President’s Report

a. We would like members to consider volunteering on one of our chapter committees.
   i. Activities Committee
   ii. Bylaws Committee
   iii. Budget Committee
   iv. Chapter Steward Committee
   v. Elections Committee
   vi. Steering Committee
   vii. Next Wave Committee

b. The State Executive Board and our Executive Director are addressing the recent opinion of the AG regarding dues.

c. The State Executive Board during the September 3-4, 2019 meeting is not aligning with the Recall Dunleavy movement, however, the board will continue to consider what position to take on this issue. If you would like to be involved in political decisions that benefit our members, please join the Political Action Committee (PAC) and consider contributing funds to that special committee, as no dues monies is used for political purposes: only protecting our negotiated contract which is non-partisan.

d. Brief discussion on member’s who drop our union: non-members will still have health insurance and still have the benefits of our negotiated contract. The obvious problem with members dropping is reduced funds to enforce our contract, represent members, and maintain business functions. As plenty of our members have experienced, ASEA staff would be asked to do the same amount of work with less funds and could see a point of requiring layoffs – so less staff still required to do the same amount of work. I know many of us can relate to that. Also, we lose our negotiating power and in this political climate it is imperative that we stand strong for every member across all of Alaska. Bottom line, the dues structure is roughly 1% of your wage. We just received a 3% wage increase this year (among increased employer contributions to health care, no furlough, and no 40 hour work week). If you were to only consider the COLA we just got, if you take out the 1% we pay, you still got a 2% wage increase. It is factually and mathematically beneficial to pay your 1% in dues because you still got an extra 2% in exchange this year, and over the life of this contract you will pay 1% and get 4%. I can guarantee you our contract was only successful because we had almost 90% membership rate at the time, and that is a powerful force at the bargaining table. If our numbers drop, so does our power.