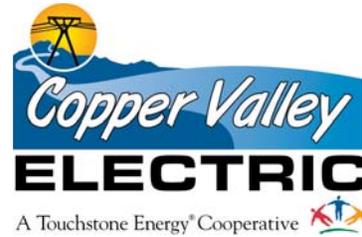


CVEA Hosts the 2014 Alaska Power Association Annual Meeting in Valdez



CVEA CEO Robert Wilkinson accepting the Mason Lazelle Achievement Award from APA President Ben Frantz. This award is the highest award conferred by the Alaska Power Association Membership

Photo by Mike Teegarden-Ruralite Magazine

Copper Valley Electric Association was the local host utility for roughly 140 delegates attending the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Alaska Power Association (APA) Tuesday, September 9 through Friday, September 12.

APA is the trade association for electric utilities in Alaska. It provides advocacy and program services to help member utilities in their efforts to serve consumers with affordable and reliable electricity. Collectively, APA member utilities provide electric power to more than a half-million Alaskans.

CVEA staff kicked off events by providing attendees tours of CVEA's Hydro assets. CVEA personnel were joined by 40 attendees as employees of the Cooperative took them to the site of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project and up to Solomon Lake to view the lake, the spillway, and the dam.

On Tuesday, September 9, CVEA hosted a Night At the Museum reception held at the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive in downtown Valdez. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed a fun-filled Gold Rush themed event, wonderful exhibits, live music, and actors providing short historical monologues. The next evening, meeting goers ventured out in Prince William Sound on an evening reception aboard Stan Stephens Cruises.

The Alaska Power Association brought a strong program that included a Manager's Forum, utility Director training sessions,

and a meeting of the APA Board of Directors. General sessions included presentations from lawmakers and state officials on regulatory issues and legislation that affects the power industry in Alaska.

Attendees also heard from the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) on current projects, and received updates on the Susitna/Watana Hydroelectric Project from AEA's Sara Fisher-Goad and the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project from John Duhamel, CVEA's Project Manager and Executive Engineer.

During the banquet on the final evening, awards were given to standout representatives from Alaska's widely dispersed electric utilities. T.W. Patch, Commissioner at the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, received the David P. Hutchens Public Service Award, Brian Hickey of Chugach Electric Association won the Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award, and CVEA's CEO Robert Wilkinson was awarded the Mason Lazelle Achievement Award, which is the highest award conferred by the Alaska Power Association membership. The LaZelle award honors the memory of a leader who understood the symbiotic relationship between rural and urban Alaska, and who was a key player in helping to keep electric power affordable for Alaskans.

Wilkinson's award was supported by Alaska's Federal Delegation, state legislators from the House and the Senate,



and the people he works with every day. Wilkinson was noted for recognizing and working to combat the high cost of energy in rural Alaska for nearly three decades, for acting as a mentor to many in the industry, for his commitment to the communities he serves, and for being someone who epitomizes what it means to be a positive contributor to the electric cooperative industry and to Alaskans as a whole.

CVEA congratulates Wilkinson on this very prestigious award and thanks everyone who helped the Cooperative and APA make this event successful.

If you have questions on this or any CVEA topic, contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005 or crisp@cvea.org. ■

Top left, CVEA Staff pose for a photo wearing Copper River Fleece vests

Photo by David Little, Director for Cordova Electric

Top middle, John Duhamel updates the crowd on the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project during Friday's general session

Top right, Robert Wilkinson with Crystal Enkvist, Executive Director of Alaska Power Association

Photo courtesy APA

Middle left, local musicians from Valdez and the Copper Basin playing live music at the Night at the Museum Reception

Middle right, CVEA Staff all dressed up for the the Gold Rush themed Night At the Museum Reception

Bottom left to right, John Duhamel leads the tour of the Allison Creek Project Site; Travis Million leads the tour at Solomon Lake; Eric Scheidt poses in front of saloon doors he and Dan Ureda made and donated for the special event; Gold Rush themed decoration holding party favors for attendees