



## Chugach plans virtual Annual Meeting – Election proceeds on schedule



In order to comply with safety and health concerns and the emergency orders due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the 2020 Chugach Annual

Meeting will be conducted through a virtual platform on Monday, June 15 beginning at 5:30 pm. The Chugach Annual Election will continue as planned with all election materials conveniently located at [www.chugachelectric.com/media/annual-meeting](http://www.chugachelectric.com/media/annual-meeting).

Members interested in the virtual Annual Meeting can sign up on the Chugach website beginning on Friday, May 1. The results of the Chugach election will be announced along with a brief update on some of Chugach's plans and priorities during the virtual meeting on June 15.

The Board of Directors set April 22 as the date

of record for this year's election. You must be a member by that date to vote in the election. On May 15, paper ballots will be mailed to those who have requested them, and members with an email in our system will receive an email including a link to the election materials and instructions for voting. Paper ballots and election materials are available upon request. To request paper election materials or update your email with Chugach, you can email [service@chugachelectric.com](mailto:service@chugachelectric.com) or call 563-7366.

Four candidates have been approved by the Nominating Committee to run for two open seats on the Chugach Board of Directors.



*Brad Authier*



*Samuel Cason*



*Mitchell Roth*



*Mark Wiggin*

## Chugach opens payment options for residential members impacted by COVID-19

Maintaining safe, reliable power while responding to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, Chugach has a new process for making payment arrangements with residential members facing a financial hardship due to the pandemic.

On March 17, Chugach temporarily suspended disconnects due to non-payment and stopped assessing late payment fees due to the challenges members are facing from the impacts of COVID-19. The Alaska State Legislature then passed SB 241, a measure that includes language prohibiting

utilities from shutting off residential service during the pandemic for customers experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

"Chugach is committed to helping our members through the challenges brought about by COVID-19," said Chugach CEO Lee Thibert. "We will continue to work with those who are struggling to meet financial obligations due to the pandemic."

*See Payment options, page 2*

## Rate changes effective May 1

Chugach participates in the Simplified Rate Filing (SRF) process for routine adjustments to demand and energy rates. This quarter, the SRF resulted in retail demand and energy rate increases of 1.1%. Because the rate change is only applied to

the demand and energy billing components, the impact on a customer bill is lower than 1.1%. For a residential member using 600 kWh, the monthly bill impact is an increase of approximately 0.7%, or \$0.88.

## Safety training for linemen

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chugach linemen received 12 hours of safety training from a nationally-recognized safety expert. Brady Hansen is a former lineman who now conducts safety training around the world.

The training includes best practices for grounding and bonding, important aspects of line operations. Chugach's safety program includes having outside experts at least once a year to bring new knowledge and reinforce best practices in the electrical industry.



## Chugach lobby to reopen

Consistent with state and local guidelines, Chugach will reopen its lobby to members on May 4, 2020. Several COVID-19 restrictions will be in place including limiting the number of members in the lobby at once to six. Chugach has installed a variety of social distancing and hygiene measures to keep members and employees safe as we reopen our lobby. Members are encouraged to continue to do business with Chugach via phone and our website whenever possible during the ongoing pandemic.

## Payment options *(cont'd from page 1)*

To be eligible for the temporary payment relief, residential customers must sign a sworn statement saying they are unable to pay because of COVID-19 issues and agree to enter into a deferred payment plan. The legislation states residential customers are still responsible for payment of their utility bills but must sign the declaration in order to defer payment to a future date when the financial hardship due to COVID-19 is over. {191322665}

Chugach has made the forms available on its website. For more information and access to the forms, go to <https://www.chugachelectric.com/safety-community/coronavirus-covid-19>. Members can also call (907) 563-5060 for assistance.



Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.



### 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.