



# Outlet

May - June 2004  
Number 206

Chugach Electric Association

## Chugach earns safety accreditation

**C**hugach earned safety accreditation through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) March 30, 2004. NRECA's Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program promotes safety and loss control as a high-priority goal for electric utility management.

Chugach achieved an overall accreditation score of 90 percent after comprehensive on-site facility

and document reviews. NRECA reviewed Chugach's safety training, including hazard communication, pole top rescue, CPR and first aid and its injury reporting system. In addition the NRECA field observation team reviewed Chugach's fire protection plan, evacuation program and personal protective equipment procedures that include the use of hard hats, hearing protection and safety glasses. NRECA also reviewed Chugach's line inspection programs,

right of way maintenance and vehicle maintenance programs.

Joe Griffith, Chugach's Chief Executive Officer said, "Obtaining the safety accreditation was an important goal for Chugach. Safety is crucial in Chugach's workplace environment every day and I would like to compliment the employees for a job that was extremely well done." ☺

## Chugach members elect directors

**I**ncumbents David J. Cottrell and Bruce E. Davison were re-elected to three-year terms on the Chugach Board of Directors. Election results were announced at the cooperative utility's annual meeting April 29. About 12.2 percent of the 61,679 Chugach members of record voted in the election.

Cottrell is a founding member and past managing partner of Mikunda, Cottrell & Co., Certified Public Accountants. Currently he is the

president and managing director for Mikunda, Cottrell, Accountants and Consultants. He was elected to the board in 2001.

Davison is an attorney and professional engineer. He was appointed to the board in June 1997 to fill a vacancy, elected to the board in 1998 and re-elected in 2001.

In other voting, Chugach members passed a bylaw amendment that would eliminate director term limits.

A total of 178 Chugach members registered for the annual meeting at the Egan Civic & Convention Center

Immediately after the annual meeting, the board met to elect new officers to serve for the next year. Red Boucher was elected chairman of the board, Bruce Davison was elected vice-chair, Pat Jasper was elected secretary and Jeff Lipscomb was elected treasurer. ☺

## Election Results

The 54th Chugach annual meeting was held Thursday evening, April 29, at the Egan Civic & Convention Center. Here is a summary of the associated election.

- Total number of members of record for the 2004 election: 61,679
- Total number of returned mail ballot envelopes: 7,831
- Number of validated returned mail ballot envelopes: 7,464

- Number of members that registered at the annual meeting: 178
- Number of in-person ballots issued at the annual meeting: 79
- Number of in-person ballots cast at the annual meeting: 69
- Total number of ballots cast in the 2004 election: 7,533
- Percentage of the record date membership that voted: 12.2%

Director election (two seats on the board to be filled by the two candidates)

David J. Cottrell	5,774
Bruce E. Davison	5,621

Proposed amendment to the bylaws

Term Limits (eliminate)	4,265
(do not eliminate)	3,010

## Right tree, right place

Trees enhance the beauty of our lives and provide many benefits, including shade, privacy and cleaner air. When planting a tree, remember to carefully select the planting site. Avoid planting trees beneath or adjacent to overhead utilities. Trees contacting overhead power lines are unsafe and cause power outages. Locate trees away from underground utilities as well and call the Locate Call Center at 278-3121 for utility locates before digging. It can be costly to remove or prune trees planted in conflict with utilities, but with a little planning these costs can be eliminated.

You can find tips on planting your new tree properly in a safe and conflict-free location at Chugach's Web site at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com).

Chugach has a certified arborist on staff. He can help determine the type of plants and trees that are recommended for planting near utility rights of way. To contact him, or obtain a list of recommended trees and shrubs, call 762-7660.

## Regulatory Commission of Alaska approves late fee modifications

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska approved modifications to Chugach's late payment fee charges for residential, small general service, lighting and large general service customers. These modifications went into effect May 1, 2004.

Residential, small general service and lighting customers late payment fees increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00.

In the past, Chugach's large general service customers late payment fee was fixed at \$15.00 per meter, with no interest applied on overdue account balances. The recently approved late payment fee structure has been split into two components: 1) A late fee; and, 2) An interest charge on all overdue account balances.

The late fee for the large general service customers has been reduced from \$15.00 per meter to \$3.00 per meter; however, a finance charge will be assessed on unpaid balances at the legal rate of interest, or 0.875 percent per month. We are happy the RCA has approved his change as it will allow each customer to be treated in a more equitable manner.



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

March, April and May meetings 2004

- Authorized Chugach's CEO to execute a \$1.7 million contract for two transformers for the planned South Anchorage Substation.
- Approved a \$6.01 million expenditure to construct a new transmission line connecting the South Anchorage Substation to Chugach's University Substation.
- Approved a \$4.8 million expenditure to build a new distribution substation near the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.
- 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

Service center:  
5601 Minnesota Drive

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

Saturday  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Switchboard:  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

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**CHUGACH**  
POWERING ALASKA'S FUTURE  
[www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com)