



2026 MEA Board Election and Candidate Information

Vote in your electric co-op election and be entered to win a year of FREE Electricity!

2026 Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article III, Sections 1 and 3, of the bylaws of Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. that the annual membership meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday, the 28th of April, 2026 at the Glenn Massay Theater and online through Zoom. The doors will open and registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Dated at Palmer, Alaska this 16th day of March 2026.



Director Dan Tucker, Secretary-Treasurer
Matanuska Electric Association, Inc.

Attend the Annual Meeting and receive a \$10 bill credit!



**Win this retired MEA fleet vehicle by
attending the Annual Meeting!**

About the 2026 Membership Election

The 2026 membership election includes an At-Large seat which represents the entire MEA service territory, and the Eagle River District (which includes the communities of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna). The entire MEA membership can vote for the At-Large Board seat, and only members with their primary membership in the Eagle River District can vote for candidates running for the district board seat.

This booklet contains information about each board candidate and their biography. Candidate applications were reviewed and verified by MEA's member-led Election Committee to ensure candidates met all the minimum bylaw requirements to be eligible

to serve on the Board of Directors. Additionally, a bylaw change was submitted by the Bylaw Committee for member voters to consider in the 2026 election.

MEA is switching to primarily electronic voting this year. Members can vote either online using their SmartHub account or by mailing in their ballot in the return envelope enclosed in the election envelope. **Ballots must be received (not postmarked) by Monday, April 27, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.** Members can also vote in-person at the Annual Membership Meeting which is scheduled on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Glenn Massay Theater (door opens at 5:00 p.m.).

3 WAYS YOU CAN VOTE



Online with your SmartHub Account.
Deadline Monday, April 27, 5:00 p.m.



Mail your ballot and sign the back of the return envelope. Must be received by Monday, April 27.



Vote in-person at the Annual Meeting on April 28.

Vote in your electric co-op election and be entered to win prizes including a year of electricity (up to 10,000 kWh)!

Proposed Bylaw Amendment: Uncontested Board Elections

This proposed bylaw amendment was developed by MEA’s member-led Bylaws Committee, in coordination with legal counsel, and was approved by the MEA Board of Directors at its regular December 2025 Board Meeting.

What is being proposed?

The amendment addresses situations in which only one qualified candidate submits for an open MEA Board seat. Under the proposed change, if there is only one qualified candidate for a Board position, that candidate would be deemed elected without the need to conduct a formal ballot election and would be seated following the standard certification process.

What is the current process?

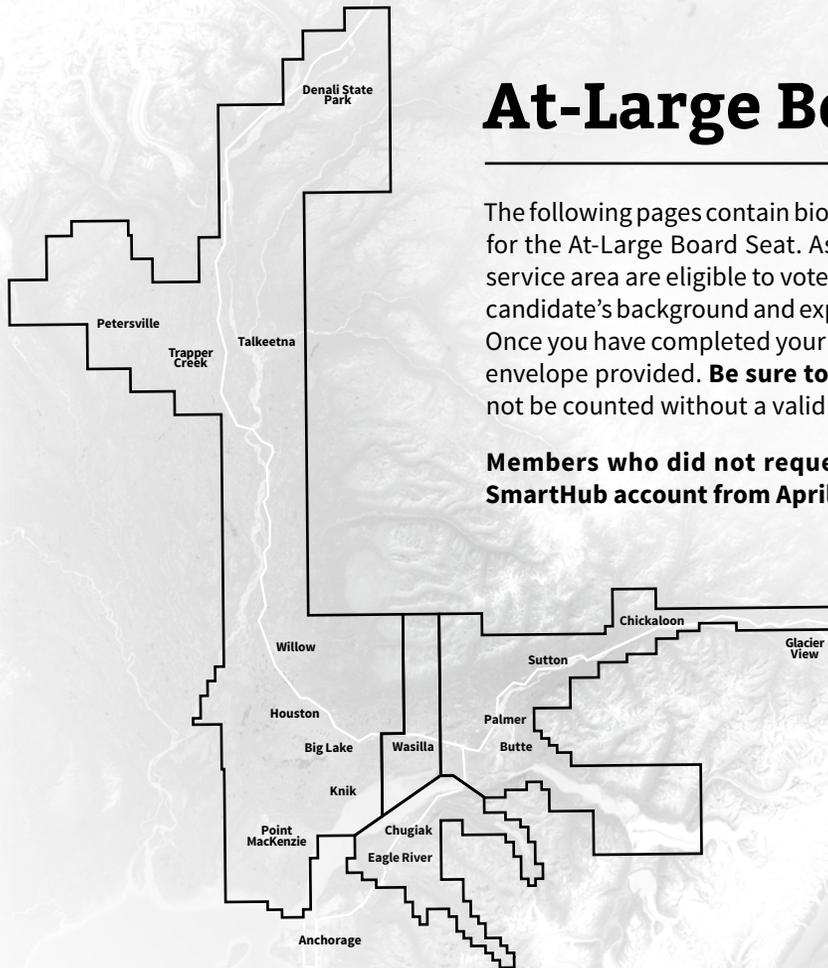
Under MEA’s existing bylaws, a full election must be conducted even when there is only one qualified candidate running for a seat. This requires printing and mailing ballots, processing returned ballots, and administering the election—resulting in additional costs to the cooperative and its members, even though the outcome is already determined.

What is on the ballot?

Shall the MEA bylaws be amended to allow a single qualified candidate for a Board seat to be deemed elected without a ballot election, and seated following the required certification process, when no other qualified candidates have filed for that seat?

A **“YES”** Vote — Approves the bylaw amendment

A **“NO”** Vote — Does not approve the bylaw amendment



At-Large Board Seat Election

The following pages contain biographical information about the candidates running for the At-Large Board Seat. As this is an At-Large position, all members of MEA's service area are eligible to vote in this election. Please take the time to review each candidate's background and experience and then make your selection on your ballot. Once you have completed your ballot, place it in the return pre-paid postage return envelope provided. **Be sure to sign the back of the envelope**, as your ballot will not be counted without a valid signature.

Members who did not request a mail-in ballot can vote online using their SmartHub account from April 3 - April 27.



Connie Fredenberg

At-Large Candidate

Content below is published exactly as submitted by the candidate.

Why I Wish to Serve

I have spent the last 21 years working with Alaska's small independent non-regulated rural electric utilities. Years ago, a wise elder from Bristol Bay told me, "We are all in the same boat with the high cost of energy from fossil fuels, those outside of Rural Alaska just don't know it yet". Recent revelations regarding Cook Inlet Gas give credence to his words. That gas, which is 40% of MEA's expenses, is now glaringly not always going to be there in abundance for us, and the price is only going to go up.

MEA should develop alternatives to natural gas as a utility or connect with some Independent Power Producers to develop projects. Otherwise, our price for power will continue to steadily increase. Developing generation projects of all types takes time, though. In the meantime, there is a whole lot we as customers can do to conserve the remaining gas now used for heat and power and keep our own costs down.

For many years I've been helping both utilities and customers to keep costs down while keeping the lights on in Rural Alaska. I'd like to do the same for my own neighborhood now.

Biography

I was raised in a small Ohio farm town that reminds me a lot of Palmer – except Palmer has better scenery. As a Wildlife Biology student at Ohio State University, I chanced upon an unbelievable opportunity to travel from Ohio to Utqiagvik in June of 1978 for a summer job as an Animal Research Intern at the Naval Arctic Research Lab. It changed my life. I went from a struggling student to straight A's at OSU – until I dropped out and decided to stay in Alaska during my internship the next summer.

When I became pregnant with my first child, my partner and I moved from Utqiagvik to Pt. Hope, his family home. I love the Arctic. The Inupiat elevate sharing to a science. I learned countless valuable lessons and skills from the people of Pt. Hope and am honored to still call many my friends and family. I gave birth to three children while there and graduated from UAF in 1989 with a degree in Applied Linguistics with minors in education and biology through the old distance delivered X-CED program. I worked as a postal clerk, bilingual aide, elementary teacher, magistrate, and agent for bush airlines over the next ten years.

In 1993 my life circumstances changed. I left the Arctic and returned to my roots and took a job as Farm Manager at the Palmer Musk Ox Farm. After 3 years I built my own house on land I bought at the far end of the Farm and moved on to other work that was easier on my body. My children grew up, I gained seven grandchildren and one great grandchild, and I keep enough animals on my own little farm to satisfy my need for caretaking. I raise chickens, pigs, and a big garden every year now. I love making sauerkraut and jarring fish - and sharing the bounty. I look forward to sewing again now that I am retired.

For over 20 years I worked with Rural independent community owned non-regulated electric utilities –installing pre-pay electric meters, teaching conservation strategies, providing and teaching utility management, rate setting and reporting for the Power Cost Equalization program. The cost and headache of importing fuel to remote communities is agonizing. I have helped several communities through the first steps of developing a local renewable energy resource, including resource and environmental assessments and successful grant applications.



David Phillips

At-Large Candidate

Content below is published exactly as submitted by the candidate.

Why I Wish to Serve

1. Invest in our community by providing CO-OP members with a voice in the governance and direction of the association.
2. Provide perspective to shape the future of MEA investment in energy, emergency management, and while voting on fascial budgets prudently.
3. Driven to grow my professional experience.

Biography

From my early days as a youth business owner, construction laborer, being a first responder, new parent, emergency management, and now technology management; my career has been a testament to the power of planning and evolving. I have always known that work experience and education are both vitally important to being a well-rounded individual. I learned how to work at an early age running a lawn and landscape business then attended academic studies learning about business management and emergency management. This academic background, coupled with my over 12 years of military service, enlisted and officer in the Air National Guard, has honed my ability to lead and inspire teams in dynamic and often high-stakes environments.

My professional journey has been intentionally diverse, providing me with a comprehensive understanding of both blue-collar and white-collar work environments. I have learned the value of hard work and tangible results as a construction laborer,

the importance of user-centric solutions at a technology help desk, the critical nature of uptime and reliability as a network center administrator, and the complexities of leading and motivating a team as a department head. This breadth of experience has given me a holistic perspective on organizational dynamics and the crucial role that technology plays in every facet of a modern enterprise.

In my current role in information technology management, I am focused on leveraging cutting-edge technology and artificial intelligence to drive operational efficiencies. This experience would allow me to be frank and strategically lead our CO-OP into the future. This experience has been further enriched by my service on the board of directors for a fire department association, where I contributed to the strategic direction and governance of the organization. My approach is grounded in a fiscally conservative mindset, ensuring that every technological investment delivers a clear and measurable return.



Patrick Shier

At-Large Candidate

Content below is published exactly as submitted by the candidate.

Why I Wish to Serve

I am eager to serve on the Board of the Matanuska Electric Association because I am deeply committed to supporting our community and ensuring reliable, affordable power for all members. As a lifelong Alaska resident, I understand the vital role that MEA and other electrical cooperatives play in our region's growth and quality of life. A well-functioning Board is essential for balancing the needs of our members with the challenges and opportunities presented by evolving energy technologies and environmental concerns.

I am motivated by a desire to give back and to help guide MEA toward a sustainable, innovative future. I bring a background in private and public service, problem-solving, and a collaborative spirit that I believe will be valuable to the Board. I am committed to transparency, responsible fiscal management, and seeking input from our diverse membership to inform decisions. My goal is to help ensure MEA remains a trusted, forward-thinking cooperative that continues to serve its members' best interests. Serving on the Board would be an honor and an opportunity to make a positive, lasting impact on our community and the future of energy in our area.

Biography

Safe, abundant, affordable electrical power available to all current and future cooperative members.

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, lived in Juneau for 18 years, and am a resident of Wasilla for the last 13 years – finally moving here to join other family members who located here in the 1990s. In each community, I have volunteered to serve in various board capacities, including a non-profit counseling center (2004-2013), the State Board of Education and Early Development (2007-2013), and as Treasurer of a national non-profit pharmacy benefits purchasing coalition (2020-present).

Trained as an accountant, with auditing experience for another REA cooperative utility, and as an engaged customer of four different utilities, I am acutely aware of the challenges faced by staff, governing bodies and customers connected to these public entities. Regulatory, resource and practical limitations all exert influence on those providing and consuming valuable electrical services.

My years in public service – following years in the private sector – find me appropriately skeptical of solutions to problems characterized as obvious, easy or exclusively supported by hand-picked data. Stewardship of physical and financial resources

requires doing the homework of reading the footnotes and some of the more obscure information available from trusted sources, instead of making decisions based on the summaries or most popular thoughts of the moment. Utility governance is a long-term trust that must be carefully curated and passed on.

Trained in the disciplines of Baldrige and LEAN, I have successfully applied the principles to improving public service operations in times of shrinking budgets and helped find solutions that do not simply ask staff to “do more with less.” This means that the first response to challenges should rarely be more money/higher rates. Very often, economies can be found by careful reexamination of current practices and application of new technologies. But there are also times when more investment is the best path forward for any going concern. Fiscal restraint and the courage to invest in the future are not mutually exclusive approaches.

Additional experience includes over 30 years’ successful service on labor – management committees tasked with health care plan structure and financing, and 10 years serving as Chief Information Officer overseeing multimillion dollar budgets. These two areas of concern and opportunity certainly lie in the path ahead for MEA. I ask for your vote. Please put me to work for you as your At Large representative.

Operation RoundUp®

Operation RoundUp® is a voluntary program that gives MEA members an easy way to support local organizations making a difference across our service territory. Participating members allow their monthly electric bill to be rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra change donated to the MEA Charitable Foundation for distribution in our community.

For most members, that contribution totals between \$0.11 and \$11.88 per year, yet when combined across thousands of participating members, those small amounts create a big difference of community support.

2025 Community Impact

Thanks to participating members, Operation RoundUp® distributed \$220,020.44 to local nonprofits and community organizations in 2025 alone. Organizations receiving grants included local fire and rescue associations, food banks, youth and recreation programs, arts organizations, search and rescue teams, and community councils throughout Eagle River and the Mat-Su Valley. Since the program's inception, members have helped return more than \$2.9 million directly back into our communities.

For more information on the program visit: <https://www.mea.coop/connect/operation-roundup>

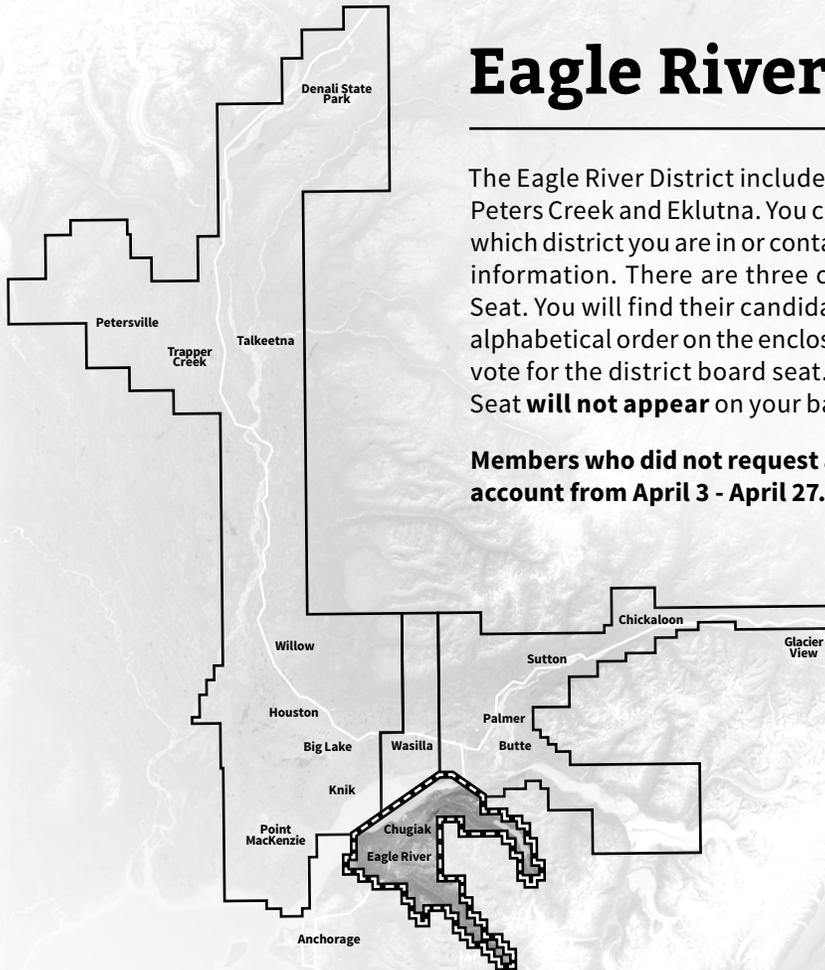
More than \$2.9 million has been given back to the community since the start of the program in 2011.



Eagle River District

The Eagle River District includes the communities of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna. You can look at your monthly billing statement to determine which district you are in or contact Member Services at 907-761-9300 to get your district information. There are three candidates running for the Eagle River District Board Seat. You will find their candidate information and biographies listed by last name in alphabetical order on the enclosed pages. Only members of the Eagle River District may vote for the district board seat. Candidates running for the Eagle River District Board Seat **will not appear** on your ballot if you are not a member in the Eagle River District.

Members who did not request a mail-in ballot can vote online using their SmartHub account from April 3 - April 27.





Mark Hamm

Eagle River District Board Seat Candidate

Content below is published exactly as submitted by the candidate.

Why I Wish to Serve

It has been an honor to serve as Eagle River's MEA board representative. Over the past 5 years, even in the face of major weather and economic events, MEA has continued to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power.

During my time on the board, MEA's rates have stayed among the lowest on the rail-belt. Many forward-thinking projects have taken place to ensure MEA meets the needs of our community into the future. These projects include securing an extension of MEA's natural gas contracts, member savings through synchronizing power production with other utilities, and participation in the Railbelt Reliability Council.

Eagle River / Chugiak needs a committed member on the board to ensure that our local needs are represented and understood. My professional experience as a CFO, current work on the MEA board, and certification as a CPA, give me the financial experience and strategic focus to protect one of the backbones of our community: safe, affordable, reliable, and sustainable power.

I would be honored to have your continued support.

Eagle River District Board Candidate

Biography

Things that describe me include: life-long Alaskan, small business owner, CFO, CPA, and avid outdoorsman. Having been born and raised in Alaska, I have seen how the state has grown throughout the years.

I have a skill set that lets me understand both the financial and operational intricacies of an organization, while also looking at the big picture and strategic implications of governance decisions. As a CPA with a master's degree in Accounting, I have worked for the past 15 years as the CFO for a regional not-for profit native corporation. I understand what it takes to ensure an organization thrives and grows.

In April of 2021 I was first elected to represent Eagle River and Chugiak as a member of the MEA board of directors. Over the past 5 years I have served on the board and participated as a member of the audit and finance committees.

I advocate for our community on these important issues:

- Maintaining low rates for members
- Repayment of Capital Credits to members
- Securing natural gas contracts to ensure stability of rates
- Cooperation among Railbelt Utilities
- Wildland Fire and Safety Protocols
- Carbon Reduction initiatives

The Eagle River / Chugiak Area needs someone like me on the MEA board to ensure that our community continues to have safe, affordable, reliable, and sustainable power. As your representative on the MEA board, I will make sure that our community is represented and our needs are heard. During my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, taking my family hunting, fishing, and exploring Alaska in our small plane.



Daniel Jensen

Eagle River District Board Seat Candidate

Content below is published exactly as submitted by the candidate.

Why I Wish to Serve

Greetings fellow MEA members.

Our cooperative is facing rising electric costs and uncertainty about the long-term stability of our power supply. For too long, MEA and the Railbelt grid have relied heavily on a single supplier to meet generation demand, increasing risk and contributing to upward pressure on rates.

I bring a business-focused skill set to these challenges, grounded in community and Alaska outdoor values. As a Certified Public Accountant making major investment decisions in the energy sector, I have experience in long-term planning, risk management, and protecting customers from unnecessary rate volatility and waste. Like any responsible business, MEA should avoid overreliance on a single resource when prudent alternatives can reduce risk without placing undue burdens on members. Tools such as power purchase agreements can introduce competition, provide price certainty, and deserve serious consideration alongside MEA-owned resources.

Working families are important in MEA's mission. Rising energy costs disproportionately impact low- and moderate-income families, and affordability goes alongside reliability. My interest in serving on the MEA Board is rooted in my family and my commitment to Alaska's long-term prosperity. I offer a disciplined, independent perspective focused on reliability, affordability, and long-term value for MEA's member-owners. Thank you for your consideration.

Eagle River District Board Candidate

Biography

Daniel Jensen is a Principal of Business Development and Asset Management at Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI), one of Alaska's twelve Alaska Native Regional Corporations. In this role Daniel manages CIRI's diverse portfolio of energy investments, totaling 1,020 megawatts of generation capacity, with 540 megawatts from wind and 480 megawatts from gas, located inside and outside of Alaska. In addition to generation assets, CIRI's portfolio includes investments in support and supply chain services for energy such as gas storage for Southcentral Alaska, an international offshore wind turbine installation provider, and a publicly traded wood biomass company. Cumulatively, these provide a well-balanced experience through the energy sector, allowing Daniel to take an unbiased view of the financial and operational reality of many energy technologies.

After hours, Daniel is active in the community through non-profit service. He is the Treasurer at Anchorage Ski Club, who owns and operates Arctic Valley Ski Area. During his tenure as Treasurer, Daniel has overseen nearly 300% revenue growth and helped transition to a self-sustaining business model. He is a Board member at Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), a

leading advocate for the advancement of renewable resources and energy efficiency in Alaska, and he is a Board member at Launch Alaska, a local accelerator program bringing energy, transportation, and industrial technologies to help build resilient, sustainable communities.

Daniel holds an undergraduate and graduate degree in business and accounting, with honors, from Montana State University. He started his professional career at KPMG, an internationally recognized accounting firm, as an auditor. In this position he was able to gain insight into a vast array of companies. After KPMG, he worked at Waste Connections, which owns and operates Alaska Waste, as a District Controller. At Waste Connections, he was able to further his knowledge of regulated utilities, as well as build his business and financial acumen. Daniel holds an active Certified Public Account license through the Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy, as well as a Financial Modeling and Valuation Analyst certificate from the Corporate Finance Institute.

Daniel lives in Eagle River with his wife, Riley, three blocks up the street from the house she was born and raised in. Together they have two young boys, who are fourth-generation Alaskans.



Keegan Fritts

Eagle River District Board Seat Candidate

Content below is published exactly as submitted by the candidate.

Why I Wish to Serve

I wish to serve in the Eagle River seat on the Matanuska Electric Board of Directors because this community has shaped who I am, and I believe in giving back through steady, practical leadership. Having grown up in Eagle River, I understand the importance of reliable, affordable power to families, small businesses, and essential services—especially in Alaska’s demanding environment.

My professional background in oil and gas and work with Alaska Native corporations has given me experience in large-scale operations, fiscal responsibility, regulatory environments, and long-term infrastructure planning. I understand the balance between maintaining dependable generation today while responsibly preparing for tomorrow’s energy landscape.

As a member of this community, I care deeply about transparency, accountability, and member-focused governance. Electric cooperatives exist to serve their members, and I am committed to thoughtful decision-making that prioritizes safety, affordability, and system reliability. I also value collaboration—working respectfully with fellow board members, management, and the community to ensure strong oversight and strategic direction.

Serving on the Board would be an opportunity to contribute practical experience, local perspective, and a steady commitment to the long-term strength of Eagle River and the cooperative we rely on every day.

Eagle River District Board Candidate

Biography

Keegan Fritts is a 42-year-old lifelong Alaskan who has called Eagle River home since the age of four. Born at Providence Hospital and raised on his families homestead in Skwentna, Alaska for the first 4 years of his life.

He is a proud product of the Eagle River community, having attended Eagle River Elementary, Gruening Middle School, and Chugiak High School. Growing up in Southcentral Alaska shaped his values of hard work, accountability, and service—principles that continue to guide both his professional and community leadership today.

Keegan was actively involved in youth and high school athletics, playing hockey for the Mustang Blue Devils and competing at the high school level. Team sports instilled in him a strong sense of discipline, collaboration, and perseverance—skills he carries into every role he undertakes.

He remains deeply connected to Alaska’s cultural and community traditions. Keegan upholds the coordination and legacy of the Skwentna Checkpoint for the Iditarod Trail Committee, honoring the longstanding contributions of the late Joe and Norma Delia. This role reflects his commitment to stewardship, volunteerism, and preserving Alaska’s history for future generations.

Professionally, Keegan brings extensive experience in oil and gas and has worked across both regional and village-level Alaska Native Corporations. His areas of expertise include Department of Defense contract management, logistics, compliance, and operational oversight. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of a village corporation in the Bristol Bay region, where he is responsible for strategic leadership, organizational growth, and community-focused decision-making.

Keegan is actively enrolled in the ANELP MBA Certificate program at Alaska Pacific University, continuing his commitment to lifelong learning and leadership development in service of Alaska Native communities.

It would be an honor for Keegan to serve as a representative for the Eagle River community. He respectfully asks for the support of his fellow MEA members and looks forward to contributing his experience, integrity, and dedication on behalf of the people he has proudly called neighbors for nearly four decades.

Quyana Cakneq,
Keegan Fritts

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(<https://mea.smarthub.coop/Login.html>)
to switch to paperless settings or contact
Member Services at 907-761-9300 for assistance.



www.mea.coop



meacontact@mea.coop



**PO Box 2929
Palmer, AK 99645**



Palmer

163 E. Industrial Way
(907) 761-9300
Outages: 746-POWR (7697)

Eagle River

11623 Aurora Street
(907) 694-2161
Outages: 696-POWR (7697)

Wasilla

1401 S. Seward Meridian
Parkway
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