563-5060
Power theft hotline	762-4731
Danger tree hotline	762-7227
Regulatory Commission of Alaska	
(800) 390-2782 or	276-6222
To report a power outage	
In Anchorage	762-7888
Outside Anchorage	(800) 478-7494

## Board activity

January, February, March meetings 2005

- Accepted the results of the 2004 audit presented by KPMG LLC.
- Approved supporting creation of a Joint Action Agency
- Approved moving ahead with securing grant funding for the Fire Island wind generation project through the JAA
- Approved directors' expenses

If you would like to review Board of Director meeting minutes or contact Board members, visit Chugach's web site at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com).

## Hours

effective April 25, 2005

**Service center:**  
5601 Minnesota Drive

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Switchboard:**  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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