

On December 3, AEA's Communications Committee held its annual new member dinner at UAA's The Den. Over 100 new AEA members, officers, board members, committee chairs, and staff met at UAA's The Den to welcome the new members to the Association. "It was an enjoyable informative evening, during which our newest members were able to visit with various building representatives and network with each other. They also got to enjoy a tasty meal and have the opportunity to win some substantial prizes," said President Jim Lepley.

In addition to formally welcoming the new members, the dinner provided an opportunity for new members to learn about the benefits offered by AEA/NEA-AK, evaluation procedures, AEA committees, and the NEA-AK Health Trust.

Following a brief presentation on benefits, the new members met with board members and veteran members, giving the new members an opportunity to share how their year was going and to ask questions.

The evening closed with several drawing and two grand prizes for \$450.00 each (half the yearly dues). The grand prize winners were Laurie Hebert from Begich and Frances Lucas from Romig.

"It was great to see so many enthusiastic people gathered in one place. My thanks to AEA and all of my tablemates for the wonderful conversation," said Service High Building Rep. Joe DeSimone.