

# OUTLET

May 2018 Number 363

[www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com)



## Annual Meeting and Election May 22 - Remember to vote!

Chugach sent the official notice of the annual meeting to members of record in mid-April. This year, members will vote to fill two seats on the cooperative's board of directors and two proposed bylaw changes.

Of the 68,822 members of record, 48,043 had an email on file and received their voting instructions electronically. If you would like to cast your vote electronically, there is still time to add your email address to your account by contacting Member Services at 563-7366. Chugach's election contractor, BDO, can assist you if you have not yet received your voting email or wish to receive a paper ballot by calling (907) 646-7394 or (888) 729-4679.

Election results will be announced at the 2018 Chugach Annual Meeting, to be held at the Dena'ina Center on the evening of Tuesday, May 22. Members have until noon on Saturday, May 19 to return a paper ballot by mail or drop box. The deadline for voting electronically is 4:00 p.m. on May 22. In-person voting is allowed at the annual meeting for those who have not yet voted.

Registration opens at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Hobo Jim will be performing starting at 5:45 p.m.

### Free parking

*New this year, parking will be validated for the 7th & G Easy Park garage.*



*Bring your parking ticket into the meeting for validation.*

## Are you prepared?

The major windstorm on April 24 is a good reminder of the types of challenges we deal with and hazards we face as Alaskans. Gusts as high as 94 mph hit the Anchorage hillside, and winds of other significant speeds swept across the city for several hours. At the peak, Chugach had just over 15,000 members without power. Due to safety concerns, there are times crews have limited ability to make repairs during a storm. Trees hit power lines, poles were snapped, and flying debris caused major damage to utility assets throughout the Chugach service territory. The public should never approach any downed power lines.



The storm was a good reminder that residents need to be prepared for the unexpected. We never know when an even bigger storm, or perhaps an earthquake, could result in multiple-day power outages. Please use the recent windstorm as a reminder to make an emergency plan for you and your family. Plan ahead so you have extra food, water, medications, blankets, flashlights, and other items you might need if you don't have power for several days. The State of Alaska has some good tips at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/disability/EmergencyPreparedness.aspx>



## Chugach celebrates Earth Day

In celebration of Earth Day, Chugach members had the opportunity to guess how many years various items took to decompose and received seed packets and energy efficiency educational materials. They were also able to see how much effort it takes to power an incandescent bulb versus a LED bulb by jumping on the Energy Bike. {195523}

Lastly, members took advantage of free electronic waste recycling. Chugach is proud to have collected more than 3,250 pounds of electronic waste from its members. From old television sets to dated cell phones, these electronics are now out of the landfill and being properly



recycled. Sustainable management of electronics avoids toxic substances from being released into the environment and allows the valuable materials, such as gold and copper, to be reused.

## Rate changes

The Chugach Board of Directors approved a demand and energy rate increase to Chugach retail members through the Simplified Rate Filing (SRF) adjustment process.

The rate increase, based on the December 2017 test year, is primarily driven by lower electric sales. Chugach's filing was approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) resulting in a retail demand and energy rate increase of 0.3 percent, effective May 1, 2018.

For an average residential customer using 600 kWh, the total monthly bill, which includes fuel and purchased power costs, is increasing from \$120.23 to \$120.44, or about 0.2 percent.

The purpose of SRF is to establish expedited filing and rate adjustment procedures for nonprofit electric cooperatives regulated by the RCA. The primary reason for using SRF is to make moderate rate changes, up or down, more timely and with less cost than other processes.

## Right Tree, Right Place

Planting trees and shrubs can provide energy savings in addition to enhancing the beauty and value of your home. {1181117}

If you are thinking of planting, choose the appropriate tree or shrub to minimize conflicts between trees and utility lines. And remember, planting in the utility easement can make it difficult for Chugach or other utilities to gain access and to maintain their facilities. The result could mean your landscaping might need to be moved or trimmed.

Chugach is certified by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Line USA utility. Chugach staff are available to help customers determine what type of plants and trees should be planted near utility rights of way. Call Chugach at 762-7660 or log on to our website at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com) for more information.



Of the 68,822 customers eligible to vote in the Chugach election, 48,053 have an email on file and received their materials electronically - saving thousands and thousands of sheets of paper.



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### The Outlet

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### Member number hide-n-seek

Find your member number (in brackets) in the Outlet and get a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Call Chugach's service center at 563-7366 to claim your prize.