

2026 Alaska Power Association Legislative Conference – Juneau, Alaska

CVEA's Vice President Yvette Delaquito, Treasurer Jan Maslen, Director Catherine Vereline, Chief Operating Officer Barry Jackman, and Chief Executive Officer Jaime Matthews attended the APA 2026 State Legislative Conference February 3-5 in Juneau.

CVEA's priorities when advocating for members means promoting members' interests through legislative engagement, community support, and transparency. During the conference, the CVEA team met with legislators to discuss key issues facing CVEA, including regulatory burdens, high fuel costs, and aging infrastructure. Additional details can be found in CVEA's 2026 Legislative Brochure: <https://www.cvea.org/uploads/2026-legislative-brochure-final.pdf>

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) announced that they received 34 applications for round 18 of the Renewable Energy Fund, with a total grant request of \$54.3 million. The Co-op's Solomon Gulch Pool Raise Project is listed as number 18.

Norm McDonald, Deputy Director of Fire Protection for the Division of Forestry, presented on wildfires in Alaska. Due to some of the elevated wildfire risks in Alaska, CVEA plans to coordinate with our local contact to ensure our power lines and structures are included in the Division of Forestry's proactive maps.

Alexei Painter, Director of the Alaska Legislative Finance Division, presented on Alaska's budget. Although the State does not have a solid fiscal plan, he reported Alaska's reserve level is better than most states. He indicated the budget is now 16% lower than 2017 and 87% of the budget is health, protection, and education. The presentation showed the deficit of the state budget, the revenue sources, and how the PFD fund supports much of the Operating Budget since the decline in oil revenue.

Governor Mike Dunleavy also presented his fiscal plan. There are six core components; details are included in this link: <https://gov.alaska.gov/governor-dunleavy-introduces-fiscal-plan-legislation/>. He spoke extensively about the gas royalties coming to the state and gas exports. He discussed how Alaska has relatively low taxes but uncertainty in its fiscal plan, which is why it is not looked at favorably. Alaska has historically budgeted based on current oil prices and has not consistently saved.

Although the legislative session was only two weeks in, the team was able to schedule meetings with all of CVEA's legislators: Senator Rauscher, Senator Cronk, Representative Schwanke, and Representative Nelson.