

**INSIDE PASSAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
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### **IPEC HOLDS 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

Inside Passage Electric Cooperative held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in Angoon on May 9, 2025. We had a lower turnout than normal with 44 members registered, however, in 2021 IPEC amended its bylaws due to COVID allowing mail in ballots to count toward quorum. With the 125 mail in ballots we had 169 members which met our quorum requirements of 50 members.

We tried something different this year by having Michael Rovito with the Alaska Power Association Emcee our annual meeting. Mr. Rovito did an outstanding job and provided a new wrinkle by including some trivia questions to the mix. IPEC provided bags of rice, flour, canning jars, bottled water and folding camp chairs for those who answered the trivia questions correctly. This kept the audience engaged and provided some fun in return. IPEC has already invited Michael back in 2026 when we are in Kake. IPEC also thanks our Special Guest Rob Carr from CFC for attending our annual meeting this year.

Floyd Jim won the two seat round trip airfare courtesy of Alaska Seaplanes. Kara James won \$300 cash courtesy of Chatham Electric, IPEC's contracted line crew. Jesse Daniels won the \$250 gift card from IPEC. John Howard Jr. won the battery courtesy of NC Machinery whom we purchase parts for our generators. Lyndsey Fredrickson and Kevin Frank each won a meter surge protector from IPEC including free installation (\$150 value). Annie Braley and Mike Fred each won a \$100 Visa gift card from IPEC's legal counsel Kempffel, Huffman & Ellis. Alberta Meyers and Maxine Thompson each won \$100 cash from IPEC's auditors Moody, Mickelsen, Rowley and Adamson. Albert Kookesh III, Sunnie Duncan and Mike Pitka each won \$50 cash from

*(IPEC annual meeting continued page 2 column 2 next page)*

### **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**

In 2023 at the suggestion from Angoon Director Elaine Jack, the IPEC Board of Directors implemented a High School Scholarship program for High School Seniors in each of IPEC's five service areas. This means that communities do not compete against each other. A total of \$5,000 is available, \$1,000 per community. Students need to complete an application, provide a high school academic transcript, provide three letters of recommendation (one from a teacher or counselor, one from a community member, and one from a personal reference), write a 500 word essay which includes a personal history and what they plan to do with their college degree.

The first year in 2023, \$1,000 was awarded to Cheyenne Kookesh from Angoon, \$1,000 to Phoenix Jacobson from the Chilkat Valley, and \$1,000 to Mamie Crookes from Kake. In 2024, a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Kyle Johnson Jr. from Angoon. In 2025, a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Richard (RJ) Didrickson Jr. from Hoonah.

### **POTENTIAL CHANGES TO LIHEAP PROGRAM**

There could be changes to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at the federal level. These changes could affect the amount of energy assistance funding available this winter. IPEC will not know for sure until late fall, what exactly the changes will be or how it might affect the energy assistance individual families may receive. We want to make you aware and encourage everyone to make plans now in case the funding is reduced. Now is the time to make sure you have a reliable heat source to avoid using plug in electric heaters (which use a lot of energy) this winter.

## THAYER CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN ANGOON

Phase I of the Thayer Creek Hydroelectric project in Angoon, was awarded to Rock N Road Construction out of Petersburg. A total of three bids were submitted for this phase of the project which includes a marine landing, staging area and approximately one mile of road. Other bids were received from Dawson Construction and Duwamish Services LLC. Rock N Road was the contractor that built the Gunnuk Creek hydro project in Kake that was completed in October of 2020.

Thayer Creek is an 825 kW run of the river hydro project. Angoon's peak demand was 311 kW in 2024 which means this project is more than capable of handling Angoon's electrical needs. It's taken many years and collaboration with many organizations for this project to come to fruition. Once the project is completed it will be the first hydro project in IPEC's five service areas that will handle the entire electrical load for the community. This means diesels will be off for the majority of the time except for routine maintenance or unforeseen circumstances. IPEC will maintain the project and the current diesel plant will serve as backup in case the hydro plant goes offline for some reason. The Thayer hydro project is estimated to take four years to complete.

(Thayer Creek photo courtesy of Michael Rovito)



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IPEC's State lobbyist Dianne Blumer, Levi Johnson, Ed Kookesh Jr., and Lawrence Nelson each won a \$50 Amazon gift card from CFC, IPEC's financing company. Alicia Jack and Gina Jim each won 25 gallons of diesel fuel delivered, and Stella Estrada won 10 gallons of gas courtesy of Angoon Oil. Other Angoon members also won prizes from Sealaska, T & H Regional Housing Authority, NC Machinery, Petro Marine, Central Council, and Temsco Helicopters.

Elaine Jack received 130 votes for the Angoon District and Larry Beck received 112 votes for the Chilkat Valley District. Both were re-elected for a three year term. The 2024 annual meeting minutes were approved with 132 votes in favor and 16 opposed. IPEC extend its thanks to our ballot counters Frankie Perry from the Chilkat Valley, Lisa Andersson from Hoonah and Chenara Johnson from Angoon. We also extend our thanks to Paul Jones from Kemppele, Huffman and Ellis, IPEC's legal counsel for overseeing the ballot counting process and for attending our annual meeting this year.



(Photo courtesy of Josh Bowen Angoon Lead Operator)

## CAPITAL CREDITS

Capital credits are a unique benefit of being a member of IPEC, a non-profit electric cooperative. Capital credits represent a portion of IPEC's operating margins (profits) that are allocated to members based on their kWh energy usage. This means that our members have an ownership stake in IPEC, your cooperative. These allocated capital credits are later returned to members when IPEC's financial condition allows and are approved for retirement by the board of directors.

Statements are being mailed to each member in mid-July detailing how much in capital credits you have. This does not mean that you will be receiving a check for the full amount. Retirements will be made based on a first in, first out basis. The IPEC board will meet later this year to determine how much to retire in capital credits beginning with the 2005 calendar year. If you have questions about your capital credits, please contact Roxanne Drake-Burkhart at 1-800-478-3198 ext. 3022.