

March 2012

The Kilowatt COURIER

HEA Homer Electric
Association, Inc.
A Cooperative Energy Organization

A NEW LOOK FOR A NEW YEAR

Homer Electric is excited to launch our new look for our member newsletter, the *Kilowatt Courier*. At home and at a business, it is a pivotal time when conservation and efficiency are highly valued and practiced. The new full-color, one-page style allows for a more cost effective way to bring you the latest Homer Electric news without sacrificing quality. In addition, Homer Electric communicates to members through its online presence on the HEA website, blog, Facebook and LinkedIn job postings. We realize that every effort to cut costs – large and small – impacts our members' rates. 🌱

PREPARE FOR HEA DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In preparation for the upcoming Homer Electric director elections, please remember to update any member information and signatures on file with HEA prior to voting. Ballots will be mailed on March 30 and must be received by mail to the Election Teller no later than May 2.

Only members of the cooperative can vote for the director residing in their district. The member(s)' names are indicated on the address label on the business reply envelope. The HEA member(s)' signature on file will then be used to validate each ballot received. If the member signature does not match the one on file, the ballot will be voided. For example, if you signed your member card 20 years ago and know that your signature has changed over the years, please update your signature on file.

When returning your ballot, please use the business-reply envelope provided and seal your envelope correctly. Do not tear the perforated portion of 24872002 the envelope as this is a privacy flap to ensure confidentiality of your personal name, address and signature.

Mail-in ballots will be eligible for several energy credit prizes which will be drawn at the annual meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: MAY 3, 2012

Homer Electric's annual membership meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, at Homer High School. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m.

HEA will provide complimentary sandwiches, chips and sodas from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. when the business meeting starts. This is a great opportunity to meet Homer Electric's general manager, board of directors, staff, director candidates and learn more about the valuable member programs and services offered by Homer Electric. Attendance door prizes include several energy credits which will be drawn during the business meeting. 🌱



BUDGET BILLING PROGRAM: EVENS OUT HIGHS & LOWS

If you're like most people, you tend to use more electricity in the winter months than in the summer. Do you want to simplify your bill paying and even out your electric payments? To help avoid the high and low billing cycles due to seasonal fluctuations, Homer Electric offers a valuable program to help its members. Contact our member service department to enroll in the Budget Billing Program.

Homer Electric's Budget Billing Program charges a set amount each month with a "true up" bill each spring. You will still pay for the actual amount of energy used, but the costs will be spread evenly over a 12-month period. It allows you to budget a more stable amount to cover your electric bill, especially if your bills are usually higher in the winter. 40359001 This helps eliminate the high and low billing swings due to seasonal fluctuations. This is also an ideal program for seasonal members who use auto draft services to pay their electric bill.

The enrollment period for this program is only open in March and April of each year. For more information and to enroll, please contact a member service representative. 🌱

CONNECTING WITH MORE MEMBERS IN MORE WAYS

Wikipedia defines the term "social media" to include web-based and mobile technologies used to turn communication into interactive dialogue. In addition to Homer Electric's monthly newsletter and website, your cooperative has taken proactive steps to connect with more members outside of our traditional means of communication.

- You can "like" us on Facebook and receive automatic outage notifications and detailed information on the power interruptions.
- We encourage you to visit our WiseWatts blog at homerelectric.blogspot.com and learn more about energy efficiency and conservation.
- Homer Electric also has a company page and profile on LinkedIn.com where you can find latest job openings.
- And in addition to our printed monthly newsletter, the *Kilowatt Courier*, Homer Electric emails an electronic news blitz, called *Watt's New*, on the latest events and topics impacting the membership.

Homer Electric looks forward to your participation and feedback as we incorporate these new communication platforms.

But being electronically connected still doesn't replace the person-to-person interaction we enjoy with our members. **Times change, but our values remain.** We continue to be committed to that personal connection with our members through our annual community meetings, annual membership meeting, Member Appreciation Days, Energy & Conservation fairs, 24438001 speaking at local organizations such as the Chambers of Commerce and Rotary, participating in Kenai Peninsula United Way, student Job Shadow days, Kenai Peninsula Builders Home Show, Homer's Ski for Free day, Relay for Life, and most recently, hosting a blood drive in honor of an HEA employee. 🇺🇸

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Homer Electric likes to keep its members informed about the financial status of their electric cooperative. Each month in the *Kilowatt Courier* newsletter there is a brief overview of important financial statistics.

Homer Electric finished the month of December 2011 with a total asset base of \$205.6 million. Year-to-date operating revenue was \$76.8 million and total cost of electric service (operating expense) was \$74.8 million bringing net operating margins to \$2.0 million through December 31, 2011. This chart is a breakdown of key financial indicators for 2011 as compared to 2010. 🇺🇸

For the Year Ended	December 31, 2011 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2010
Operating Revenue	\$76.8 million	\$65.2 million
Cost of Purchased Power	\$45.7 million	\$36.1 million
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$74.8 million	\$64.5 million
Operating Margins	\$2.0 million	\$0.7 million
Total Kilowatt Hours Sold	475 million kWh	470 million kWh
Total Number of Meters	32,201	31,829
Total Miles of Energized Line	2,368	2,358

WATT'S COOKIN': GLUTEN-FREE IRISH SODA BREAD

*Searching for recipes for a gluten-free diet can be challenging during the holidays.

Here is one for our gluten-free friends for Saint Patrick's Day.

1 ½ cups white rice flour	1 teaspoon baking powder
½ cup tapioca flour	1 teaspoon salt
½ cup white sugar	1 egg
1 teaspoon baking soda	1 cup buttermilk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 inch round cake pan. Combine the rice flour, tapioca flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk together egg and buttermilk. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and pour in the wet. Stir just until the dry ingredients are moistened. Pour into the cake pan. Bake for 65 minutes in the preheated oven, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes before removing from the pan. Wrap bread in plastic wrap or aluminum foil and let stand overnight for the best flavor. 🇺🇸

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS
Every month three randomly chosen account numbers are hidden in the *Kilowatt Courier*. If you find yours, call 235-3338 and you'll receive a \$50 credit in your next bill.

CURRENT RESIDENTIAL RATES

As of January 1, 2012

All Residential Customers

Energy charge = 11.814 cents/kWh
Minimum energy charge = \$17.72
Customer charge = \$15.00

Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA)

5.103 cents per kWh*

(*Subject to change on a quarterly basis.)

See www.homerelectric.com for commercial rates and more details on HEA's rate redesign.

BOARD of DIRECTORS & MANAGER

Debbie Debnam, President
262-9277

Alan Bute, Vice President
776-8815

Dick Waisanen, Sec/Treasurer
262-6298

Jim Levine, Deputy Secretary
299-0323

Kelly Bookey, Director
398-7283

Bill Fry, Director
235-8484

Ed Oberts, Director
398-8039

Bill Warren, Director
776-8551

Mike Wiley, Director
262-7198

Brad Janorschke, General Manager
283-5831

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