



Alaska Power Association Accounting & Finance Workshop

*“Develop electric utility accounting and finance personnel
through training and networking”*

Oct. 7-8, 2024

The Megan Room, 6591 A St., Anchorage, AK 99518

Sponsored by:

CoBank, CFC, NISC, and Alrich CPAs + Advisors

Monday, October 7, 2024

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:15 a.m. Opening Remarks
Crystal Enkvist – Executive Director, Alaska Power Association

8:30 a.m. Introductions & Ice Breakers
Terri Harper – CFO, I-N-N Electric Cooperative

9:00 a.m. **Electric Utility History**
Dustin Highers – VP of Corporate Programs, Chugach Electric Association
Matt Reisterer – CFO, Matanuska Electric Association

Participants will learn the history of two Railbelt cooperatives serving southcentral Alaska. This will provide a greater understanding of electric cooperatives, in general, and the background leading up to the current landscape and challenges our utilities are facing.

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. **Who Does What? Org Charts w/ Facilitator Sarah Lambe**
Jeremy Brockman – GL Supervisor, Matanuska Electric Association
Paul Millwood – VP of Finance & Accounting, Chugach Electric Association
Sarah Lambe – CFO, Homer Electric Association
Lindsay Malone – Finance Manager, Copper Valley Electric Association
Kathryn Strle – Controller, Golden Valley Electric Association

The saying goes, “When you’ve seen one cooperative, you’ve seen one cooperative!” This session reviews various finance department structures from small to large cooperatives. Participants will see how duties can be fluid between different positions depending on the organization. Participants will also identify their counterparts in attendance at the conference.

11:00 am. **Tax Credits, Grants & Single Audit w/ Facilitator Emma Merritt**
Julie Desimone – Partner, Moss Adams

This session will cover the current tax credit and grant landscape and provide guidance on preparing for a single audit.

12:00 p.m. Lunch



12:30 p.m. **Interdepartmental Communication & Time Management w/ Introductions by Emma Merritt**

Paula Bradison – Owner & CEO, PeopleAK
Brooke Kuempel – Executive Consultant, PeopleAK

This two-hour interactive session will cover communication between departments.

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. **Scared Straight: AI & Phishing w/ Facilitator Sarah Lambe**

John Jungling – Chief Technology Officer, Homer Electric Association

Cyber security presentation covering AI, and phishing.

3:45 p.m. **Lending Panel Jeopardy! w/ Facilitator Sherri Highers**

Rob Carr – Regional Vice President, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC)
Graham Kaiser – Relationship Manager for Power, Energy & Utilities, CoBank
Rodney Peach – Electric General Field Representative, USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

Time to put the bankers in the spotlight! This panel puts CFC, CoBank, and RUS in the hot seat, with questions regarding the current economic and lending environment.

4:45 p.m. Wrap-up

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:15 a.m. **Internal Controls & Fraud Panel w/ Facilitator Emma Merritt**

Newspaper Articles – Breakout Groups
Kate Melander – Senior Assurance Associate, BDO

In this interactive session participants will review a number of fraud cases that have happened right here in Alaska and discuss internal controls or considerations that might have prevented them. BDO will close the session and discuss internal controls from an auditing perspective.

9:00 a.m. **Accounting 101: Cross Training, Procedures & Goals w/ Facilitator Lindsay Malone**

Lindsay Malone – Finance Manager, Copper Valley Electric Association
Ashley Vecellio – Accounting Manager, Homer Electric Association
Roxanne Drake-Burkhart – Controller, Inside Passage Electric Cooperative

Mid-level management will provide a summary of the unique accounting challenges and practices specific to electric utilities.

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. **Breakout Sessions w/ Facilitator Terri Harper**

1. PCE – Terri Harper, CFO, I-N-N Electric Cooperative
2. Month End Closing – Martina Ryan, Controller, Matanuska Electric Association
3. Capital Credits – Julia Clymer, Controller, Homer Electric Association

Attendees get to choose a breakout session to attend.

11:15 a.m. **Summarize Points from Breakout Session (~15 minutes per group)**

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. **Professional Conduct w/ Facilitator Jaime Matthews**

Emma Merritt – CFO, Cordova Electric Cooperative

Jaime Matthews – CEO, Copper Valley Electric Association

Paul Millwood – VP of Finance & Accounting, Chugach Electric Association

This session includes a panel featuring a large, medium, and small utility describing what professionalism looks like at their utility and how they cultivate a professional work environment.

1:45 p.m. **Tech Session: Excel, Word & Business Intelligence Tools w/ Facilitator Sarah Villalon**

Patrick Dolan – Cash & Capital Credits Supervisor, Golden Valley Electric Association

Phil Cross – Economic & Forecasting Analyst, Homer Electric Association

Experts share features of Microsoft Excel, Word, and Business Intelligence Tools.

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. **Software Migration Lessons Learned Panel**

Sarah Villalon – CFO, Golden Valley Electric Association

Josh Travis – VP of Administrative Services, Chugach Electric Association

Join Golden Valley Electric Association and Chugach Electric Association as they share their software migration journeys.

3:30 p.m. Wrap-up

**Agenda and speakers are subject to change without notice*