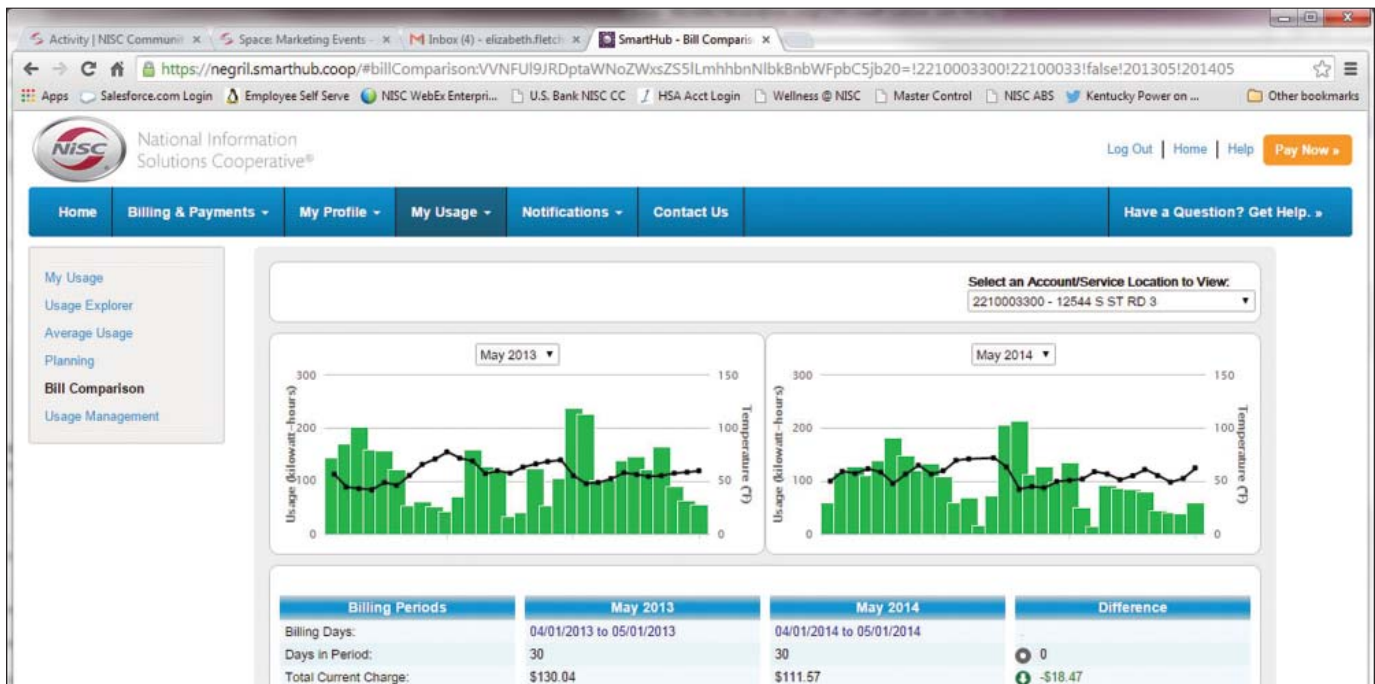


## Take Control of Your Electric Account with SmartHub



You may have heard about SmartHub, Copper Valley Electric Association's innovative tool for account management, but **what can it do for you?** SmartHub can help you take control of your electric usage and your CVEA account like never before.

SmartHub offers a variety of user-friendly features that make managing your account simple and straightforward. Whether on a computer, your smartphone, or a tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, monitor your electric usage, contact customer service, and much more.

As soon as you log in, you'll see your current bill and be able to make a payment with just a couple of clicks—or taps, if you're using the app! You'll also be able to view bills from previous months, or even previous years, if you want to compare costs. Not only can you access your billing history, you'll also be able to view your actual electric usage. You can easily see how your usage is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your bill.

Paying your CVEA bill through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment, you can choose to securely

store your payment information for future transactions. After that, payments can be made with a few quick clicks.

You also have the option to receive account notifications from SmartHub. Upon logging in to the SmartHub website, you'll be able to select if and how you want to be notified about your account activity, including via email or text message.

Want to get the latest news and information from CVEA? Stay connected with us through SmartHub. With the SmartHub news feed, you'll get the latest news, updates, and more from CVEA, all without leaving the app or the web page.

Access SmartHub by visiting [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org) or by downloading the app to your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).

Please contact CVEA at 907-822-3211 for additional information! ■



SmartHub Feed  
Manage Contacts  
Manage Notifications

### Manage Notifications

Use this page to sign up for notifications about activity on your billing account. Expand the notification heading to see all available notifications for that type.

#### ☑ Billing

[Close X](#)

To choose how to be contacted for Cutoff Notice notifications drag the account numbers to the box for the contact method you wish to be notified by. You can drag an account to multiple contact methods by dragging it from the available bucket into the first contact method, then again from the available bucket into the second contact method.

Available Accounts	(319) 538-2212: (SMS)
2429000510 - 9046 W STATE ROAD 46	2429000510 - 9046 W STATE ROAD 46
	duckydoll82@gmail.com: (E-Mail)
	michelle.hansen@nisc.coop: (E-Mail)

[Save](#)

Select All

Critical Peak Alert

This is a notification to inform you when your power usage is outside a certain threshold

Peak Time Alert

This is a notification to inform you when a Peak Time Event has been scheduled

Power Usage Alert

This is a notification to inform you when your power usage is outside a certain threshold

(319) 538-2212

[Options](#)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Enter e-mail address & password to login**

E-Mail Address

Password

[Login](#)

[Can't access your account?](#)  
[New User? Sign up to access our Self Service site.](#)

Version: 4.0.7

Powered By **smart hub**



## Get Involved In Your Electric Cooperative

### Board of Directors Candidates Wanted

Join a dedicated group of community members who work on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all CVEA members.

Two director seats will be up for election in 2017; these seats are currently held by Mary Odden in the Copper Basin and Jeff Saxe in Valdez.

As a CVEA director, you can help make decisions that impact your neighbors and friends, the folks up and down the t-line, and all cooperative members.

The Board meets once a month, normally on the third Thursday, for regular board meetings and often for special meetings or work sessions. Directors may also travel to participate in statewide and national meetings.

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continuous months, are a member in good standing, and are not an employee or close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications.

In order for a member to become a candidate, they must be nominated by petition. Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by 5 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2017.

For more information on the election, please stop by CVEA for an application packet and petition.

### CVEA Bylaws Amendment Deadline

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2017 ballot by filing a petition with the Board

of Directors that has been signed by at least 10 percent of the membership at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Please submit any amendments by petition prior to 5 p.m. Friday, January 13, 2017. Petitions may be submitted to either the Glennallen or Valdez office.

A copy of CVEA Bylaws can be picked up at either office or referenced online at [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

### Help Wanted for Credentials and Election Committees

A very important part of the annual meeting election process is the Credentials and Election Committee.

The people who serve are responsible for validating the signatures on the back of the envelopes and counting the ballots for Director elections and Bylaws amendments.

In each district, the Committee is comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates or relatives of these persons.

The Board will appoint committee members for each district in February. Service on the Credentials and Election Committees takes place during March and April, with most of the work performed the week prior to the meeting.

In 2017, the annual meeting is scheduled for May 2 in the Copper Basin District and May 4 in the Valdez District.

### The CVEA Community Foundation Scholarship Selection and Contributions Committees Need You

The CVEA Community Foundation is doing great things in our communities. The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes; providing scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific and charitable organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue Code.

If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, the Foundation Committees are for you.

The Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct interviews, and select who will be awarded scholarships. These committees will meet during the month of April in 2017.

The Foundation Contributions Committee reviews contribution requests from all local non-profit organizations, scores them, and makes funding recommendations to the Foundation Board of Directors. This work is fun and rewarding. If you are interested, plan on participation in September.

Each of these committees requires attendance at three or four meetings, and are estimated to take up to 15 hours.

If you have questions, or would like more information on CVEA or the CVEA Community Foundation, Bylaws amendments, or you would like to volunteer for the C&E or Foundation Scholarship or Contributions Committees, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or send an email to [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■



## CVEA Spotlight - Josh Geldersma



Josh Geldersma is a Plant Operator at the diesel plant in Glennallen, a position he's held since starting at CVEA in May 2013. According to his supervisor, CVEA Production Manager Wayne McKinzey, "Josh is known for his sense of humor and for his ability to improvise. He is used to living in a remote community with limited resources and always finds a way to accomplish a task safely. He is a pleasure to work with and a key contributor to the team."

In order to highlight Josh, we recently asked him a few questions.

**Q. What do you do in your position?**

**A.** I help operate and maintain the Glennallen Diesel Plant.

**Q. What things do you do outside of your typical job duties?**

**A.** We all pitch in when needed at CVEA. If someone needs a hand; I have two, and I am willing to help.

**Q. What things do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A.** I enjoy snow machining, fishing, hunting, rafting, and hanging out with my family; wife Alyson and daughter Addalynn.

**Q. When should members call on you?**

**A.** Members can call on me when they need anything; I will help them if I can.

**Q. What is one little known fact about you?**

**A.** I was born in the Copper Basin.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** The biggest project at CVEA since I started has been the completion of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project.

**Q. What do you like most about living in the Copper Basin?**

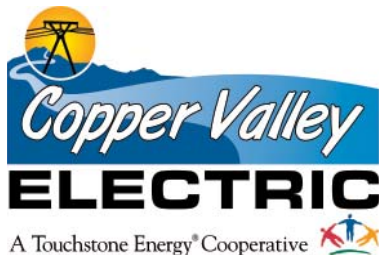
**A.** I have always loved the peace and quiet of the area.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I like that it's a good job and I work with good people. I also like that it is close to home.

**Q. What about your job or the cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I am proud of the people that work for CVEA; a lot goes on to keep the lights on. ■



## Cooperative Month at Copper Valley Electric



In October, CVEA joined cooperatives in Alaska and across America to celebrate National Cooperative Month. Every October cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique; the Seven Cooperative Principles: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

"Cooperatives are special," says Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and be involved in and enhance our communities."

CVEA celebrated this year's Cooperative Month with events throughout October that brought the cooperative and community together.

Co-op Month kicked off with the opening of CVEA's 10th Annual Ruralite Cover Photo Contest. Winners receive \$100 per winning photo and are showcased in Ruralite, on CVEA's website and Facebook page, and with local media outlets. The contest received 40 entries from 9 local photographers. After CVEA employees judged the photos, the winners were announced and are highlighted on pg. 32 of this issue.

In true cooperative spirit, CVEA and CV Telecom partnered on a successful food drive October 17-28. Thanks to members' donations, your local Cooperatives were able to bring

575 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Food Bank in Valdez and a large amount of food to the Copper River Native Association Food Bank and Crisis Pregnancy Center in Glennallen; giving both organizations the ability to provide extra assistance to their clients as we head into winter.

People who brought food were rewarded with an entry into a drawing for a \$100 CVEA energy credit. The Copper Basin winner was Jessica Smith and the Valdez winner was Gloria McAlister!

Co-op Month wrapped up with the 2016 Halloween Downtown Spooktacular events on Monday, October 31, which were a HUGE success in both districts. Approximately 450 kids in Valdez and over 150 kids in Glennallen, joined by their adult friends and family, hit the streets in search of candy and fun; and they found it.

This year CVEA turned the offices into a super hero city, offered five treat stops, a free string backpack perfect for the kids' Halloween candy haul, and a cool super hero photo booth, complete with a printed photo to take home.

CVEA wasn't alone as several businesses went beyond candy and had fun decorations and activities. A record number of businesses participated in CVEA's event in Glennallen. According to CVEA COO Travis Million, "fun was had by all and CVEA was pleased to work with the community businesses in Glennallen to create a fun, safe, and easy to access trick or treating experience for kids young and old."

When CVEA employees weren't decorating or dressing up as super heroes, they actually were heroes volunteering their lunch hours each week throughout the month of October processing recyclables at the Recycling Our Areas Resources Recycling Center in downtown Glennallen. CVEA employees generously donate their time to this cause each October during Co-op Month.

Congratulations to the CVEA winners and a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the CVEA Co-op Month events this year. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding Co-op Month or any other CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■



Opposite page, Glennallen office employees all dressed up for the Halloween Spooktacular

Top left, CVEA employees at the ROAR center in Glennallen

Top right, employees in the Valdez office got into the Halloween Spooktacular spirit in the Super Hero themed photo booth

Middle left, the Ungers pausing for a photo at the photo booth in Valdez

Middle, a stack of non-perishable food items donated by CVEA members in the Copper Basin before distribution

Middle right, Cindy Unger, of CVEA, and Joanne Winney and Colt Radigan, of CV Telecom, stop for a photo while delivering food gathered during the Co-op Month Food Drive

Bottom left, CVEA employees processing recycled aluminum cans at the recycling center

Bottom middle, Misty Rude making a food delivery to Sue Roscovious at the Glennallen Pregnancy Center

Bottom right, the Incredibles stopped in the CVEA office in Glennallen for a quick photo opportunity during the Halloween Spooktacular.....wondering the real identity of this masked super hero family?



**Board of Directors**

Paul Kildal, President  
 Lon Rake, Vice President  
 Mary Odden, Secretary  
 Will Stark, Treasurer  
 Brad Honerlaw, Director  
 Jeff Saxe, Director  
 Dan Stowe, Director  
 Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
 Glennallen, AK 99588  
 www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**

(907) 822-3211  
 (907) 822-5586 (fax)  
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**

(907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**

(866) 835-2832

**Important Dates - 2016**

**December**

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, December 15, 2016, in Glennallen

**CVEA Offices Closed:**

The CVEA offices will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26, 2016, for the Christmas Holiday, and Friday, December 30, 2016, for New Year's Eve

**January**

**CVEA Offices Closed:**

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, January 2, 2017, for the New Year's Holiday

**CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition**

**Deadline:** Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted by petition no later than 5 p.m. Friday, January 13, 2017

**CVEA Board Meeting:**

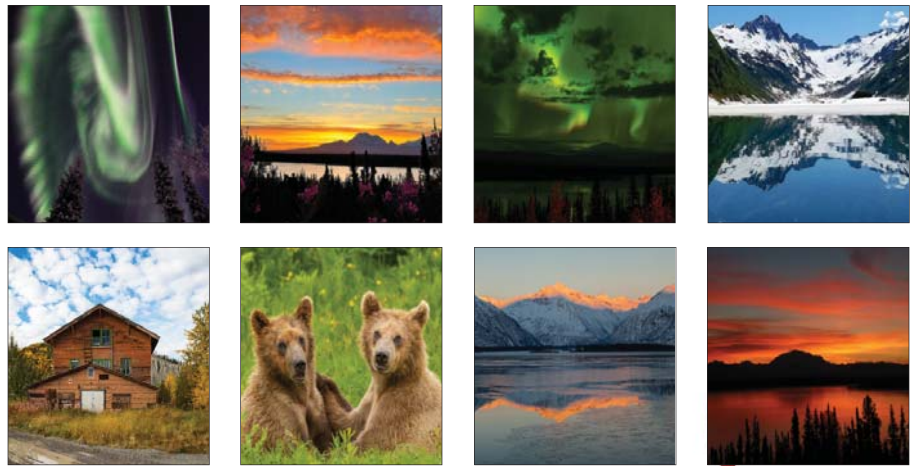
The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 19, 2017, in Valdez

AK-34

# Happy Holidays

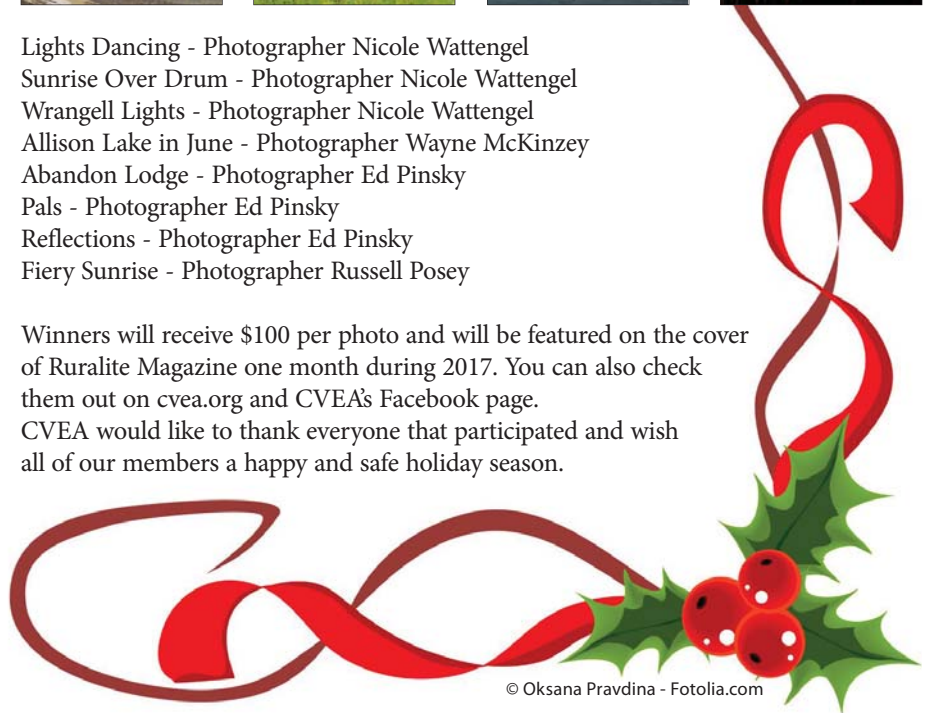
**Ruralite Cover Photo Contest Winners**

Congratulations to the winners of the 10th Annual Ruralite Cover Photo Contest. Eight winning photos were chosen from 40 entries.



- Lights Dancing - Photographer Nicole Wattengel
- Sunrise Over Drum - Photographer Nicole Wattengel
- Wrangell Lights - Photographer Nicole Wattengel
- Allison Lake in June - Photographer Wayne McKinzey
- Abandon Lodge - Photographer Ed Pinsky
- Pals - Photographer Ed Pinsky
- Reflections - Photographer Ed Pinsky
- Fierly Sunrise - Photographer Russell Posey

Winners will receive \$100 per photo and will be featured on the cover of Ruralite Magazine one month during 2017. You can also check them out on cvea.org and CVEA's Facebook page. CVEA would like to thank everyone that participated and wish all of our members a happy and safe holiday season.



© Oksana Pravdina - Fotolia.com



## CVEA Celebrates the Completion of Allison Creek



Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) continues to work toward its vision to reduce or eliminate the Cooperative's dependence on fossil fuel and to stabilize the cost of generation with regional, sustainable resources.

CVEA believes hydropower is the most viable and cost-effective renewable resource and has continued to aggressively move the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project forward since efforts began in 2008.

On Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at roughly 1:45 p.m., CVEA President Paul Kildal flipped the switch during a powerhouse dedication, officially moving the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project from construction to commercial power generation.

On this historic day, the Cooperative was joined by a group of roughly 60 people, including Governor Bill Walker, Senator John Coghill, Mayor Ruthie Knight, current and past CVEA Board Members, and several key project contributors, to celebrate the completion of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project.

The group enjoyed tours of the powerhouse, through the tunnel, and up the mountain to the diversion structure, as well as a commissioning ceremony and powerhouse dedication.

CVEA COO, Travis Million, delivered an informative presentation that outlined the major components and specialized nature of the project as well as challenges the project encountered along the way. His presentation was followed by an upbeat

video capturing moments from the start of the project to the finish, and congratulatory remarks from Walker, Coghill, and Knight.

During the powerhouse dedication that followed the ceremony, Million unveiled a stainless steel plaque containing names of key contributors, and each were presented with a commemorative 'key to the project'.

The celebration came after a very busy construction season that included installation of the remaining 36 pieces of penstock, construction of the final 17 percent of the diversion structure, completion of the communications building at the diversion structure, tie-in of the electrical and communications from the powerhouse to the diversion structure, sending water through the penstock, performing turbine and generator checks and tests, and training CVEA Operators to run the new power plant.

The 6.5 megawatt hydroelectric project will bring the cooperative one step closer to its vision. The project promises to displace 725,000 gallons of fuel annually, eliminate 12,000 tons of emissions each year, allow Solomon Gulch Lake to store more water going into the winter, generate 15 million kWhs to increase CVEA's renewable energy portfolio from 55-69 percent of total generation requirements, and provide benefits for generations to come.





For detailed information and photos of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project, visit the award-winning Allison Creek website at <http://allisoncreekhydro.cveahydro.org> or visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) and click the Allison Creek logo. If you have questions please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■

**Opposite, aerial view of the diversion structure in Allison Creek**  
**Top left, President Kildal and COO Million presenting a 'key to the project' to Governor Walker**  
**Top middle, completed diversion structure with view of the penstock before it was buried**  
**Top right, CVEA Lobbyist Larry Markley with COO Million at the ceremony**  
**Middle left, group photo of the CVEA Board of Directors**  
**Middle right, view of the completed powerhouse**  
**Bottom left, President Kildal presenting Dan Kessler of Cooperative Finance Corporation, the banker for the project, a key to the project**  
**Bottom middle, Pelton wheel inside the casing in the powerhouse**  
**Bottom right, President Kildal after flipping the switch to commercial power**  
 Photos by Darin Sauls and Sharon Crisp



## Winter is Coming! Complete This Winter Word Search and Win!

Winter is coming and it's getting cold out. CVEA is partnering with Santa Claus to see how kids in our communities stay warm in the winter, while saving money on their parent's or caregiver's electric bill!

Participation is easy; just tear out this page, find all the hidden words, fill out the bottom registration, and bring it to CVEA by Monday, December 5, 2016.

All completed entries will be included in a drawing for a special Christmas gift from Santa, and a \$25 CVEA energy credit for Mom and Dad just for helping!

### Registration

Child's Name

---

How do you stay warm in winter while being energy efficient?

---



---



---

Parent's or Caregiver's Name

---

Age of Child

---

Contact Email and Phone

---



---

### Rules

- Only 10 years old and under may participate
- A photo will be taken of each child submitting an entry and a photo release must be signed at the time of submission (images for use online and in CVEA publications)



### WINTER WORD SEARCH



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| BRRR          | MITTENS   |
| CHILLY        | SCARF     |
| HOT CHOCOLATE | SNOWFLAKE |
| ICE SKATE     | SNOWMAN   |
| ICICLE        | WINTER    |

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
C	B	A	W	H	W	E	W	S	I	C	C	V	D	I
T	P	S	D	O	M	Q	N	U	G	H	A	F	H	M
Q	K	U	Z	V	N	O	N	M	V	O	R	O	O	X
F	U	G	C	A	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L
R	O	Q	T	F	C	F	Y	D	K	O	G	E	Q	B
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	A	E	L	K	D	R	G
E	T	A	K	S	E	C	I	B	G	A	J	R	W	R
R	K	B	U	C	H	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	V	X
E	L	T	M	F	F	O	Y	I	K	E	Q	X	A	A
D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y



# Let's Talk Turkey



## Five Most Popular Thanksgiving Traditions

Traditions are a big part of the Thanksgiving holiday, and every American family has their own way of celebrating. From stuffing the turkey to taking in a football game, here are the five most popular traditions.

### Turkey and Trimmings

From the first Thanksgiving to today's turkey burgers, turkeys are an American tradition dating back centuries. According to the National Turkey Federation, 95 percent of Americans eat turkey at Thanksgiving. Regional twists offer variations on the traditional roasted bird, including coffee rubbed turkey from Hawaii, salt encrusted turkey from New England, and deep fried turkey from the South.

### Time Out for the Pigskin

Throughout the United States, football on Thanksgiving Day

is as big a part of the celebration as turkey and pumpkin pie. Dating back to the first intercollegiate football championship held on Thanksgiving Day in 1876, traditional holiday football rivalries have become so popular that a reporter once called Thanksgiving "a holiday granted by the State and the Nation to see a game of football."

### Parading Around

The first American Thanksgiving Day Parade was held in 1920, organized by Gimbel's Department Store in Philadelphia, not Macy's as most people believe. The NYC Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition actually began in 1924, and has grown into an annual event of balloons, bands, and floats, enjoyed by more than 46 million people each year in person and on TV.

### Making A Wish

Does your family fight over the wishbone from the Thanksgiving turkey? Known as a "lucky break" the tradition of tugging on either end of a fowl's bone to win the larger piece and its accompanying "wish" dates back to the Etruscans of 322 B.C. The Romans brought the tradition with them when they conquered England and the English colonists carried the tradition on to America.

### Giving Thanks

Last, but certainly not least, Thanksgiving is about giving thanks for the people and blessings of the past year. From pre-meal prayers to providing holiday meals to the homeless, the holiday is truly a celebration of thanksgiving. ■

## Turkey Facts You Never Thought You'd Need To Know

- ▶ More than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten in the U.S. at Thanksgiving
- ▶ A turkey under 16 weeks of age is called a fryer, while a young roaster is 5-7 months old
- ▶ Turkeys have great hearing, but no external ears; they can also see in color, have excellent visual acuity, and an excellent sense of taste
- ▶ Domesticated turkeys cannot fly; wild turkeys, however, can fly for short distances; they can also reach speeds of 25 mph on the ground
- ▶ Age is a determining factor in taste; old, large males are preferable to young toms; the opposite is true for females, old hens are tougher birds
- ▶ The ballroom dance known as the Turkey Trot was named for the short, jerky steps a turkey makes



## CVEA Delegates at the 2016 Alaska Power Association Annual Meeting



In September, several members of the CVEA Board of Directors and Executive Staff headed to Cordova to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Alaska Power Association (APA), the statewide trade association that represents electric utilities in Alaska.

APA provides advocacy and program services to help member utilities in their efforts to deliver electric energy and other services at the best value to their customers. Collectively, APA-member utilities provide electric power to more than a half-million Alaskans.

CVEA Board President Paul Kildal, Directors Dan Stowe and Fred Williams, CEO John Duhamel, COO Travis Million, and CFO Jaime Matthews, were all in attendance.

CEO Duhamel played a role at the APA Board Meeting and the Alaska Systems Coordinating Council. Jaime Matthews, as the Chair of the APA Joint Finance and Audit Committee, presented 2015 audit results at the ARECA Education Foundation, the APA, and the ARECA Insurance Exchange meetings. Finally, directors who chose to do so, participated in the director training session.

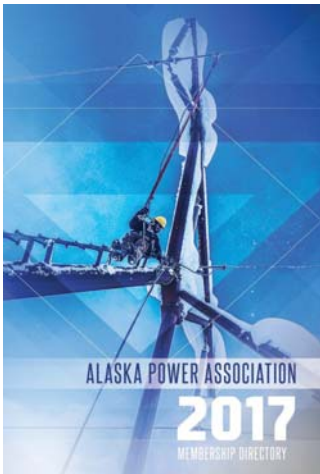
APA's program included a Managers' Forum, utility Director training sessions, several committee meetings, and a meeting of the APA Board of Directors. Sessions included information on statewide projects and challenges, laws and regulations regard-

ing the electric utility and general business human resources, and of course, it being an election year, information focused around the national election and legislative issues as they relate to utilities.

According to Million, "The annual meeting was very informative and is always a great meeting to attend, mostly to network with representatives from other utilities around the state. I also participated in a tour of Cordova Electric Cooperative's Power Creek Hydroelectric facility, which was a highlight of the trip."

In addition to her work on the Audit Committee, Matthews attended all the general sessions, and various business meetings. According to her, "it is very enjoyable having the opportunity to connect with over 100 electric utility representatives in attendance. A highlight for me was a presentation from Cooperative Finance Corporation's CEO Sheldon Petersen, and time with Cordova Electric's CFO Valerie Covell, who hired me as a student entering meter reads in 1994 and has mentored me throughout my 16 years in the industry."

The team also enjoyed a welcome reception and attended the awards ceremony and banquet where CVEA Valdez Lineman Garrette Francis was announced the winner of the 2016 photo contest. His photo, *Man on the Wire* will be featured on the cover of the newest edition of the APA Directory. ■



## Annual APA Awards

The annual APA Awards Banquet is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the industry's most influential and contributing people.

The 2016 Mason Lazelle Achievement Award, the highest honor conferred by the APA membership, was presented to Brad Reeve, General Manager of Kotzebue Electric Association, who is a leader in the industry and his community. Brad is a past president of the APA Board of Directors, serves on the ARECA Insurance Management Board and is chairman of the Ruralite Board of Directors.

He is also president of his local Boys and Girls Club and organizer of the annual fireworks show.

This year's David P. Hutchens Public Service Award went to Senator John Coghill for his willingness to see all sides of the debate, ask relevant questions, and maintain fairness in his decision-making.

The Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Award recognizes employees for exemplary service to their utilities, the industry, and the local community.

It is named after three former APA Board Members: Robert Hatcher, Fred Williams (of CVEA), and Robert Turkington.

This year's recipient is Karen Sakeagak, a former Billing Supervisor at Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative, who was a teacher and trainer to the many staff and interns in her department over the years.

A posthumous award was also given to Mark Bryan, Operations Manager for Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, who died in August.

CVEA congratulates all of the industry leaders who were recognized this year.

**Opposite, CVEA Board Members and their spouses attended the APA awards ceremony and banquet**  
Photo by Jaime Matthews

**Top left, CVEA CEO John Duhamel making a point during the Alaska Systems Coordinating Council meeting**  
**Top right, CVEA CFO Jaime Matthews with her mentor, Valerie Covel, of Cordova Electric**  
**Above left, the cover of the 2017 APA Membership Directory featuring this year's photo contest winner, *Man on the Wire*, by CVEA Lineman Garrette Francis**  
**Above, CVEA COO Travis Million networking between conference sessions**  
**Left, CEO Duhamel accepting the photo contest award, on behalf of Garrette, from Crystal Enkvist**  
Photos courtesy APA



### Board of Directors

Paul Kildal, President  
Lon Rake, Vice President  
Mary Odden, Secretary  
Will Stark, Treasurer  
Brad Honerlaw, Director  
Jeff Saxe, Director  
Dan Stowe, Director  
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

### Copper Basin District

(907) 822-3211  
(907) 822-5586 (fax)  
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

### Valdez District

(907) 835-4301  
(907) 835-4328 (fax)  
367 Fairbanks Dr.

### After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

### Important Dates - 2016

#### November

**CVEA Offices Closed:** Friday, November 11, for Veterans Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** 1 p.m. Thursday, November 17, in Valdez

**CVEA Offices Closed:** Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25, for the Thanksgiving Holiday

#### December

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, December 15, 2016, in Glennallen

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26, 2016, for the Christmas Holiday, and Friday, December 30, 2016, for New Year's Eve

AK-34



## Round Up for Your Community

This holiday season CVEA would like to encourage all members to round up their electric bill for the CVEA Community Foundation in 2017! If you stop by the CVEA office in your district between Thanksgiving and Christmas and sign up to round up beginning January 2017, or make a minimum donation of \$25, you'll be entered to win a \$100 CVEA energy credit. This is the season for giving, so if your name is drawn CVEA will also make a \$100 donation to the local non-profit organization of your choice.

Consider rounding up your electric bill to the nearest dollar amount each month. It's easy and painless. Participants who round up their bill contribute between \$.01 and \$.99 monthly, an average of just \$6 a year, to the CVEA Community Foundation.

Individually this is not a large number, but combined with other CVEA members, it will make a difference. If half of all CVEA members round up their bills each month, the Community Foundation will bring in an amazing \$10,000 each year.

CVEA would like to thank everyone who has rounded up or made a donation to the Community Foundation this year. In 2016, 81 members rounded up, contributing roughly \$1,200 to the Foundation. This amount is a big help; imagine what could be accomplished together if more people participated?

Money raised is used to provide scholarships for students and to help local educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities start new programs and expand existing ones. This year, the Foundation awarded \$8,000 in scholarships and made \$12,648 in contributions to local non-profit organizations. Check out next month's issue of Ruralite to see what programs received funding.

Another really easy way for members to contribute is to add a specific amount to their electric bill each month. They can also make a one-time donation or even donate their future capital credit disbursements.

If you'd like to help your Cooperative do more for our communities by rounding up or adding an amount to your bill, you can do this anytime by simply filling out the donation form located on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) (also available at CVEA offices) and bringing it to the CVEA office in your district, sending it via email to [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org), or mailing it to P.O. Box 45, Glennallen, AK 99588.

For additional information on the Community Foundation or if you have questions about making a donation, contact Sharon Crisp, Director of Communications, at (907) 822-5506, (907) 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org).



## Out With the Old, In with the Efficient



The Valdez Diesel Plant (VDP) Unit 7 Replacement Project, named for brevity, was actually a project that replaced VDP Units 1, 2, 3, and 7. Units 1, 2, and 3 are diesel driven generator sets (gensets) that were installed in 1965 when the VDP was constructed. In recent years, Units 1 and 3 were decommissioned due to mechanical issues. Unit 7 is a turbine driven genset that was installed in 1976.

The four units had to be replaced as they've reached the end of their useful life, which for CVEA means they burn an excessive amount of fuel for the electricity they produce, and replacement parts are either not available or are extremely expensive. As with other equipment, vehicles, and computers, at some point it becomes more economical to replace an old unit rather than maintain it.

Unit 7, in particular, developed a cracked combustion liner that could fail without warning. If that occurred, it

would make the unit inoperable and take away CVEA's margin for redundancy. This could be especially problematic during outage recovery. Surprisingly, the repair costs would have been the same as purchasing the two units that are currently being installed.

Fortunately, the two replacement units will restore this level of redundancy. In addition, the Units, 11 and 12, are two diesel driven gensets made by Caterpillar, which are known for being efficient and dependable. They'll be more reliable, more efficient, and cleaner burning than the old units. Units 11 and 12 actually promise nearly twice the efficiency as Unit 7.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into this important project. Before purchasing the engines staff had to ensure the plan would meet the requirements for the plant's air permit and that it was ultimately the best long-term solu-

tion for the members. Once the permit was issued, all the fluids – oil, diesel fuel, and glycol coolant were drained from Units 1, 2, and 3 engines, piping, and the associated components.

Due to the age of the plant and the numerous modifications that have occurred over the past 40 plus years, many of the wiring diagrams, civil and mechanical drawings, and other such information on the units was either missing or incomplete. Also, there were no provisions in the plan for getting Units 1, 2, and 3 out or for getting the two newer Caterpillars in. Basically it came down to two options for moving the Caterpillars, each weighing 35,300 pounds, into the plant – either through a wall or through the roof. Using a crane through the roof was the easiest and least costly option.

CVEA staff performed the demolition and removal of Units 1, 2, and 3 and their associated switchgear and auxilia-



ries, leveling and installation of the structural steel frames that support the gensets and transformer, and setting the newer gensets, transformer, and switchgear.

The remaining work – fabrication and installation of the piping, electrical equipment, instrumentation and controls, will be performed by contractors. NC Caterpillar from Anchorage will commission the units.

The total cost of the project including air quality permitting, engineering design, purchasing the two Caterpillar gensets, switchgear and associated ancillary equipment, demolition, and installation will cost just over \$2 million. There were a number of cost savings measures taken during this project. By purchasing slightly used units rather than brand new saved nearly \$2M. Other costs savings had to do with extending the manufacturing time of the switchgear and utilizing in-house labor where possible.

Going forward, whenever diesel generation is needed, these units will be the first to run. This will be a great benefit to CVEA members as these units are projected to be the lowest cost per kWh diesel gensets on our system. Additionally, this replacement will minimize our operations and maintenance costs for genera-



**Opposite, Valdez Plant Operator Ryan Compehos and Valdez Line Foreman Todd Stahley prepping one of the replacement gensets to be lifted and set in the VDP by crane**

**Top left, one of the old units being lifted through the roof of the VDP by crane**

**Top middle, new transformer being lifted into the VDP**

**Top right, the crane lifting one of the Caterpillar gensets**

**Above left, Kyle Anderson, CVEA Plant Operator disconnecting rigging from the just placed unit**

**Above right, Valdez Line Foreman Todd Stahley, and Valdez Lineman Apprentice Bobby Sperling, moving VD11 into place**

Photos by Wayne McKinzey and Mike Rego

tion, increase our redundancy, and provide reliable power for outage recovery.

For additional information on this project or any CVEA project, con-

tact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, at 907-822-5506, 907-835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■





## CVEA Spotlight - Cindy Unger



Cindy Unger is the Groundskeeper/Janitor in the Valdez District. She originally came to work for CVEA as the Janitor in July 2013, and added Groundskeeper to her title in August 2015. According to her supervisor, CVEA Production Manager Wayne McKinzey, “Cindy has this amazing ability to do three jobs in three different places at the same time. It is a mystery I have yet to solve. She’s also one of the most resilient people I know. Regardless of the challenge, she always has this positive, can-do attitude. I hope one day she will consider working for us full time.”

In order to highlight Cindy, we recently asked her a few questions.

**Q. What do you do in your position?**

**A.** I clean the office areas and apartments as well as maintain the grounds of all our buildings in Valdez. I also ensure our fleet of vehicles is maintained.

**Q. What things do you do outside of your typical job duties?**

**A.** I’ve done a variety of things to help with large office projects, blown up lots of balloons, and helped set up and decorate for public events like the annual meeting, Co-op Month events, and the Halloween Spooktacular.

**Q. What things do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A.** I enjoy spending time with family and friends, time on the water shrimping, fishing, beach combing, reading, and cooking.

My daughters and I enjoy the library and playgrounds.

**Q. What do you like most about living in Valdez?**

**A.** I love Valdez not only for its beauty and amazing access to the outdoors, but for the people. I am proud to live here.

**Q. What is one little known fact about you?**

**A.** Prior to living in Valdez, I lived in remote areas working at various salmon hatcheries for 10 years.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you’ve been involved in or changes you’ve seen since you began working at CVEA?**

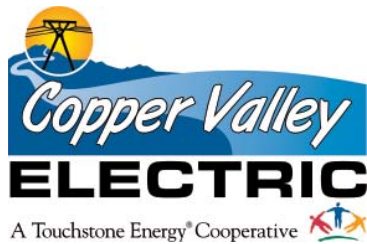
**A.** The Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project is probably the biggest change; also watching the recent generator replacement at the Valdez Diesel Plant.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I really enjoy the people I work with; I’ve made some great friendships. I also like the variety of things I get to do. Every day is different.

**Q. What about your job or the cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** Most of what I do is behind the scenes, but I take pride in doing all of it because I know I help the team accomplish the goals of the Co-op. This year, I am very proud of how nice the landscaped sitting area outside the office turned out. ■



## Don't Let Electrical Hazards Haunt You This Halloween



Halloween is a one of the best times of the year for children and adults, too. Nonetheless, with decorative lights, fog machines, black lights and animatronics, this spooky holiday can be full of electrical hazards if you are not cautious. Check for electrical hazards to avoid the risk of fire or electrical shock.

The following tips will help lessen the risk of injuries:

- Inspect electrical decorations. Look for cracked or frayed wires, broken or bare sockets, and loose connections.
- Before decorating, read the manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and maintenance. Also, check the instructions to see how many light strings can be connected together.
- Always unplug light strings before replacing any bulbs.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture

light strings or electrical/extension cords; instead use insulated staples.

- Always provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Keep walkways clear as masks can impair vision.



- Don't overload extension cords, circuit breakers or fuses.

- Electrical decorations should be approved by a nationally recognized certification organization like "UL" (Underwriters Laboratory) and marked for outdoor use if you are using them outside. Check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com) for recalls.

- Plug electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.

- Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil power cords or extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.

- Turn out all lights and decorations before you go out or go to bed. Always have at least one fire extinguisher available and know how to use it.

A few safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission can protect children who plan to go trick-or-treating this Halloween.

### Treats

Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them for evidence of tampering.

### Flame Resistant Costumes

When purchasing a costume, masks, beards, and wigs, look for the label Flame Resistant.

To minimize the risk of contact with candles or other sources of ignition, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves

or billowing skirts.

### Costume Designs

Purchase or make costumes that are light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists. They should be short enough to prevent tripping and falling.

### Pedestrian Safety

Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible child. All children should WALK, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the street.

### Choosing Safe Houses

Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome.



# Net Metering at CVEA



CVEA implemented the Net Metering Program (Program) in 2012 when member interest in renewable energy alternatives, like wind and solar, had increased in popularity.

Net metering allows an eligible consumer to connect an approved renewable energy generation system to the CVEA grid in order to offset their normal usage and potentially sell back excess energy to the Cooperative.

In light of the development of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project, CVEA felt a thorough evaluation of the Program was important.

Allison Creek is scheduled to begin generating commercial power this month (October 2016). Once the project is online, the Cooperative will have surplus hydroelectric energy in the summer months.

This circumstance will affect the non-firm purchased power rate paid to net metering consumers, as purchasing summer power from net metering participants will no longer be in the best interest of Cooperative members.

A change to the Tariff that governs the Program was required, and was approved by the CVEA Board of Directors on August 18, 2016, after following CVEA's strict noticing policies, hosting public meetings, and providing members the opportunity for comment.

Changes to the Tariff revolve around a participant's ability to sell excess energy to the Cooperative between the months of May and October when the Co-op already has excess power, and developing guidelines for who will be eligible to receive this benefit.

It was determined that current Program participants will be grandfathered and will continue to receive the non-firm purchased power rate, or average avoided cost of fuel, when appropriate.

Additionally, the following applicability standards have been developed for those wishing to participate in net metering.

1. Applications received prior to January 1, 2017, will receive the non-firm purchased power rate when appropriate.
2. The installation of approved generation systems for applications approved prior to January 1, 2017, must be completed within five years from the date of application approval.
3. Approved applications after January 1, 2017, will not receive the non-firm purchased power rate May through October when the Association has historically produced a majority of the energy from hydro.

The following information provides a summary of the Program and includes recent changes to the Tariff.

### Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Program, a consumer's generation system must produce electric energy derived from one or more renewable resources to include the following:

- Solar photovoltaic or solar thermal energy
- Wind energy
- Biomass energy
- Hydroelectric energy
- Geothermal energy
- Hydrokinetic energy
- Ocean thermal energy

The system must be operated, and either owned or leased, by a consumer that purchases retail electric utility service from CVEA. It must also be located on the consumer's premises, be used primarily to offset part or all of the consumer requirements for energy, be compatible with the Cooperative's system, and have a total nameplate capacity of no more than 25 kW.

In order to protect the member and the Cooperative, there is also a minimum liability insurance requirement that must be met prior to interconnection to the CVEA system. A standard homeowner insurance policy has been found to be adequate in most cases.

### Availability

Participation in the Program is generally available to eligible consumers on a first-come first-served, basis with a few specific exceptions.

There exist specific and overall system limitations that can limit the number of consumers that can participate in the Program. Specifically, the total nameplate capacity of all participants in the Program may not exceed 1.5 percent of CVEA's average retail demand, which at present is 210 kw.

Interconnection may also be denied if a particular installation is expected to result in system stability constraints or create other operational issues.

### Interconnection

Interconnection requirements are outlined in CVEA's Tariff. These requirements exist to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the consumer-owned alternative generation system that will be connected to, and operated in parallel with, the CVEA system.

The process for a member to participate in the Program is straightforward and has been in place since 2012.

The complete details of eligibility, availability, and interconnection requirements are outlined in CVEA Tariff 4, Section 17. Anyone interested should first review Section 17 of the Tariff,

which is available on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

Members interested in installing a net metering generation system at their home or business are required to submit an application. The application is written in such a way as to ensure the consumer understands the requirements and what it takes to meet them. A trained CVEA representative is available to help the applicant as they work through this process. We cannot stress enough the importance of carefully following and complying with the application process.

Since the implementation of the program in 2012, eight CVEA members are currently generating power utilizing approved solar generation systems.

For each consumer participating in the Program, CVEA measures the net electric energy during each monthly billing period. Most consumers participating in the Program will simply offset their usage. If CVEA continues to provide more energy than the consumer generates, standard CVEA rates will apply.

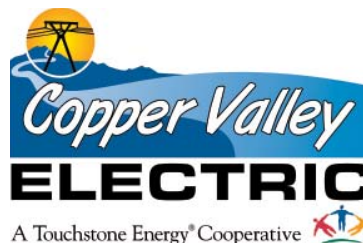
For current consumer installations and applications received prior to January 1, 2017, whose monthly usage is less than their monthly generation, their account will be credited with an amount derived by multiplying the kilowatt hours of net electric energy supplied back to the Cooperative by the non-firm purchased power rate, or average avoided cost of fuel. This rate is calculated periodically, at least every 12 months to reflect current fuel costs.

Again, new applicants with generation systems approved prior to January 1, 2017 must be completed within five years of the approval date to be considered for this benefit.

Applicants approved after January 1, 2017, will not receive the non-firm purchased power rate May through October.

For detailed information or questions on the Program, contact Darin Sauls, CVEA Manager of Engineering, at (907) 835-7028 or email [sauls@cvea.org](mailto:sauls@cvea.org). ■

*This article does not contain detailed information of all of the eligibility, availability, and interconnection requirements. All information can be found in the appropriate sections of the CVEA Tariff located at [www.cvea.org/aboutus/tariffnumber4](http://www.cvea.org/aboutus/tariffnumber4)*





**Board of Directors**

Paul Kildal, President  
 Lon Rake, Vice President  
 Mary Odden, Secretary  
 Will Stark, Treasurer  
 Brad Honerlaw, Director  
 Jeff Saxe, Director  
 Dan Stowe, Director  
 Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
 Glennallen, AK 99588  
 www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**

(907) 822-3211  
 (907) 822-5586 (fax)  
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**

(907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**

(866) 835-2832

**Important Dates - 2016**

**October**

**Ruralite Cover Photo Contest:**

Submit photos October 1 - October 28

**Co-op Month Food Drive:** Bring non-perishable food items to the CVEA office between Monday, October 17, and Friday, October 21, and be entered to win a \$100 CVEA energy credit

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The October meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, October 20, in Glennallen

**Halloween Trick or Treat Spooktacular:**

Stop by the CVEA office in your district for Halloween fun from 3-5 p.m., Monday, October 31

**November**

**CVEA Offices Closed:** Friday, November 11, for Veteran's Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** 1 p.m. Thursday, November 17, in Valdez

**CVEA Offices Closed:** Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25, for the Thanksgiving Holiday

AK-34



**Local, Trusted,  
 Serving You!**  
 Working Together  
 for our Communities

**CVEA is celebrating Co-Op Month in a BIG way this October!!! Join us for all of our scheduled events throughout the month!**

**October 1-28 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest**

- Winners will receive \$100 per winning photo, be announced to the local media, and be featured on the cover of Ruralite for one month in 2017
- Submit your photos by 5 p.m., Friday, October 28
- Visit [cvea.org/ruralitecoverphotocontest](http://cvea.org/ruralitecoverphotocontest) for details, rules, and application instructions

**October 17-21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Joint Cooperative Food Drive**

- Bring non-perishable food items to CVEA or CVTelecom during Co-op Week (Oct. 17-21) and be entered to win a \$100 CVEA Energy Credit or a \$100 CVTelecom Service Credit.
- Food items will benefit local organizations. (please no outdated food)
- The drawing will be held Friday, October 21 at 5 p.m.
- One ticket per item. Want more tickets?? Bring more food!!

**Monday, October 31, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.**

**CVEA Halloween Spooktacular**

Don't forget to bring your kiddos to the CVEA office as part of the downtown Halloween Spooktacular. In fact, it'll be worth your while to stop in first!

- Enjoy a trick or treat parade with five candy stops at CVEA
- Get your photo at our fun, themed photo booth
- Kids get a Spooktacular FREE gift



## The CVEA Community Foundation Helps Shape Tomorrows Leaders



Left to right, Gerek Chmielowski, Leah Johnson, Kelsey Pascua, Brian Ducek, Timothy Kimble, and Jon Scott

The CVEA Community Foundation is committed to enriching the educational experience of our local students and supporting future members of the Cooperative. Each year, CVEA participates in the Alaska Power Association Youth Leadership Program; providing students in the Copper Basin and Valdez life changing opportunities.

### 2016 Idaho Youth Rally

This year, CVEA awarded three students the opportunity to attend the 2016 Idaho Youth Rally hosted by the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utility Association (ICUA).

The Youth Rally provides a one-week rural electric-leadership program to high school sophomores and juniors. It is six days filled with fun and learning about consumer-owned electric utilities, developing leadership skills and self-esteem, meeting area students and building lasting relationships with other students

from Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Sharon Crisp, of CVEA, chaperoned six Alaskan students; two from Homer Electric, one from Kodiak Electric, and three from CVEA including Timothy Kimble from Valdez, and Gerek Chmielowski and Jon Scott from the Copper Basin. These students joined roughly 85 other students from Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, and Oregon.

The week was packed full of activities that included educational sessions on the electric industry, motivational speakers, and fun.

The students learned the basics of electricity and utility career opportunities and heard from industry leaders on important industry issues. They also had a session on grassroots training from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) where they simulated all aspects of running for office, including giving campaign speeches. Students toured the Idaho State Capitol

building and saw a very powerful safety demonstration.

One afternoon was spent learning about teambuilding by completing a cooperative course of activities, demonstrating how much more successful teams can be if they work together.

The students listened to a solemn drug awareness panel, hearing from inmates who told their stories, how bad choices regarding drugs have affected their lives, and what they are going through now trying to make their lives better. This session demonstrates the sad reality of drugs and how easy it is for one or two bad choices to have a detrimental effect on their lives and the lives of everyone around them.

Students also heard from Monty Stiles, a federal prosecutor and US attorney who supervised the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force, who talked to the kids about drugs. Instead of the typical don't do drugs message, he shows students actual real-life photos and tells them true stories that exemplify the drug problem in America. He connects the dots and shows them the circle of people it affects whenever someone buys drugs; from the person using, to their family, the dealers, the dealer's family, to the children and innocent bystanders who are harmed, all the way to the American who pays taxes and medical costs that are used to fund medical needs of users and babies born addicted to drugs. His powerful message is always captivating.

A motivational message was given from world champion and Olympic wrestler Ben Kjar, who defied significant odds to finally learn who he was, his strengths, and what it takes to be successful. He encouraged kids to be themselves, to know their value, and to always strive



to be their best self.

Along with learning, there was plenty of time for fun. Students went bowling, spent an evening at a roller rink and an entire afternoon at Roaring Springs Water Park where they enjoyed water roller coasters, lazy rivers and wave pools, car races, mini golf, bumper boats, laser tag, and a huge arcade. They also had two dances, bbqs, and an ice cream social.

Finally, students demonstrated their talents and creativity during the annual talent show. Alaska performed a great skit about tourism in Alaska and Idaho and CVEA's Timothy Kimble sang and played piano to a song he had written and composed himself.

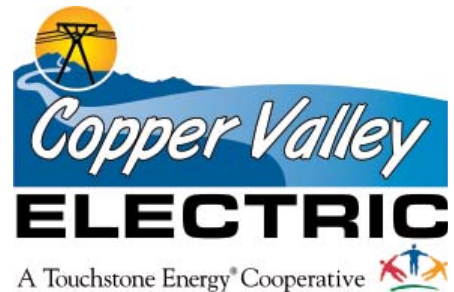
Overall, CVEA's students did well throughout the week. Top honors went to Brian Ducek, of Homer Electric, who received a \$500 educational scholarship and a spot on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council. All of our students commented on the exceptional value of this opportunity. According to Timothy, this trip was probably the best trip of his life.

Applications for the 2017 Idaho Youth Rally will be available in December. If you have questions on the Rally or any



of the CVEA Community Foundation programs, please contact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, at [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■

Top left, CVEA representatives at the Idaho State Capitol  
 Top right, Alaska delegates posing for a group picture on picture day  
 Left, CVEA's Timothy Kimble singing and playing piano at the talent show  
 Above, a live safety demonstration given by line men from Raft River Electric Cooperative



## CVEA 2016 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest

Would you like to see your photo on the cover of *Ruralite Magazine*; CVEA's primary member communication tool? Over 2500 copies of *Ruralite* are distributed each month to members in the Copper Basin and Valdez. That means excellent exposure for local photographers!

### Details

- Winners will be chosen by CVEA employees
- Final decision will be announced by Friday, November 11, 2016
- Winning photos will be featured on the cover of *Ruralite* for one issue in 2017 and on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org)
- Winners will receive \$100 per winning photo and will be announced to the local media
- CVEA will retain rights to utilize all photos submitted in various communication tools including print and web
- Future photo usage in *Ruralite* or on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) will include photo credit



### Contest Rules

- Photographers must reside in a dwelling that receives service from CVEA
- Photos must be from within CVEA service area (Valdez up to Sourdough, out to Kenny Lake, and over to Sheep Mountain)
- Content can include scenery, community events, and community residents enjoying local activities; photos from all seasons should be considered, **at least one winter photo will be chosen**
- Only vertical photos will be eligible to win cover contest; horizontal photos may be submitted for use in other print or web based applications
- Maximum six photos submitted per contestant
- Each photo submission must include a digital and printed copy at 8X10 inches; digital files must have a resolution of 300 dpi at 8X10 inches
- Each photo submission must include photographer's name, location of photo, and photo title
- Photographer submissions must include permission form; visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org) for blank form
- Photos must be submitted between October 1-28, 2016
- Photos can be dropped off at the CVEA offices in each district or sent directly to Sharon Crisp: [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org) or P.O. Box 927, Valdez, AK 99686
- Contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org), with questions

**Submission Dates:  
October 1 - October 28, 2016**



# Renewable Energy Fund Adapting in Budget Crisis Era

By Michael Rovito

The Alaska Energy Authority announced in August that it would not issue a Renewable Energy Fund request for applications in fiscal year 2017. This is due to lack of funding for the existing Round IX projects in the capital budget passed by the legislature this year, according to AEA.

The REF was established by the Alaska Legislature in 2008 and extended legislatively for 10 years in 2012. It provides public funding for the development of competitively selected energy projects. The fund has a track record of providing financial support to numerous renewable energy projects that have either lowered energy costs in the communities where they exist or have held costs steady.

Decisions about funding from the REF are made by the REF advisory committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from various parts of the energy industry. One committee member must come from a small, rural electric utility; one from a large, urban electric utility; one from an Alaska Native organization; one from a business or organization engaged in the renewable energy sector; and one from the Denali Commission.

The committee also includes two members from the Alaska House of Representatives and two members from the Alaska Senate. With support from AEA staff, the committee makes final funding recommendations, along with policy direction.

Each funding application period is referred to as a “round” by AEA. For fiscal year 2017, REF was considering Round IX projects. According to AEA, 39 projects were recommended by the state energy agency, none of which were funded in the light FY 2017 capital budget.

This has prompted AEA to announce it will forward all Round IX projects to Round X, and propose each of them to the legislature for the fiscal year 2018 budget. Projects submitted for Round IX are permitted to withdraw before January 1, 2017, but no new information will be accepted.

The variable now is what the 2018 capital budget will look like amid low oil prices and continued budget challenges in the state. What is clear, however, is the often transformative effect projects funded by REF can have on communities in Alaska, where energy costs are a daily challenge for businesses and families. ■

## Round IX Projects to be Forwarded to Round X

- Fivemile Creek Hydroelectric Project—Chitina Electric Inc.
- Sand Point High Penetration Wind System—Sand Point Generating, TDX
- Wales Water System Heat Recovery—City of Wales
- Adak Hydro Power Generator—TDX Adak Generating, TDX
- Koyuk Water System Heat Recovery—City of Koyuk
- Shishmaref Wind Feasibility and Conceptual Design—Alaska Village Electric Co-op
- Grayling Water System Heat Recovery—City of Grayling
- Heat Pump System for City of Seward—City of Seward
- IPEC Gunnuk Creek Hydro Rehab in Kake—Inside Passage Electric Co-op
- Mountain Village-St. Mary’s Wind Intertie—Alaska Village Electric Co-op
- Elfin Cove Hydroelectric Permitting—Elfin Cove Utility Commission
- Shungnak Wind-Diesel Conceptual Design—Native Village of Shungnak
- Bethel Power Plant Heat Recovery Module—Alaska Village Electric Co-op
- Chignik Hydroelectric Dam Project—City of Chignik
- Old Harbor Hydro Geotech and Final Design—Alaska Village Electric Co-op
- Upper Hidden Basin Geotech Investigation—Kodiak Electric Association
- Indian River Hydroelectric Project—Tenakee Springs Electric
- Cosmos Hills Hydro Design and Permitting—NANA Regional Corp.
- Eek Water System Heat Recovery—City of Eek
- Sitka Wastewater Plant Effluent Heat Pump—City and Borough of Sitka
- Yerrick Creek Hydro Construction—Upper Tanana Energy
- Neck Lake Hydropower Project—Alaska Power Co.
- Scammon Bay Hydroelectric Project—City of Scammon Bay
- Huslia Water and Clinic Biomass Boiler—City of Huslia
- False Pass Hydro Feasibility and Conceptual Design—City of False Pass
- St. Paul Island 80 percent Renewable Energy Feasibility—TDX Power Inc.
- Ambler Washeteria and City Office Biomass Heating—City of Ambler
- Atqasuk Transmission Line Design and Permitting—North Slope Borough
- Saxman Low-Rent Multifamily Air-Source Heat Pump—Tlingit-Haida RHA
- Unalaska Water Treatment Inline Micro Turbines—City of Unalaska
- Ketchikan High School Biomass Boiler—Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Klawock School Biomass Fuel Boiler Project—Klawock City School District
- Crater Lake Power and Water Project—Cordova Electric Cooperative
- Chugach Electric Solar Project—Chugach Electric Association
- Grant Lake Hydroelectric Project—Kenai Hydro LLC
- Ouzinkie Hydroelectric Power Project—City of Ouzinkie
- Waterfall Creek Hydro Construction—City of King Cove
- Kaktovik Wind Diesel Design—North Slope Borough
- Ketchikan Schools Recreation Heating Plant—Ketchikan Gateway Borough



## Working Together In Valdez A Community Garden Grows



Left, map of the Valdez Community Garden created by John Engles  
Courtesy Kristina Rodriguez

Opposite:  
Top left, John Engles with Jon Carlo McCune preparing the land for planting at the community garden  
Top right, family and friends of Karen Davey Stewart volunteering in the garden named in her memory  
Middle, pictures of a fruitful garden, demonstrating the success of the garden's first year  
Bottom, the permanent rock in the flower garden memorializing the garden in Karen's honor

Photos courtesy Kristina Rodriguez and Samantha Laudert-Rodriguez

The Karen Davey Stewart Memorial Community Garden, located in the center of town, just south of the hospital parking lot and east of the Shana Anderson Dog Park, is a new addition to the town of Valdez.

The garden was the brainchild of Kristina Rodriguez. Kristina wanted to find a way for the people of Valdez to have access to fresh, locally grown produce, a rare commodity in the remote community.

The goal was to bring the community together and promote a healthy, active lifestyle by giving people the space to produce their own foodstuffs and to reconnect with nature. The idea is for people to come together and experiment with growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers that they can take home and enjoy with their families and friends.

Last year Kristina posted a question on social media, asking if anyone would be interested in starting a community garden. She received multiple responses and one offer, from Linda Overduyn, to help with the project. The two began meeting weekly and were soon joined by local gardener John Engles who helped get the ball rolling with his vast local knowledge of gardening in Alaska.

The garden came to life in the spring of 2016 when the group received a conditional use permit through the City of Valdez to borrow the vacant land and a grant from Sound Wellness Alliance Network of Valdez (SWAN). The grant helped the group buy gardening tools such as watering cans, hoses, and

shovels, and also soil, and materials for benches and a shed.

The garden is organized with a flower bed and multiple 12x24 and 24x24 plots. The plots can be rented annually for a small rental fee of \$100 for the small plot and \$200 for the larger plots. The money from the plot rentals will be used to help keep the garden sustainable for years to come.

Anyone is welcome to be involved with the garden. People can rent one of the plots for personal use or volunteer. Organizers hold "work days" at the garden site every Saturday for anyone who wants to get their hands dirty. Initially, the organizers and volunteers cleared the land, deposited compost, topsoil, mulch, and fertilizer. It is now maintained by volunteers and by individuals who rent plots. Renters are responsible for their own rented space and volunteers help maintain the flower garden, walkways, and the surrounding area.

Renters can grow whatever they want in their plots and must provide their own seeds and starts. This year participants grew everything from tomatoes and peas and carrots to strawberries and rhubarb. Some squash plants did really well this summer and the brassicas (kale, broccoli, etc) are still producing into September! Garden members will keep their own produce, usually taking it home to their families, or sharing with their neighbors.

Maintenance can be done whenever the renters wish. There is not a gate or lock on the garden; it is an open space welcoming visitors at any time. Fortunately, the garden has had pretty



good luck with rabbits staying away, but since the garden is not fenced in, there have been a couple bear sightings nearby!

In spite of the late start, the garden has had a surprisingly good first growing season. Many of the seeds thrived with all the sunshine in Valdez this summer, and people have been harvesting their crops for several weeks.

The garden did so well, in fact, that it won the new *Karen Stewart Award for New Gardeners* as part of the 2016 Valdez Gold Rush Days Golden Rock Awards.

The garden will be dormant throughout the winter, as there is not yet a greenhouse onsite. Renters must clean up their plot by September to ensure the ground is primed for the winter season.

Individuals who rented plots this year will have first choice in plots for 2017. There is still room for new plots and plenty of room to expand, so don't hesitate if you are interested in having a gardening plot of your own.

Additionally, the group hopes to have a couple of raised beds next year that will be designated to public groups such as the senior center and the elementary and middle schools.

The future objective of the garden is to get more of the community involved by designing beds that facilitate a wholesome learning experience from seed to plate. They would also like to see more usage of the garden space for community events and celebrations.

The Karen Davey Stewart Memorial Community Garden of Valdez is dedicated to the memory of Karen Davey Stewart, a long-time Valdez resident who influenced many lives in the community. She played a large role in several gardens in Valdez and inspired many to discover their green thumbs. The community garden will keep her spirit alive and serve as a sacred place where people can honor her for years to come.

If you are interested in learning more about the community garden, in volunteering, or renting a plot, please visit the Valdez Community Garden's active Facebook page or contact Kristina Rodriguez at [kristina@alaskasummer.com](mailto:kristina@alaskasummer.com). ■





### Board of Directors

Paul Kildal, President  
Lon Rake, Vice President  
Mary Odden, Secretary  
Will Stark, Treasurer  
Brad Honerlaw, Director  
Jeff Saxe, Director  
Dan Stowe, Director  
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

### Copper Basin District

(907) 822-3211  
(907) 822-5586 (fax)  
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

### Valdez District

(907) 835-4301  
(907) 835-4328 (fax)  
367 Fairbanks Dr.

### After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

### Important Dates

#### September

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, September 5, 2016, for Labor Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The September meeting of the Board of Directors is cancelled

#### October

**Ruralite Cover Photo Contest:** Submit photos October 1 - October 28, 2016

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The October meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, October 20, 2016, in Glennallen

**Halloween Trick or Treat Spooktacular:** Stop by the CVEA office in your district for Halloween fun from 3-5 p.m., Monday, October 31, 2016

AK-34

## Winter is On The Way

Winter is on the way for CVEA members, and with it comes the end of CVEA's construction season and the start of the winter generation season.

### Construction Season

As we approach the end of September, we approach the end of CVEA's construction season. If you are planning any new or upgraded service, please contact CVEA at 822-3211 in the Copper Basin, or 835-4301 in Valdez, as soon as possible.

### Winter Generation

Heading into winter each year, inflows at Solomon Gulch stop and the lake level begins to fall as the water is used to generate hydroelectricity. This is what is called the winter generation season, and it typically runs October through May.

During winter CVEA backs off Solomon Gulch to manage water use, and brings the Cogeneration Plant online which generates the majority of CVEA's requirements, roughly 75 percent, using fuel.

This year, the Co-op will have the added benefit of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project producing commercial power beginning in October. It is not yet known exactly what Allison will produce and how long it will continue to generate power before the creek freezes. Allison is expected to provide additional hydro in the shoulder months of the generation season (October and May) but will not provide winter power.

The costs of Allison Creek will impact member power bills starting in September. The generation and transmission (G&T) rate on your power bill will increase 2.98 cents per kWh. This change covers the debt payment, depreciation, and operating costs for the Allison Creek project. The increase in the G&T rate could raise members' overall rate per kWh depending on the price of fuel. It is anticipated the benefit from lower fuel costs will offset all or part of this increase.

As typical, CVEA members should expect to see higher electric bills throughout the winter generation season due to the increase in fuel usage. Members can easily see all of these impacts by reviewing their electric bills. There is a separate line item on the bill that denotes the amount each individual member is charged for generation and transmission and the fuel costs associated with their electric usage.

CVEA encourages members to prepare for the fuel charges that will begin to increase their bills starting in October. Visit the CVEA website at [cvea.org/resources/pdfs/copHistory.pdf](http://cvea.org/resources/pdfs/copHistory.pdf) for a rate history or to research individual historical charges.

CVEA also encourages members to take control of their power bill by becoming more efficient with their energy usage. Often times, a substantially higher winter bill is not only caused by high fuel costs, but increased usage during the coldest, darkest time of the year. Preparing a home for winter is the first line of defense against high energy consumption during winter months.

Visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) for ways to reduce energy consumption and lower monthly bills. If you have questions, contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■



## Employee Spotlight Nancy Heidelberg

Nancy Heidelberg has provided clerical support at CVEA since she joined the company on November 13, 1993. She is currently the Executive Assistant, a position she's held for 18 years. According to John Duhamel, CVEA's Chief Executive Officer, "I just can't say enough good things about Nancy. She is a long-standing, loyal employee that has always put CVEA members first. She is a pleasure to work with every day, and I wouldn't know what to do without her if she ever even thought about retirement. She makes all our jobs so much more enjoyable with a great attitude and a fun sense of humor."

In order to highlight Nancy, we recently asked her a few questions:

**Q. What do you do in your position as Executive Assistant?**

**A.** I provide support to the Board of Directors and the CEO, and on a lesser scale to the other executive staff. This includes preparing for and attending monthly board and annual membership meetings, as well as other events that involve meetings of the members and employees. I support the CEO and staff in their day to day clerical needs.

When we have a position vacancy, I am responsible for guiding the application and interview process. I arrange travel for the Board and all CVEA personnel. When corporate documents, such as policy manuals, the Tariff, Legislative brochures, etc., are created and/or revised, I am typically the caretaker of the process.

**Q. What other positions have you held with CVEA?**

**A.** My first position was clerk/typist, later moving to secretary, then to my current position in 1998.

**Q. What kinds of things should members call on you for now?**

**A.** Members can contact me for anything related to the CEO or Board of Directors.

**Q. What things do you do that are 'outside' of your typical job duties?**

**A.** Helping with events like the annual meeting, Co-op Month and Halloween. I'll help do everything from serving hotdogs to hanging signs, and blowing up balloons.

**Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A.** Gardening is my spring, summer, and fall fun. For me, it is very relaxing to get dirty and watch things grow - even though I could do with a few less weeds! I call it 'dirt therapy'. There is satisfaction in sitting down to a meal and knowing you grew at least a portion of the meal yourself. In the long, dark, cold winters, I am thankful for gardening magazines!

**Q. What is something members would be surprised to find out about you?**

**A.** Members most likely don't know that I think chickens are extremely hilarious and entertaining critters.

On July 8, 2015, Gary and I welcomed our first four chickens, one rooster and four hens, to our lives. As of today, we have a total of 17 chickens! Had I been asked two years ago if I'd have that many--or maybe even any--chickens, I would have assured you I would not. But they're just so darn cute, and oh, the personalities they have! When they misbehave and act like unruly children, they totally belong to Gary. I only take credit when they provide us with awesome eggs.

Oh, and they are wonderful at eating bugs, and yep that includes mosquitoes! I did get a very nice garden fence out of the deal; otherwise there would be no garden, and Gary would be receiving all the ownership rights of those birds.

Time will tell how long we deal with the hassles and challenges of raising chickens in the Copper Basin, but for now we're having a blast.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** Some of the exciting things that I've had the opportunity to be a part of are CVEA becoming locally regulated, the Allison Creek hydro project, and the establishment of the net metering program. Even though it yielded disappointing results, the exploration of wind and solar as renewable energy sources that would meet commercial requirements for our service territory was a project that was taken seriously.

The CVEA Community Foundation was created as an avenue for the cooperative to give back to the communities it serves.

Technology has surged forward in leaps and bounds, and CVEA has kept up with the pace. When I communicate with industry personnel from the Lower 48 and we compare notes on how something is done, I'm oftentimes amazed at how cur-



rent CVEA is with technology.

Last but not least I think the biggest change that has affected me most directly was the retirement of Robert Wilkinson and the appointment of John Duhamel as CEO in June 2015.

Through all the ups and downs over the years, I always knew that if I looked, there was a lesson to be learned, and I would be a better employee for learning it. Under CEO Duhamel's leadership, the cooperative is moving right along, and I'm appreciative that I'm still finding opportunities to learn and grow in my position.

**Q. What are some things you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** As I believe is the case with a lot of professions, before I came to work at CVEA I had no idea of the myriad of details involved in getting electricity from point A to point B; I had no reason to know. I knew when my electricity was on and when it was not. Since working at CVEA, I have learned a multitude and ever-evolving amount of information about the process.

It is very rewarding to work with a dedicated group of people who work together to meet a common mission – to provide exceptional customer service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service and programs.

**Q. What about your job or the Cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I'm proud of the fact that, even though the Members don't always see it or agree, every decision made by the Board is focused on what's best for the majority of the Members. There will never be a way to satisfy every member on every issue.

Thorough and detailed information is provided to the Board by the CEO and staff so that the Board can make the most informed decisions.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has a standard of seven cooperative principles; those principles are a daily part of life at CVEA.

I am also proud to be part of a team of employees who truly believe in their jobs and the service they provide to the Members. ■





## Copper Basin Line Crew Gets New Space

CVEA is constructing a building next to the office in Glennallen that will serve as the Copper Basin Line Crew's new garage, shop, and equipment storage.

The existing garage is 40 years old, in pretty bad shape and does not have the space to accommodate most of the crew's current equipment needed for routine daily tasks or emergency outage response. With the building in such disrepair, it was determined it could not be salvaged for continued use.

The new building will be a 65X140 foot steel building with insulated panels that will meet all of the line crew's needs. The garage will have the capacity to house all equipment needed for winter line repairs and keep equipment warm and dry

in all weather conditions, thus reducing the time it takes to respond to outages during cold winter months.

It is estimated the project will take two years. Contractors broke ground on the project in May 2016 and plan to complete the below grade electrical and plumbing work, build the concrete foundation and slab, and erect the building this year.

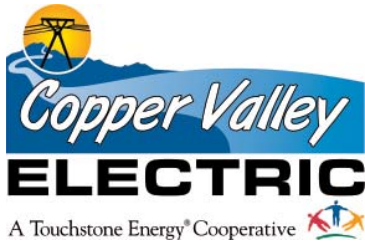
Interior walls, electrical, plumbing, and finishing will be completed throughout the winter.

For more information on this or any CVEA project, contact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org).



**Top Left, the site of the new building on the CVEA grounds  
Above, dirt work on the site, preparing for low grade electrical and plumbing installation  
Left, garage door of current building; the door cannot close due to foundation shifting leaving a roughly six inch gap**

Photos by Travis Million, CVEA Chief Operating Officer



## Back to School Tips for Staying Healthy All through the School Year

By Meg Jones

As your kids head back to school this fall, they're probably eyeing that backpack featuring characters from this year's hottest television show or the latest fashions from the mall. They're probably not quite as in tuned with the safety tips they need to stay healthy.

Here are a few health and safety tips from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to help your kids stay healthy and thrive through the beginning of the school year and beyond.

### Make sure they're up to date on their shots

According to the CDC, in most states, it is the responsibility of parents, not family doctors, to provide shot records to the health department and to schools.

It's very important for parents to stay on top of this because in most states, children are not allowed to enter school or child-care centers unless they can prove that they've had all of the required shots for their age group.

Want more information? Visit the CDC Web site at [cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm).

### Remember backpack safety

Choose a backpack with wide, padded straps and a padded back. Pack light – the backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of your child's body weight. That means your 80-pound son's load shouldn't weigh more than about 15 pounds.

### Getting there (and back) safely

Teach your child how to be safe on the bus, walking on sidewalks and riding in the car. Make sure your child knows these basic safety tips.

#### School Bus

- Always wait for the bus to stop moving before stepping off the curb to get on
- Take a seat right away and do not move around on the bus.

#### Car

- All passengers should wear a seat belt and/or an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat



- All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of a car
- Remember that many crashes occur while new teen drivers are going to and from school; you should limit the number of teens in the car with a teen driver to prevent driver distractions (this is required by law in many states)

#### Bike

- Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride
- Ride on the right side of the road, going the same direction as the traffic
- Use appropriate hand signals when making turns
- Follow traffic light and stop sign rules
- Wear bright colored clothing to increase visibility
- Know the "rules of the road"

#### Walking to School

- Carefully consider whether or not your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision
- Bright colored clothing will make your child more visible to drivers ■

*Meg Jones, marketing communications senior advisor with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, writes group health articles for Insurance and Financial Services. For more resources on school safety, visit [www.cdc.gov/Features/safeschools](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/safeschools). Sources: U.S. Centers for Disease Control; National Institutes of Health*





## Valdez Community Playground A Dream Come True



Left, artist's conceptual drawing of the playground  
Courtesy Leathers and Associates

**Opposite:**  
Top left, United Way presenting a \$51,000 check to the Valdez Playground committee  
Top middle, handprint tile fundraiser  
Top right, Leslie Baumen and Gianna McCune getting slimed as fundraising goals are met  
Middle left, Sharon Crisp presenting members of the HHES PTA with a check for \$500 from the CVEA Community Foundation  
Middle right, community kids helping to raise money during a bake sale at the local Post Office

Photos courtesy HHES PTA

When you were a child, did you ever dream of creating your own playground? Did you ever dream of a waterslide going through an icy bridge that landed into a pit of foam? Or imagine a haunted house where you ended up in a candy dreamland? Well, in 2013 the children of Valdez were able to do just that, dream up a playground.

Finally, this year, after three years of hard work, the playground is being built, and the children's dream will become a reality! Now, there are not any waterslides in the Valdez Community Playground, but it is filled with imagination, dedication, and most importantly, an outpouring of community involvement.

The Valdez Community Playground design is tailored to the Valdez community, reflecting the community's history, community interests, and local environment.

The Hermon Hutchens Elementary School (HHES) PTA lead the effort to build the Valdez Community Playground which was solely funded through donations, fundraising events and grants. This playground will be located at HHES; however, it is a community playground, and open to the public. The playground will promote active play and stimulate imagination in children young and old!

The playground itself was scheduled to be built by community volunteers July 26-31, so hopefully as this publication hits mailboxes, the playground is open for business....or play!

The PTA teamed up with Leathers and Associates to assist with the design, management, and planning of the playground. Leathers has built over 3,500 custom playgrounds since 1971, including 10 here in Alaska! You might be familiar with these amazing playgrounds if you have visited and played at a playground in Talkeetna, Soldotna, Juneau, or Seward; all community built, and the best part....all designed by kids!

Through interviews with Valdez students in 2013, Leathers created a custom design which displays the uniqueness of Valdez. Yes, kids wanted a water slide, but the playground had to be tweaked a bit to support the local climate; a glacier slide was a good compromise! The playground will also have features such as a tot lot including a mommy and me swing, therapeutic swings, and buddy benches to encourage the important social skills that are developed through play!

As the motive for replacing the current playground, children's safety is the first and foremost priority. The playground design conforms with ASTM International and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards and guidelines. The design and construction consultants employed by Leathers are certified playground safety inspectors (CPSI's) by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

The total price tag comes to \$322,000, which at first glance was very overwhelming, however, this price includes shipping to Alaska, (if you are a local you understand how this cost can



add up), materials, Leathers fees, inspections and ground cover.

As previously mentioned, this playground was completely supported by fundraising events, donations and grants. The PTA committee dedicated to this project hosted a number of events within the community to help raise money, including a Sock Hop, rummage sales, movie nights, concession stand sales, cotton candy sales, an Alaska Railroad Raffle, a Passport to Playground activity, t-shirt sales, box top collections, gift wrap sales, Bingo nights, book fairs, as well as a Slime Challenge where Mrs. Keeney, Mrs. Bauman, and Mrs. Giusti were all SLIMED to celebrate fundraising milestones. Numerous letters were sent out to local, state and national businesses, many phone calls were made, doors knocked upon, and Saturday mornings spent at the Valdez Post Office.



\$51,000 was donated by United Way of Valdez in partnership with Providence Health & Services Alaska to help the playground provide school and community recreation and physical exercise opportunities for many years to come. Additionally, the Alaska State Firefighter's Association Valdez Chapter generously donated half of their 2015 Santa deliveries to adopting components for the playground.

A unique aspect about the playground is that families were able to sponsor fence pickets that were then engraved with names, sayings, or business names. Additionally hand print tiles were available for sponsorship where kids young and old could leave their mark, baby foot prints, and even dog paw prints.

At the time this article was written, a total of \$291,506, has been raised and the children's dream IS becoming a reality!

This project is a perfect example of what an idea, dedication, and a community can accomplish. Valdez is blessed with a variety of playgrounds for our children, but this playground represents more; it represents ownership of all involved. It represents the imagination of our youth young and old, dedication, persistence, and ownership of a community driven effort. On behalf of everyone involved, HUGE thanks to all of the volunteers, event participants, and sponsors! It is not too late to become a sponsor and become a permanent part of the playground. More information can be found at [valdezplayground.org](http://valdezplayground.org) or by contacting Katey Connell at [valdezplayground@gmail.com](mailto:valdezplayground@gmail.com) ■

**Valdez Community Playground Fundraising Success!!**

The outpouring of support from across the state has been GENEROUS! We would like to take this time to recognize our SPONSORS: (as of 7/10/16)

**King Salmon Sponsor \$25,000 and Up:**

PROVIDENCE Health & Services Alaska, VALDEZ COE BROTHERS, United Way

**Red Salmon Sponsor \$10,000 - \$24,999:**

VAFT - COPE, McMillen JACOBS ASSOCIATES, Alyeska pipeline, GCI

**Silver Salmon Sponsor \$5,000 - \$9,999:**

Valdez Medical Clinic, VAL, LYNDEN, PROVIDENCE Health & Services Valdez

**Chum Salmon Sponsor \$2500 - \$4,999:**

**Pink Salmon Sponsor \$500 - \$2,499:**

Petro Star Valdez Refinery, Teamsters Local 959, Prince William Sound Science Center, Harbor Landing General Store, Hattness Equipment LLC, Peter Pan's Seafood, Inc., Valdez Masonic Lodge/Valdez Shriners, Alaska Tackler Company, Jenette Viszoff & Shawn Barnes, RAINN Alaska, Valdez Airport Mancamp, Sound Wellness Alliance Network, Keystone Hotel, Good Media, AK State Firefighters Assoc., Valdez MOPS, Valdez Native Tribe, In Memory of Karen Davey Stewart, Copper Valley Telecom, H2O Guides, Sound Realty, CVEA Community Foundation, Valdez Fisheries Development Assoc., UA Local 375 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Gold Rush Days, Polar Supply Company, Ronald & Betty Hoffman, Jeremy & Dahlia O'Neill, Chugach, Alaska Rail Road, The Odem Corporation, Eagles, Sound Realty, Sonson Tug and Barge, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 367, Hutchinson / Towne family



### Board of Directors

Paul Kildal, President  
Lon Rake, Vice President  
Mary Odden, Secretary  
Will Stark, Treasurer  
Brad Honerlaw, Director  
Jeff Saxe, Director  
Dan Stowe, Director  
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

### Copper Basin District

(907) 822-3211  
(907) 822-5586 (fax)  
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

### Valdez District

(907) 835-4301  
(907) 835-4328 (fax)  
367 Fairbanks Dr.

### After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

### Important Dates

#### August

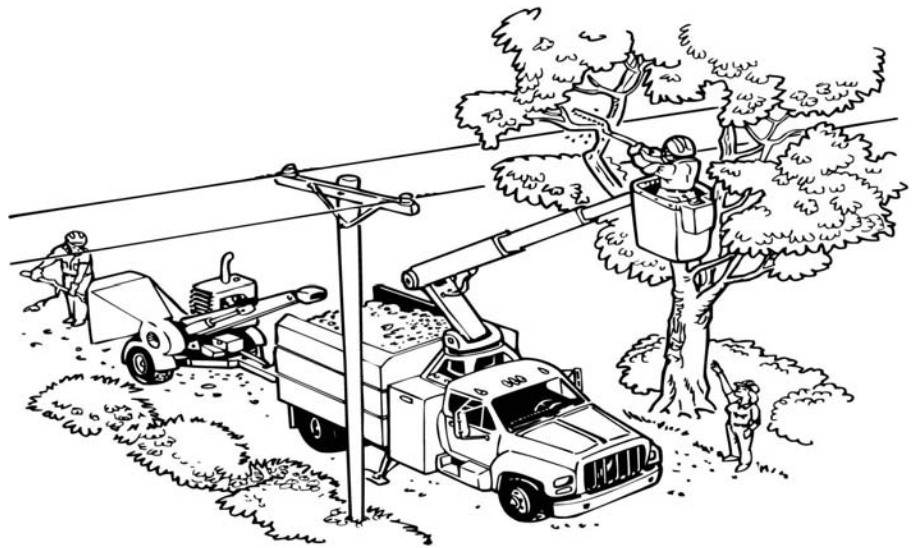
**CVEA Board Meeting:** The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2016, in Glennallen

#### September

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, September 5, 2016, for Labor Day

AK-34

## Right-Of-Way Clearing



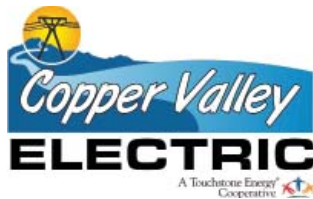
Right-of-way clearing is an important part of Copper Valley Electric's goal of delivering safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service. Tree and brush clearing can help reduce the number and length of outages especially during severe weather conditions. If you have a tree that is within 10 feet of a power line, please call CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 for removal. For additional information on right-of-way clearing or electrical safety, visit [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

## Construction Season Will Soon Come to an End

As summer comes to an end, so does construction season. If you are planning new construction or a service upgrade before the end of the season, please contact CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 as soon as possible.

## Pay Your Bill Online

Are you looking for convenient ways to make your life easier? If so, log on to [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org). You can sign up for auto-pay or pay your monthly bill each month directly from your bank account or by using your debit card and Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card. You can also see your billing and payment history and view charts that track your monthly usage and cost as well as daily averages. This is a great way to manage your CVEA account. Just go to [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) and click the *pay your bill online* button on the home page.



## CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Season Begins

The CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Season has begun and contribution requests will be accepted until the end of August.

The Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes and sponsors the community support activities of CVEA, allowing CVEA to do more for the people it serves.

The mission of the Foundation is “to provide scholarships for students and make contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities.”

The Foundation’s two flagship programs are the Educational Scholarship Program and the Youth Leadership Program; however, each year the Foundation also makes contributions to local non-profit organizations to support new or expanding projects and programs.

In the last four years, the Foundation has donated just under \$19,000 to fund important projects or programs for a dozen local non-profits including: the Valdez LEGO Robotics Club, KCHU, the Valdez Food Bank, Valdez Torpedos Swim Club, Valdez Imagination Library, the Copper Basin Child Advocacy Center, the Copper Valley Community Library, the Francis Kibble Kenny Lake Library, Connecting Ties, the Valdez Co-op Preschool, the

Hermon Hutchins Elementary School PTA, and the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment.

CVEA is excited to announce that the Foundation Board of Directors voted for a significant increase in contributions for the 2016 Contribution Season.

This year, the Foundation has over \$12,000 available for contributions. The goal is to help local non-profits make an even bigger impact in our communities.

In 2013, the Foundation changed the way contributions were made through the development of a Contribution Season. The Contribution Season runs through July and August each year, and is the ONLY time the Foundation will accept requests for funding.

If your organization is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization looking for funding for new or expanding projects or programs within the next 12 months, please review the Contribution Guidelines to determine eligibility, and fill out the Contribution Request Form in its entirety. Incomplete applications may not be considered.

The deadline to submit all contribution requests for funding is Friday, August 26, 2016, as indicated on the CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Request Form. The form is available at either CVEA



office and at [cvea.org/community](http://cvea.org/community) support.

Please note that the Foundation's contribution process and guidelines vary from CVEA's. CVEA has a small community support program that will continue to fund small cash (up to \$150) and in-kind donations for events and activities throughout the year.

The requirements for the CVEA program are different and separate from the Foundation and can also be found on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

Please ensure your organization meets the specific guidelines for Foundation funding and the correct application is submitted. If unsure where a request is best suited, please contact the Cooperative for assistance.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a volunteer committee in September, awards will be approved by the Board of Directors in October, and checks will be distributed in November/December.

If you have questions regarding the Foundation contribution process, please contact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, at 822-5506, 835-7005, 255-1425, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■



Opposite, in 2015 Sharon Crisp of CVEA presented a check to students and parents of the Valdez Co-op Preschool for a commercial-grade printer that will help teachers and students

Above, CVEA CEO John Duhamel presented a check last December to Gina Hoke, of the Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center, for a new 'Defeat the Bully' school program

## CVEA Guidelines

- It is CVEA's goal to provide the maximum benefit to the greatest number of members in the communities we serve; due to the large number of requests we receive, we regret that we are unable to fulfill all requests
- Requests are evaluated and funded based on the amount of funds available and how well the request meets CVEA's requirements
- CVEA looks for events/activities that benefit a large portion of the communities we serve
- CVEA limits donations to a maximum of \$150
- CVEA does not donate or discount products or services that are provided to all members via our Tariff
- CVEA does not donate funds to individuals
- Due to the large number of sports teams in our service area, CVEA does not fund sports teams or sporting activities unless there is a district-wide benefit

## CVEA Community Foundation Guidelines

- Education and youth programs are often the biggest recipients of Foundation funds
- The Foundation does not fund organizational operating costs
- The Foundation looks to contribute to new programs/projects or the expansion of existing programs/projects
- The Foundation will evaluate the amount of each request based on the merits of the application; an interview or demonstration may be required

### For either CVEA or the CVEA Community Foundation, nonprofits MUST meet the following minimum requirements:

- The organization must be a nonprofit organization
- The organization must benefit the public welfare or have a charitable, educational, or scientific benefit to the membership
- The organization's program or event must provide broad CVEA membership benefit
- The organization must support members in the CVEA service area

### The following are not eligible for assistance:

- Individuals
- Religious organizations
- Political organizations



## CVEA Spotlight - Walter 'Pinky' Becker



Walter Becker, better known as 'Pinky', is a Plant Operator at the Glennallen Diesel Plant, a position he's held for over 22 years, since he joined the Cooperative.

According to Travis Million, CVEA COO, "Pinky's knowledge of the power plant and the entire CVEA electrical system is unmatched by most. He is a great mentor to the operators, and many others, myself included. When you ask Pinky how he is doing, he'll say "tired and cranky", but he is actually one of the most happy and fun loving guys I know. It will be sad for all who work with him, if and when he retires later this year."

In order to highlight Pinky, we recently asked him a few questions.

**Q. What do you do in your position?**

**A.** I maintain the Glennallen Diesel Plant and work with the entire team to keep the lights on.

**Q. What are some things you do that members might be surprised to find out?**

**A.** They might be surprised to find out that I actually play well with others.

**Q. What things do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A.** I enjoy being outdoors; fishing and hunting and spending time with my family.

**Q. What do you like most about living in the Copper Basin?**

**A.** I like the access we have to the outdoors.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** I've been here for the installation of the Valdez Cogeneration Plant, the installation of Units 8 and 9 at the Glennallen Diesel Plant, and the later move of Unit 8, as well as the crank shaft replacement of Units 5 and 9 at the Valdez Diesel Plant.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I like that I work with a great group of team players.

**Q. What about your job or the cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I'm proud of working safely together with a great bunch of men and women. ■

# APA Members Tell Alaska Story in D.C.

*Meetings with legislators educate them about the challenges of living here*

By Michael Rovito

One can never stress enough the role electric cooperatives have played in the shaping of laws and the political process. Co-ops represent a large constituency of voters, all of whom pay for a service that can be affected by actions in state houses and Congress both on the reliability and financial fronts.

That is why for nearly 85 years, electric co-ops have involved themselves in government and politics. To fulfill their mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity for their members, co-ops must be proactive with legislators and policymakers.

This goal gets a boost from statewide associations, where strength in numbers can help bring about change by putting the force of the industry behind the group.

Alaska Power Association, the statewide trade association for electric utilities in Alaska, proudly takes up the role of unifier in the 49th state. Using its unified voice, APA works to help members in accomplishing their goals of delivering electric energy and other services at the best value to their consumers.

Each year, in May or June, APA takes its members to Washington, D.C., to meet with Congress and administration officials on matters important to the electric utility industry in Alaska. The 2016 trip included high-profile meetings with the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Rural Utilities Service, Alaska's federal delegation, and members of the U.S. House and Senate energy committees.

Many important issues are moving through Congress and the overall federal government right now. APA's visit is meant to give those in Washington, D.C., who are not from Alaska a sense of the realities and challenges that face electric utilities each day in The Last Frontier.

One of the items APA advocated for in D.C., was the energy legislation that this magazine has featured in its pages before. The bill, S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, began its life nearly a year ago and passed the Senate on April 20. The House, which amended S. 2012, already has voted to go to conference on the bill. However, as of this writing, Senate Democrats are not in favor of going to conference due to some of the provisions the House put in and because of veto threats from the White House.

Congress is fighting the clock on the energy bill, with most lawmakers heading home for much of July and August, then focusing on the presidential election this fall.

APA members also spent time with Rural Utilities Service



The APA contingent meets with Rep. Don Young in Washington, D.C.

Administrator Brandon McBride. RUS began life as the Rural Electrification Administration in the 1930s, and still provides low-interest loans to electric cooperatives for generation and transmission projects.

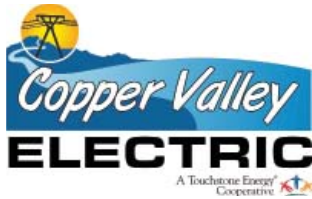
Many APA members are RUS borrowers. Meeting with the leadership of RUS was the perfect chance to offer comments on the good aspects of the agency and where APA members think improvements could be beneficial.

Perhaps the highest-profile meeting of the trip came during a roundtable with FERC Chairman Norman Bay. FERC regulates all hydroelectric projects in the United States, and many of its regulations affect APA members. During the meeting, federal land use fees and administrative burdens from FERC were discussed. This was a great chance for the folks who are directly impacted by FERC regulations—namely, the management and board of Alaska's electric utilities—to meet face-to-face with the leadership of the regulatory agency.

The hope is that through these meetings, the decision-makers in Washington, D.C., will become more familiar with Alaska and Alaskans, and consider that knowledge when promulgating new laws and regulations.

The tradition of working with the government for the best outcome to an electric cooperative's consumers is alive and well, just as the men and women of the early electric cooperatives took to Congress and their state houses throughout the decades.

Alaska's electric utilities are strongest when they are united, and that unity speaks volumes in the halls of Congress. ■



## Remember Electrical Safety as You Play This Summer

By Abby Berry and ESFI

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, CVEA reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

### Trees

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground.

If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call CVEA or 911 for assistance.

### Boating

Despite being categorized as leisure activities, swimming and boating can quickly become dangerous. While water-safety behaviors such as wearing life jackets and maintaining safe boating speeds have become commonplace, a serious hazard remains that is often overlooked.

This silent killer, classified as electric shock drowning, occurs in fresh water when a typically low level alternating current (AC) passes through the body, which causes muscular paralysis and eventually leads to drowning.

According to ESFI's president Brett Brenner, "although there are reported incidents every year, there is a lack of awareness about the dangers of Electric Shock Drowning." In addition, Electric Shock Drowning deaths are usually recorded as drowning because victims show no signs of burns, so many instances remain undocumented.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risk of electric shock drowning and common boat electrical hazards with these handy tips from ESFI:

- Don't allow yourself or anyone else to swim near docks. Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat.
- Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
- If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified. Get out as soon as possible avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders.

- Have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician who is familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70.
- Have GFCIs installed on your boat, and test them once a month.
- Consider having Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat.
- Only use shore or marine power cords, plugs, receptacles and extension cords that have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL).
- Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered.

**WARNING: ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING HAZARD FOR BOAT OPERATORS**

Unknowingly, many swimmers and boat operators place themselves in the face of danger by swimming near electric powered boats and docks. This innocent act of fun can turn tragic as electric shock drowning occurs each year. Help prevent electric shock drowning or other electrical injuries with these tips from ESFI.

**ESFI.org**

1. Don't allow anyone to swim near docks or boats.
2. If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified. Get out of the water as soon as possible avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders.
3. Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered.
4. Have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) installed on your boat. Test them once a month.
5. Consider having Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat.
6. Have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician regularly.

For more information on boat and marina electrical safety visit: [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)



- Never stand or swim in water when turning off electrical devices or switches.
- Electric Shock Drowning can also occur in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. Have an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa or hot tub in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code (NEC).

### Toys

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns.

Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment. Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at CVEA, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun!

Visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) for more electrical safety tips. For ESFI's complete collection of Boating and Marina Safety resources, visit [esfi.org](http://esfi.org). ■

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

*The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and the workplace. ESFI proudly engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. To learn more about ESFI and electrical safety, visit [esfi.org](http://esfi.org).*



## Don't TOY with your SAFETY

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.



**F**lying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites, or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call your electric co-op.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.





### Board of Directors

Paul Kildal, President  
Lon Rake, Vice President  
Mary Odden, Secretary  
Will Stark, Treasurer  
Brad Honerlaw, Director  
Jeff Saxe, Director  
Dan Stowe, Director  
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

### Copper Basin District

(907) 822-3211  
(907) 822-5586 (fax)  
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

### Valdez District

(907) 835-4301  
(907) 835-4328 (fax)  
367 Fairbanks Dr.

### After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

### Important Dates

#### July

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, July 4, 2016, for Independence Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The July meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2016, in Valdez

#### August

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2016, in Glennallen

AK-34

## Include Home Energy Savings in Summer Vacation Plans



CVEA reminds members going on vacation this summer to make sure their home's energy use takes a vacation as well. Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are simple tips that can give your electric bill a break when you take a break.

### Heating

Lower the thermostat settings. The heater doesn't need to keep you warm when you're not there, and you'll save energy. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.

### Lighting

Consumers can improve their energy savings, and their home's security, by using timers to operate one or two lights each night. Turn off all the other lights in your home.

### Electronics

Computers, CD/DVD players, TVs, VCRs, microwaves, and digital clocks – these and other electronic appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned

on. Unplug all of these devices before leaving. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.



### Water Heating

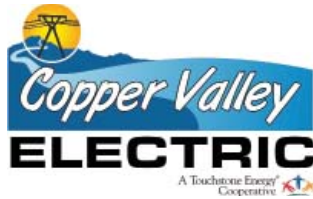
Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting, so it doesn't work to keep the water warm while you're away.

Many water heaters have a "vacation" setting for this purpose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.

### Refrigerator

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off.

For more information, visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) or [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com).



## Projects a Plenty at CVEA this Summer

Summer is here and that means the busy season is upon us. CVEA, like many other consumers and businesses, is taking advantage of increased daylight and favorable weather to complete many important projects that will provide benefit to our members and our communities. Below is a summary of some of the more significant projects the Cooperative is working on this summer.

### Valdez New Harbor Project

As the City of Valdez begins to ramp up on this season's work on the new harbor project, CVEA will work closely with the City and their contractors to ensure the electrical power needs are met for the new harbor slips, lights, and needed facilities. In May, CVEA began installing new underground electrical services to include the conductors and pad mount transformers throughout the project boundaries.

### Silver Bay Seafoods Expansion

As Silver Bay Seafoods has expanded their facilities, their need for additional electrical power has also increased.

CVEA has been working closely with Silver Bay Seafoods regarding the expansion project and has

been actively installing additional equipment to meet the current and potential future energy needs of the fish processor.

### Valdez City Streets Project

When driving into Valdez this summer you will surely notice the abundance of construction activities on the roads and sidewalks throughout town.

In preparation for the new archway that will be located as you enter town, near the Totem Inn restaurant and hotel, CVEA will retire approximately three spans of overhead electrical service to include the poles and wires, and install new underground electrical services that will run from the intersection of Meals and Egan to the Animal Shelter on the Richardson Highway.

This will not only improve the aesthetics when entering town, but will also eliminate potential hazards when snow is piled under the overhead conductors during heavy snow years in Valdez.

### Glennallen Line Crew Garage

CVEA is constructing a new garage facility near the Glennallen office. The new garage will replace the existing building, which is over 40 years old and no longer adequate to meet the cooperative's needs.

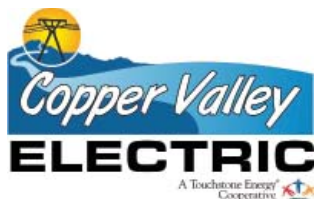
The new facility will be heated and large enough to house response equipment. Storing equipment in a heated facility will reduce the time it takes to prepare the equipment for deployment in inclement weather conditions, thus improving outage response times and working conditions.

### Valdez Diesel Plant

As reported in the *CVEA Strategic Issues Paper 2015* (available on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org)), the Cooperative is in the process of replacing four of the oldest diesel generators in the Valdez Diesel Plant. They will be replaced with two newer generating units that are nearly twice as efficient.

With the design work complete and permits in hand, the existing generators will be removed and the new units installed in June. The team will then fabricate and install all the needed mechanical pip-





## Projects a Plenty at CVEA this Summer

Summer is here and that means the busy season is upon us. CVEA, like many other consumers and businesses, is taking advantage of increased daylight and favorable weather to complete many important projects that will provide benefit to our members and our communities. Below is a summary of some of the more significant projects the Cooperative is working on this summer.

### Valdez New Harbor Project

As the City of Valdez begins to ramp up on this season's work on the new harbor project, CVEA will work closely with the City and their contractors to ensure the electrical power needs are met for the new harbor slips, lights, and needed facilities. In May, CVEA began installing new underground electrical services to include the conductors and pad mount transformers throughout the project boundaries.

### Silver Bay Seafoods Expansion

As Silver Bay Seafoods has expanded their facilities, their need for additional electrical power has also increased.

CVEA has been working closely with Silver Bay Seafoods regarding the expansion project and has

been actively installing additional equipment to meet the current and potential future energy needs of the fish processor.

### Valdez City Streets Project

When driving into Valdez this summer you will surely notice the abundance of construction activities on the roads and sidewalks throughout town.

In preparation for the new archway that will be located as you enter town, near the Totem Inn restaurant and hotel, CVEA will retire approximately three spans of overhead electrical service to include the poles and wires, and install new underground electrical services that will run from the intersection of Meals and Egan to the Animal Shelter on the Richardson Highway.

This will not only improve the aesthetics when entering town, but will also eliminate potential hazards when snow is piled under the overhead conductors during heavy snow years in Valdez.

### Glennallen Line Crew Garage

CVEA is constructing a new garage facility near the Glennallen office. The new garage will replace the existing building, which is over 40 years old and no longer adequate to meet the cooperative's needs.

The new facility will be heated and large enough to house response equipment. Storing equipment in a heated facility will reduce the time it takes to prepare the equipment for deployment in inclement weather conditions, thus improving outage response times and working conditions.

### Valdez Diesel Plant

As reported in the *CVEA Strategic Issues Paper 2015* (available on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org)), the Cooperative is in the process of replacing four of the oldest diesel generators in the Valdez Diesel Plant. They will be replaced with two newer generating units that are nearly twice as efficient.

With the design work complete and permits in hand, the existing generators will be removed and the new units installed in June. The team will then fabricate and install all the needed mechanical pip-



ing and electrical wiring to get the units up and running, improving the overall efficiency of the Valdez Diesel Plant.

### **Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) Tailrace Expansion**

CVEA has been working with VFDA for the past two years to increase the amount of water supplied from the Solomon Gulch Power Plant to the VFDA fish hatchery directly across Dayville Road.

In 2015 the Solomon tailrace, which supplies fresh water (water that has already been used to produce electricity) to the hatchery, was upgraded to allow the Cooperative to supply the hatchery with nearly three times as much water. This year the piping providing emergency high pressure water (water not yet used for electrical generation) is being upgraded.

The consideration of water supply needs, timing of the out-migration for the fish, and the need to maximize electrical generation when water is available in Solomon Lake, all combined to require significant coordination between CVEA and VFDA. This partnership is very beneficial for the community of Valdez. This project will allow for many years of reliable water supply between the two facilities and for future expansion if the hatchery chooses to do so.

### **Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project**

As reported at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Membership, we are on the home stretch of the project and are scheduled to begin commissioning of the new equipment in early fall. Check out page 32 of this issue of Ruralite for an update on the project. ■

#### **Opposite, CVEA crew working on the Silver Bay Seafoods expansion project**

**Top right, the upgraded CVEA Solomon Gulch Hydro Plant tailrace; providing additional freshwater to VFDA**

**Middle right, work on the emergency high pressure water upgrade**

**Bottom right, penstock being installed in the tunnel at the Allison Creek Hydro construction site**

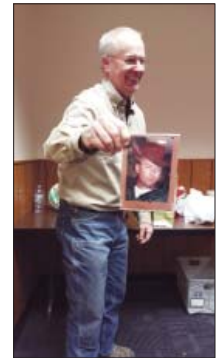




## CVEA Spotlight - Todd Stahley



Laura Stahley



Todd Stahley is the Valdez Line Foreman at CVEA, a position he's held for the entire 12 years he's been at the Cooperative.

According to John Duhamel, CVEA CEO, "Todd has been with CVEA through many changes. He has provided the necessary continuity as other linemen have come and gone. He is a steady and solid worker. I appreciate the dedication Todd gives to CVEA every day. He is a vital member of our team."

In order to highlight Todd, we recently asked him a few questions.

**Q. What do you do in your position?**

**A.** I work with two linemen doing line work, substation work, tree cutting, vehicle maintenance, and many other things the Co-op needs.

**Q. What are some things you do that members might be surprised to find out?**

**A.** They might be surprised at all the different things we do besides line work. At various times we've done meter reading, work in power plants, and even blow up balloons at the annual meetings.

**Q. What things do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A.** I enjoy fishing, hunting, and cutting firewood.

**Q. What do you like most about living in Valdez?**

**A.** I like the (3) sunny days we get.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

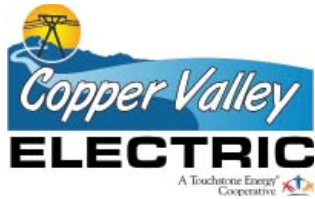
**A.** The biggest change has been the non-stop turnover of management, and the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project has been a big project for the Cooperative since I've been with CVEA.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

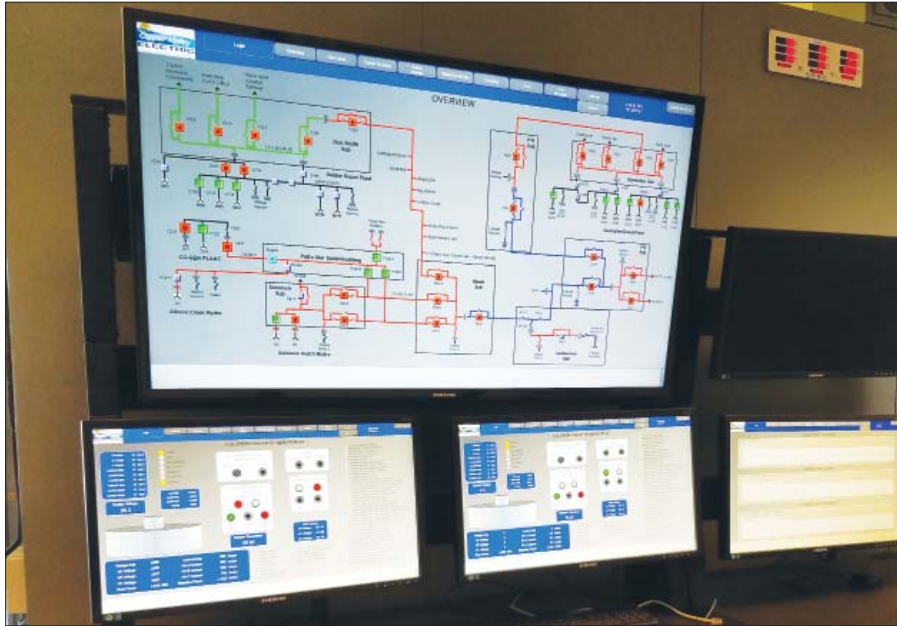
**A.** I like that we work in a small town.

**Q. What about your job or the cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I like my job, and I am good at my job. I'm proud of how we keep the lights on. ■



## What You Need to Know About SCADA at CVEA



By Travis Million and Tom Tate

Next time you find yourself in the company of engineers, wow them with your knowledge of SCADA. You say you don't anything about SCADA? Well, you have come to the right place!

Let's begin with the basis of the acronym: Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition. Basically, SCADA systems help electric co-ops quickly spot and solve power outages – this means safer, more reliable electricity for you, the co-op member.

Believe it or not, most of us use a SCADA system everyday. Do you drive? Consider the dashboard your car's Personal SCADA system. From the driver's seat, you can instantly gauge your speed, fuel level and engine diagnostics. Utility-scale SCADA is conceptually the same, only much bigger. The system is bigger because there are more things that need to be monitored and controlled.

Now that the baseline is set, let's discuss the components of a SCADA system. Both hardware and software are used. The software provides the intel-

ligence. It processes the data gathered, allows operators to program automated responses to particular situations and displays the data in a graphical format for the operators so they can easily interpret what is happening in the co-op's service territory. The hardware consists of sensors that collect data; programmable logic controllers (PLCs) that monitor the sensors and transmit the data on the SCADA network; and actuators that perform actions based on data and system commands, and communications gear.

So how do SCADA systems impact members of Copper Valley Electric? Let's walk through an example. We want to ensure that everything is operating correctly at our five substations. Inside the substation, sensors and actuators that are connected to a PLC are installed. A secure communication link is created between the devices and the co-op's Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant, which serves as our dispatch center, by using wireless, hardwired or fiber optic connections.

Our engineers program the operating charac-

teristics they want to monitor and control – in this example, let’s say it’s voltage and frequency. This is to ensure that the power leaving the substation meets power quality standards. A diagram of the substation is created and displayed on a computer so the dispatch operators can see what is happening inside.

Everything is powered up and the SCADA system goes into action. Suppose the voltage from a transformer goes too far out of its range, creating a potentially dangerous situation. The sensor sends this data to the PLC. The PLC sends this to the SCADA software and an alarm is generated in our dispatch center.

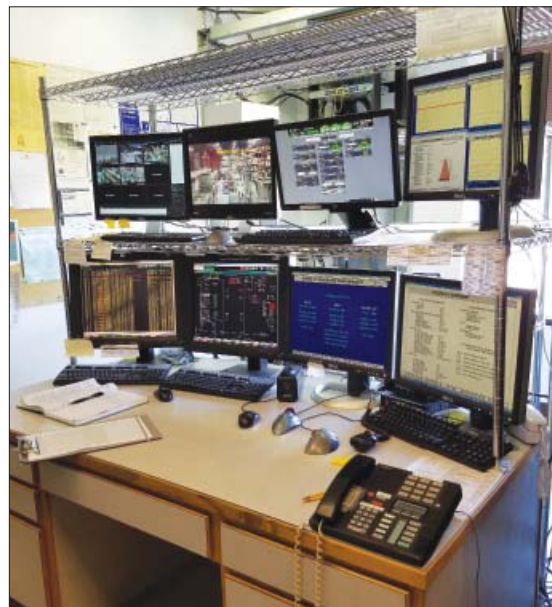
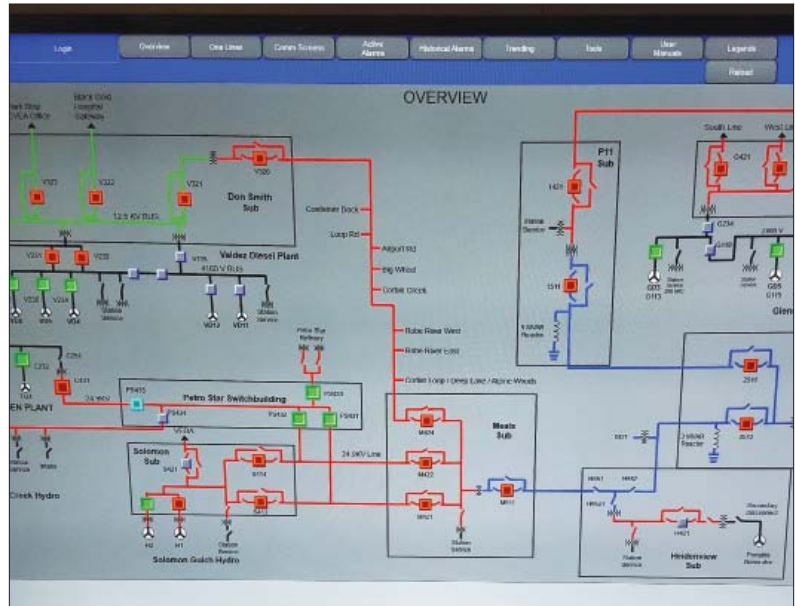
When an alarm is received, a couple of actions are possible. An automated response can be programmed into the system that tells the PLC to use actuators to implement a particular corrective measure. These types of automated actions provide immediate response to a situation while alerting the operators that it has occurred. Or, if warranted our engineers can assess the situation and issue commands from their computer to diagnose the problem. The system is flexible, so the engineers can automate what they want and opt for human intervention for especially important actions.

Since the data is supplied in near real-time, these systems are extremely valuable to ensuring the safe, reliable and stable operation of the grid. They are also becoming important in the creation of a Smart Grid.

At its most basic use, it involves two-way communication between devices installed within the grid. At its most advanced, it automates major portions of grid operations to provide immediate response to grid conditions that can lead to problems for co-op members.

So, the next time you find yourself in the company of engineers, you can impress them with your knowledge of SCADA systems. To learn more about SCADA and other ways Copper Valley Electric is improving the safety and reliability of electricity, visit [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org). ■

*Travis Million is the Chief Operating Officer at CVEA and Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



**Opposite, the SCADA system at the CVEA Solomon Gulch Hydro Plant dispatch center**

**Top right, an up close view of the system one line diagram  
Bottom right, a picture of the old SCADA system at Solomon Gulch; the new system is much more condensed and efficient**





**Board of Directors**  
 Paul Kildal, President  
 Lon Rake, Vice President  
 Mary Odden, Secretary  
 Will Stark, Treasurer  
 Michael Johnson, Director  
 Jeff Saxe, Director  
 Dan Stowe, Director  
 Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
 Glennallen, AK 99588  
 www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
 (907) 822-3211  
 (907) 822-5586 (fax)  
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**  
 (907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
 (866) 835-2832

### Important Dates

#### June

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2016, in Glennallen

#### July

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, July 4, 2016, for Independence Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The July meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2016, in Valdez

AK-34

## Allison Creek Home Stretch

CVEA believes hydropower is the most viable and cost-effective renewable resource and has continued to aggressively move the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project forward since efforts began in 2008. Allison Creek promises several renewable energy benefits. The project will:

- displace 725,000 gallons of fuel annually when it is commissioned in 2016
- eliminate 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually
- allow Solomon Gulch Lake to store more water going into the winter
- generate 15 million kWhs to increase CVEA's renewable energy portfolio from 50 to 64 percent of total generation requirements
- provide benefits for generations

In May, the Allison Creek project team mobilized to begin the final construction season. The newest hydro project in CVEA's generation portfolio will be commissioned in the fall of 2016. Goals for this season include:

- Installation of the remaining 23 pieces of penstock
- Construction of the final 10 percent of the diversion structure
- Tie-in of electrical and communications from powerhouse to diversion structure
- Diverting water to penstock for the first time
- Performing operational tests
- Training CVEA Operators to run the new power plant
- Generation of commercial power



A short video documenting the construction project to date was shown at the CVEA Annual Meeting in April. We encourage everyone interested to check it out by visiting [cvea.org](http://cvea.org), the CVEA Facebook page, or the award winning Allison Creek website at <http://allisoncreekhydro.cveahydro.org>. This website was created to keep you informed of the progress of the project and to provide access to project information, historical reports, and articles written for Ruralite Magazine to keep members informed. This page will stay up to date with important information and construction photos as we move through the final construction phase of the project.

If you have questions please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■

# Copper Valley Electric 2016 Annual Meeting Photo Highlights



CVEA's Todd Stahley and Carl Schmokel hanging the Allison Creek Hydro Banner in Valdez



Darin Sauls and CEO Duhamel in discussion at the net metering table



Christopher Spring, William Matthews, and Theron Rude; future members of CVEA



100 door prizes were give away at this year's annual meeting



Members going through registration at the meeting in Glennallen



President Kildal giving meeting reports in Valdez



President Kildal and CEO Duhamel pose with Zena Disney celebrating 10 years with CVEA and Cindy Butherus celebrating 15



CVEA Board member, Fred Williams, chatting with member Warren Ulrich



CVEA employees Toni Daniels and Misty Rude awaiting members at the registration table in Glennallen



CEO Duhamel celebrated service awards with Barbara Eaton (10 years), Mary Ellen Bedrick (25 years), and Travis Million (5 years)



Cassidy Matthews taking her traditional photo with the CEO after the meeting in Glennallen



Jamie and Kit Winchester and their little ones enjoying the Annual Meeting in Valdez



Registration tables at the meeting in Valdez



Local kids grabbing their goody bags at the meeting in Valdez



CVEA's Alex Gearhart and Pinky Becker pose with Miguel Saavedra at the meeting in Glennallen



Craig Grams poses inside the Chevy Tahoe Beater he won at the Copper Basin meeting



CVEA employees Cindy Unger, Nancy Heidelberg, Joyanna Hoffman, and Coreen Palacios



Approximately 250 people enjoyed the meeting in Valdez



Madison and Hailey Sauls handed out door prizes with the team in Valdez



Board Secretary Mary Odden announcing door prizes in Glennallen

# 2016 Annual Meeting Recap



**CEO John Duhamel addresses the crowd at the Annual Meeting in Glennallen**  
Sharon Crisp

Local community members came out in large numbers in April to support your electric co-op, with approximately 250 people attending the 2016 Annual Meeting in Valdez and 310 attending in Glennallen.

CEO Duhamel told the crowd that the co-op is in the home stretch on the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project, showed a video of project construction to date, and outlined what work is left to do before commercial power production begins this fall. He also discussed ways CVEA is saving the members money by doing more work in-house, increasing hydro output from Solomon Gulch, and increasing efficiency. Finally, members were reminded that winter rates were lower in 2015 due to fuel cost savings, and made aware that changes will be made to the Tariff that governs the co-ops Net Metering Program once the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project comes online.

Other highlights included the announcement of the Board of Directors election results, the introduction of the 2016 Community Foundation scholarship award recipients, and recognition of employee service awards.

Concerning the Board of Director elections Brad Honerlaw was elected, and Fred Williams was re-elected in the Copper Basin District, and Dan Stowe was re-elected in the Valdez District.

Community Foundation scholarship awards were announced and a split-the-pot fundraiser raised \$645 to benefit Foundation programs. See page 28 in this issue for details on all winners.

Several CVEA employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative. Travis Million celebrated 5 years; Zena Disney and Barbara Eaton celebrated 10 years; Cindy Butherus celebrated 15 years, and Mary Ellen Bedrick celebrated 25 years of service.

100 door prizes were given out in each district. Craig Grams won the Chevy Tahoe in Glennallen and Chuck and Delores Gard went home with the Ford Beater in Valdez!

CVEA thanks everyone who attended and those that helped make this year's events successful.

If you have questions on this or any CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■





## CVEA Community Foundation Joins the Annual Meeting

The CVEA Community Foundation (Foundation) is proud to offer educational scholarships to graduating seniors, to sophomores and juniors hoping to attend the Idaho Youth Rally, and to make contributions to local non-profit organizations.

In 2016, the Foundation awarded a \$2,000 general scholarship to one student in each district to help further their educational goals, and a scholarship for one student from each district to represent our cooperative, our communities, and our state at the Idaho Youth Rally leadership camp in Caldwell, Idaho, this summer.

Funding of the scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits that have reverted to the Cooperative, members who have made one-time or recurring donations to the

Foundation, and from those who participate in Foundation fundraisers.

At this year's meeting, Foundation volunteers Genia Duhamel, Cindy Orvedahl, Zoe Langseth, Cassidy Matthews and Christian Spring were on hand selling Split-the-Pot tickets to raise funds for the Foundation.

Marc Grugier took home \$360 in Valdez, and Sarah Valentine won \$285 in Glennallen. In total \$645 was raised to benefit Foundation programs.

Through the Foundation and the scholarship program, CVEA is making an investment in our youth and in our future. Please join us in congratulating the 2016 CVEA Community Foundation scholarship winners.

## \$2,000 General Scholarship Winners



**Zoe Langseth**  
Valdez District



**Taylor Vollman**  
Copper Basin District



Top left, Zoe Langseth and Genia Duhamel selling Split-the-Pot tickets in Valdez. Top middle, Marc Grugier won \$360 and supported the Community Foundation. Top right, President Kildal and CEO Duhamel with Zoe, winner of a \$2,000 general scholarship. Bottom left, Grazyna Brocka and Magdalena Brocka Mccay purchasing tickets from volunteer Cindy Orvedahl. Bottom middle, Sarah Valentine shows off her \$285 win. Bottom right, volunteers Genia Duhamel and Cassidy Matthews selling tickets in Glennallen. (Christian Spring not pictured)

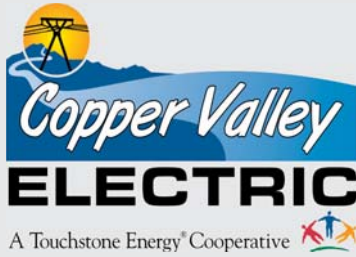
## Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship Winners



**Timothy Kimble**  
Valdez District



**Gerek Chmielowski**  
Copper Basin



**Board of Directors**  
 Paul Kildal, President  
 Lon Rake, Vice President  
 Mary Odden, Secretary  
 Will Stark, Treasurer  
 Michael Johnson, Director  
 Jeff Saxe, Director  
 Dan Stowe, Director  
 Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
 Glennallen, AK 99588  
 www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
 (907) 822-3211  
 (907) 822-5586 (fax)  
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**  
 (907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
 (866) 835-2832

**Important Dates**

**May**

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2016, in Valdez

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 30, 2016, for Memorial Day

**June**

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2016, in Glennallen

AK-34

# Copper Valley Electric Association 2016 Election Results

At the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members, Board of Director election results were announced. The Copper Basin District re-elected Fred Williams and elected Brad Honerlaw, each to a three-year term. The Valdez District re-elected Dan Stowe to a three-year term.

The Credentials and Election Committees in both districts reported voting results for the director election as follows:

<u>Valdez</u>		<u>Copper Basin</u>	
Ballots Received	166	Ballots Received	272
Ballots Counted	149	Ballots Counted	253
Dan Stowe	148	Brad Honerlaw	146
		Fred Williams	177
		Peggy Sutton	Withdrew

CVEA welcomes the returning directors and appreciates the participation of all director candidates in the election.



**Know what's below.  
 Call before you dig.**  
*Alaska*  
 DIGLINE, INC.





## National Lineman Appreciation Day

On April 11, electric cooperatives across the nation will celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

CVEA encourages all members to honor the dedicated co-op employees who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen respond to outages at

the worst times and in the worst conditions, yet they do it with pride and professionalism" said CVEA CEO John Duhamel. "Despite working with very dangerous equipment in difficult circumstances, they have a safety record better than we have seen before. I appreciate what they do for us every day."

A team of six linemen maintain over 500 miles of transmission and distribution lines throughout CVEA's service territory.

CVEA encourages members to thank a lineman for the work they do this April, and invites members to visit the Copper Valley Electric Association Facebook page on April 11 to enter a comment of thanks using #thankalineman and show your support for the employees who light up our lives.

All comments and notes of gratitude will be shared with the line crews and the entire transmission and distribution team. ■

**Todd Stahley \* Garrette Francis \* Ryan Cook \* Walt Lynch \* Mark Kirkpatrick**





Photos courtesy CVEA, Jean Wilkinson, Arcadis, and Janice Reynolds



## CVEA Spotlight - Erik Brenden



Erik has been with CVEA for close to 19 years. He started as a brush cutter summer hire, then became the Staking Engineer, and the IT/SCADA Technician. As dependence on technology expanded, Erik's position as Information Systems Technician developed.

According to Jaime Matthews, Erik's supervisor, "Having supervised Erik for the past 10 years, I am beyond grateful for his technical abilities. Erik is a quick study and enjoys his job; CVEA is lucky to have him!"

In order to highlight Erik, we recently asked him a few questions:

**Q. What do you do as the Information Systems Technician?**

**A.** I am responsible for the information systems and technology. This includes maintaining several databases, maintaining several local area and wide area networks, staging and deployment of workstations, internal phone systems, data lines, video conferencing systems, and just about anything dealing with planning and managing CVEA's IT infrastructure.

**Q. What are some little known facts members might be surprised to find out?**

**A.** I was born and raised in the Copper Valley. We moved to Valdez during my high school years, then I returned after military service and college. In addition, my father worked for CVEA as an Operator in Valdez, so I am the second generation of my family to work here.

**Q. What things do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A.** Camping, hiking, and fishing top the list. GeoCaching has been a fun family activity as well.

**Q. What do you like most about living in the Copper Basin?**

**A.** No matter which of the two seasons we may be in, the natural beauty and solitude of the area are enjoyable.

**Q. What things do you enjoy doing in the community?**

**A.** I have volunteered at the Copper Basin 300 and have helped out at the local Lego Robotics Club.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** I was part of the PetroStar Cogeneration Project and integrating communication and controls to the Solomon Gulch Hydro dispatch. I also took part in the diesel plant generator renovation and the main database conversion. Just being part of the CVEA team on advancing technology throughout the company has been very rewarding.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** It is never dull; I can plan and anticipate my next work day, but I truly never know what to expect.

**Q. What about your job or the cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** When evaluating a project, the consumer interests are always considered first, along with cost, reliability and overall fit to the cooperative. ■

# Top five energy users in your home. A Starting Point For Savings

By Anne Prince

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs?

To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

- Space cooling
- Space heating
- Water heating
- Lighting
- Refrigeration

## Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps

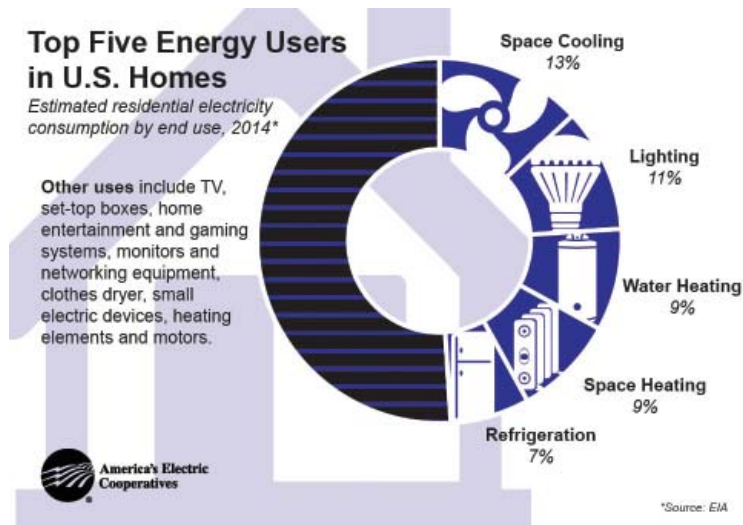
- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit
- Cleaning the filters of your system can cut costs from five to 15 percent
- Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

## Top Five Energy Users in U.S. Homes

Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014\*

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.



## Shine the light on savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you money. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

## Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

## Put cold hard cash back in your wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If

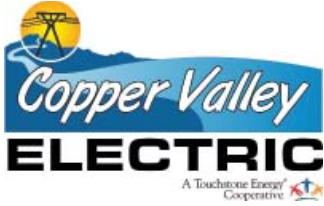
you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards.

Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

For additional ways to save, check out the energy information link at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) or visit [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com). ■

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



## 2016 Valdez Science Fair Really Cool Projects, Real Results



Left, CVEA's Darin Sauls with Rylee Christensen and Madeline O'Neil, winners of the 2016 'Best Electrical Project' award at the Valdez Science Fair

Photo courtesy Dahlia O'Neil

Below, Wayne McKinzey, of CVEA, volunteered as judge at this year's Valdez Science Fair

Photo by Darin Sauls



After a year hiatus, the Valdez City Schools Valdez Science Fair was held on March 9, 2016. All students in the community were invited to participate and there were participants from Hermon Hutchins Elementary School and from local home-schools. In total 49 projects representing students in grades 2-5 were entered, according to event coordinator Ruthie Knight.

Copper Valley Electric employees Darin Sauls and Wayne McKinzey were on hand to help Knight judge the projects. They were joined by other judges Heidi Fox from Providence Counseling Center, Joshua Buffinton from Valdez Fisheries, Michelle Cullen from Prince William Sound College, Jim Nygaard of Valdez City Schools, and Bill Bryson, who is retired from Valdez City Schools.

In addition to overall judging, Darin and Wayne judged projects looking for the 'Best Electrical Project', a special award sponsored by CVEA.

This year's winner was a team of Rylee Christensen and Madeline O'Neil. Their project was titled *Lights, Camera, Science*, and basically used batteries across two sizes of lead to

make the lead (carbon) light up. They ran several tests to measure how long the lead would stay lit up.

Darin and Wayne were looking for scientific method applied to the project, an interest in the subject, and information on what they learned from the project. According to Darin, “What made these girls stand out was their knowledge of the project and their completeness of the scientific method, particularly the measurement and recording of those measurements.”

For their hard work, Rylee and Madeline were given an award certificate and a \$50 Visa card. Rumor has it they’ll share their winnings by going out to dinner.

Other first place finishers are listed by grade and category below:

Grade level	Category	Name
2nd	Electricity/Magnetism	Austin Morgan
2nd	Chemistry	Autumn Boone
3rd	Surveys	Dalen Beck and Kovai Christensen
4th	Consumer Science	Moe Togagae
4th	Physical Science	Jaimie Crisp
4th	Electricity/Magnetism	Electric Paint 5-G
4th	Chemistry	Rafe Caruthers
4th	Math/	
	Consumer Science	Caelyn Wise
4th	Mathematics	Christina Wise
5th	Consumer Science	Mason Holmes and Mya Christoffersen
5th	Physical Science	Spencer Holbrook
5th	Physical Science	Carsyn Hinkle and Ginger Keller
5th	Electricity/Magnetism	Rylee Christensen and Madeline O’Neil
5th	Chemistry	Malia Kamauoha
5th	Biology/Behavioral	Chloe Auble
5th	Materials Science	Conan Curtis
5th	Computer Science	Fisher Mishmarsh and Piers Shirk

CVEA would like to thank Ruthie Knight and the Valdez City Schools for fostering a love of science in our youth and for the invitation to participate and support local students. Congratulations to the winners and all of the participating students on their hard work. ■

**Top, first place Consumer Science project (5th grade) by Mason Holmes and Mya Christoffersen, demonstrating the sugar content in various drinks**  
**Top middle, Spencer Holbrook next to his first place Physical Science project (5th grade) on evaporation**  
**Bottom middle, Jaimie Crisp showing off her first place Physical Science (4th grade) win for exploding watermelons with rubberbands**  
**Bottom, Wayne and Ruthie reviewing project scores**

Photos courtesy Tammy Holmes, Erika Holbrook, Kim Crisp, and Darin Sauls





**Board of Directors**  
 Paul Kildal, President  
 Lon Rake, Vice President  
 Mary Odden, Secretary  
 Will Stark, Treasurer  
 Michael Johnson, Director  
 Jeff Saxe, Director  
 Dan Stowe, Director  
 Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
 Glennallen, AK 99588  
[www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org)

**Copper Basin District**  
 (907) 822-3211  
 (907) 822-5586 (fax)  
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**  
 (907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
 (866) 835-2832

### Important Dates

#### April

**Annual Meeting:** The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, in the Valdez district and Thursday, April 7, in the Copper Basin district; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2016, in Glennallen

#### May

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2016, in Valdez

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 30, 2016, for Memorial Day

AK-34

## 2016 Construction Season is Almost Upon Us

Summer appears to be coming early to the CVEA service territory this year and members are eager to begin work on home building projects, renovations, upgrades and yard work. As you begin to plan and move forward on your projects, here are a few things to remember.

If your building plans include a new electrical service or existing service upgrade, contact CVEA at 835-4301 or 822-3211, while you're in the planning stages. A representative from the cooperative can evaluate your needs and schedule a site inspection. If you have questions regarding construction specifications, visit the Electrical Service, Construction Information section at [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

### Call Before You Dig

Anyone planning an outdoor project that requires digging, regardless of the depth or the size of the project, must contact Alaska Digline by calling 811 before you dig.

Alaska Digline serves as a message handling and notification service, taking information about planned excavations and providing this information to CVEA. Digline now serves as a single point of contact for all utility locates. One call will do it all!

Advance notice will still be required. Alaska law requires anyone engaging in any type of excavation to provide advance notice. This notice must be at least 48 hours/2 full business days prior to the start of excavation, and the project must begin within 15 working days from when the locate is requested. Requests for locates after 5 p.m. will be processed as if received at 8 a.m. the next business day.

When calling in an emergency locate request, inform the Alaska Digline call center operator that an emergency exists and be prepared to explain the situation and/or conditions.

Alaska Digline asks callers to be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name, address, and contact information
- Location at which the excavation/demolition will take place
- Type and extent of the work involved
- What the depth of the excavation will be
- Start date and time of the planned excavation/demolition

To request locates, just call toll free numbers 811 or 1-800-478-3121.



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**  
 Alaska  
 DIGLINE, INC.



## 2016 CVEA Meet the Director Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by March 11, along with candidate biographies and your official annual meeting notice.

To be counted, return ballots must be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

There are two seats up for election in the Copper Basin District and one seat in the Valdez District.

Candidates have been nominated to fill these seats via the petition process. You, as a CVEA member, will soon have the opportunity to exercise your right to

vote. Please exercise this right.

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. Recent elections have been dangerously close to hitting the minimum, which, if happened, would invalidate the election. Please help CVEA ensure this doesn't happen by voting.

To learn about the candidates, they were asked to respond to three important questions. The questions are listed here and the candidate responses follow.

Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 75 words per question.

### Question 1

What knowledge, skills, and experience will you bring to CVEA's Board of Directors?

### Question 2

What do you feel are the co-op's biggest challenges in the next five years?

### Question 3

How will your knowledge/skills and experience contribute to overcoming the co-op's biggest challenges?



**Copper Basin District**  
**John (Brad) Honerlaw**

Brad is a resident of Copper Center and works at the National Park Service-Wrangell St. Elias National Park. He has been a member of CVEA for 10 years.

### Question 1

I bring several years of experience in evaluating information and making hard decisions. I also have an understanding that some user groups will not be satisfied with the decisions made, regardless of what those decisions are. I have a

strong understanding and appreciation of the unique needs and independent spirit of many residents in the Copper Valley.

### Question 2

I feel the biggest challenges faced by the co-op in the next five years are the environmental factors which cause outages, costing time and money in repairs. Additionally, I think there will be increased regulatory pressure to consider alternative energy sources and decreased reliance on diesel power generation. These alternatives will cost time and money to research and make work in our area.

### Question 3

I think a proactive approach to clearing rights of way, re-routing transmission lines around known slide areas and other known natural hazards will help prevent future service interruptions. I think an objective and rational evaluation of alternative energy production will help guide

the co-op in the future.



**Copper Basin District**  
**Peggy (Eleanore) Sutton**

Peggy is a resident of Kenny Lake and is now retired. She has been a member of CVEA for over 40 years.

### Question 1

I sat on the CVEA Board of Directors for six years and served as president and treasurer during that time. I attended trainings and earned the Certified Director's Certificate. I have lived in this



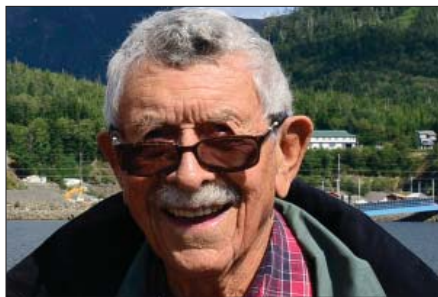
area for over 50 years and have been a CVEA member since the early 1970s. I have a background in budgeting and accounting for various organizations and worked in the career and technology department of the Anchorage School District.

### Question 2

I feel that one of the biggest challenges facing CVEA is the fact that the membership is static or declining. The co-op must look at alternative energy sources. The economy in this area is depressed and families are leaving to find work in other areas.

### Question 3

With my background in budgeting and accounting, and as a former board member, I feel I will be able to contribute financial knowledge and skills to assist the co-op in coping with the current challenges. Since I have lived in the area for a long time, I am familiar with the problems the communities are facing and can work with the communities to find solutions.



**Copper Basin District**  
**Fred Williams \*Incumbent**

Fred is a resident of Copper Center and is retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Fred has been a member of CVEA for 43 years and a Director since 1971.

### Question 1

During the years that I have been on the board of CVEA, I have acquired a good amount of knowledge and experience as to the responsibilities of being

an effective board member. For example, when the Solomon Gulch project was being constructed, the board members were very involved. During that period I served as president of the board.

### Question 2

Our biggest challenge is to produce all our energy needs with renewables. When the Allison project comes online, about 65 percent of our energy will be produced by renewable (hydro). The government may soon require us to produce all of our electric power needs with renewables.

Right now the best alternative to diesel is hydro, however, we do not have the finances to pay additional construction costs for new projects at this time. A large portion of the cost of Allison was paid for with state grants; the present condition of the state finances precludes any help from the state. Help from the federal government is also unlikely.

### Question 3

Assuming that federal and/or state money will be available sometime in the future, we should continue to look for other hydro sites and investigate new technology for producing clean power. We must have all our ducks in a row for when financing may be available. I believe that the board and state will be up to the challenge. We must be able to construct new, clean power facilities without using the rate structure to pay for all of the bill. I believe that our board can do the job, and I feel I can be effective in this future planning.



**Valdez District**  
**Dan Stowe \*Incumbent**

Dan is a resident of Valdez. He is a retired geological/petroleum engineer. Dan has been a member of CVEA for 26 years and a director since 2004.

### Question 1

I am an engineer with a BS degree in Geological/Petroleum Engineering. I am recently retired after 43 years as a project engineer and project manager with various oil companies throughout the world. I am a past and current CVEA Director (2004-2007, 2010-present) as well as a Certified Cooperative Director. Having lived and worked in Valdez for over 25 years, I am well versed in what the community of Valdez needs from their electric co-op, and how to achieve some of those goals.

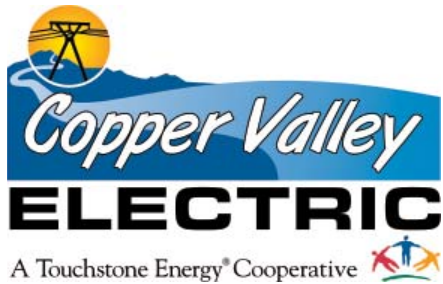
### Question 2

CVEA is working diligently to complete the final construction for the Allison Creek Hydro Project. I am behind this project all the way, but I also believe there are other possibilities out there that we should be looking at: other potential hydro sites, a natural gas line, a tie-in to the Railbelt system, and obtaining grants toward development of alternative sources of energy. I am willing to listen to all suggestions from our members.

### Question 3

As a resident of Valdez for over 25 years, I am vitally interested in the future of our community and making it more affordable for all residents. I will work diligently to assure that CVEA continues investigation into all potential sources for alternative energy, and that the board remains constantly aware of any new state and federal grants that may be available for development of alternative sources of energy.

Having served on the board for over nine years, I am not only acquainted with all current board members, I am also knowledgeable with how the board operates. I can and will work diligently to improve reliability while at the same time providing the lowest possible rates to all of our customers.

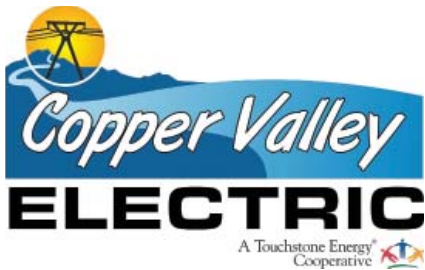


## CVEA Line Crews Hard at Work Repairing Winter Damage

Winter weather conditions throughout the CVEA service area this year yielded excessive frost and ice buildup on large portions of the co-op's 500 miles of distribution and transmission lines. Extreme icing conditions east of Thompson Pass resulted in physical damage to several transmission line structures in the area. CVEA's Line Crews have been hard at work; through inclement weather, difficult terrain, and in areas only accessible on foot or by helicopter, making necessary repairs to ensure the transmission line is back up and in working order.

Photos by Garrette Francis and Dale Orvedahl





## Working Hard For You CVEA Service Awards



**Travis Million**  
Manager of Power Generation and  
Compliance - Copper Basin  
5 Years of Service

Travis is celebrating five years of service as the manager of power generation at CVEA and has recently added compliance to his title. Prior to CVEA, Travis worked as a power engineer and environmental, safety, and health manager at HAARP. Travis came from eastern Washington, near Pullman, and has lived in the Copper Basin for 11 years with his wife Emily. Travis and Emily have two daughters, Sophie and Reese, and a Bearded Collie named Laney.

In his spare time Travis enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, camping, and running. He spends time on home improvement projects, volunteers as a youth basketball coach, and serves on the Copper Valley Telecom Board of Directors.

Travis' favorite thing about CVEA is the people he gets to work with every single day. He says that every day is something different and he enjoys the variety of challenges, problems, and rewards. According to CEO John Duhamel, "Travis leads our Power Generation and Compliance Department but his influence on the organization

goes much deeper than that. There isn't much that goes on at CVEA that he doesn't influence in one way or another. His work on the safety program touches everyone, every day. His efforts to increase efficiency in power generation have made a significant impact to reduce our use of fossil fuel. His knowledge of environmental and compliance requirements keep CVEA on track with regulatory agencies and laws. Travis is a class act and we are lucky to have him as a leader on our team."



**Zena Disney**  
Generation Admin - Valdez  
10 Years of Service

Zena is the Power Generation Admin and is celebrating her 10th year at CVEA. Prior to CVEA, she worked for Alyeska as an engineering assistant.

Originally from Marshall, Alaska, Zena has spent the last 16 years in Valdez with her family; husband Donald, sons Daile, James, Isaac, and Spencer, and daughter Emory. Rounding out the family are their two dogs and cat. In her spare time Zena likes camping, fishing, berry picking, hiking/geocaching with her family, cooking and baking, watching movies and old tv shows, photography, and attending her children's sporting and music events.

When asked what has changed in her position in the last five years, Zena said that she was assigned as the primary backup for customer service in 2013, and she likes that she gets to interact and help CVEA customers more. She mentions that it's funny how customers she now helps at customer service ask her if she's new, or wonder when she started working at the electric cooperative.

Zena wishes people knew how hard CVEA employees do work to provide excellent service both in the office and in the field and says her favorite thing about working for CVEA is how all departments come together as a team to accomplish goals. She also enjoys that the office is less than two minutes from her house. According to her supervisor Travis Million, "Zena has worked with me as the Admin for the Generation Department for 5 of her 10 years at CVEA. Zena is very detail oriented, organized, and is the go to person if you need something done right the first time. I enjoy working with Zena and look forward to working with her for many years to come."



**Barbara Eaton**  
Office Manager - Copper Basin  
10 Years of Service

Barb is the office manager for CVEA, a position she's held for roughly 10 years. Barb came to CVEA and the Copper Basin from LaConner, Washington where she was the office manager for LaConner Maritime.

Barb lives in Glennallen with her husband John and has a son, Aaron and a daughter Jessie. Two dogs, a cat, six gold fish, 19 chickens and a turkey round out the family.

Barb likes to garden and spend time at their comfortable cabin on Tom Lake in her spare time; it is her goal to open her own road-side self check produce stand in the future.

When asked what she feels has changed in her position in the last five years, Barb says that the biggest change is happening right now as her long-time accountant retired and she's training her replacement. There has also been a change in management and the company is pulling together and working together.

One thing she wishes people knew is that accountants truly believe they can save the world through reconciliation. It is like a core motivational inspirational factor and she thinks maybe our world needs more people focused on peace and reconciliation.

Her favorite thing about working for CVEA is the great team she works with. When asked to provide a quote, she gave this, "Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. You have today to make a difference, live it well." - Francis Gray

According to her supervisor Jaime Matthews, CVEA Manager of Administration and Finance, "Barb works endless hours to ensure the accounting department is orderly yet strives to have a positive attitude. Her dedication to CVEA is a reflection of her work."



**Cindy Butherus**  
Transmission & Distribution  
Admin - Valdez  
15 Years of Service

Cindy is celebrating 15 years with CVEA. She is currently the Transmission and Distribution Admin in the Valdez office. Cindy has lived in Valdez for 17 years and worked as admin for the Dean of Instruction and PWSCC prior to coming to work for CVEA. Originally from Clark County, Washington, Cindy now lives in Valdez with her husband Randy, her mother Kay, and Ruffy, their Australian Cattle Dog. In her spare time Cindy enjoys boating, fishing, camping, cooking, swimming, and kayaking.

When asked what has changed in her position, Cindy tells us she has gotten more training on AutoCad and really enjoys using it for large map and drawing projects.

When asked about a funny story, she tells us that in 2015, after teasingly complaining for years that she'd never been to the Solomon Gulch dam, she was finally given a tour. Unfortunately on the way back, they had a flat tire. They enlisted assistance from a contractor, but still had to be rescued by another co-worker, much to her tour guide's chagrin.

One thing she wishes people knew about the cooperative, is that employees value the fact that CVEA is a cooperative and not about hurting the members for profit. Employees simply work hard to keep the power on and at the lowest rates possible given the extreme conditions we face. She also wants members to know that employees do not get free or discounted power.

Dale Orvedahl, Cindy's supervisor, had this to say about Cindy, "I am very fortunate to have Cindy as my admin.

Her impact is felt throughout the cooperative. I really appreciate that if something needs done, she will do it, no questions asked."



**Mary Ellen Bedrick**  
Revenue Accountant  
Copper Basin  
25 Years of Service

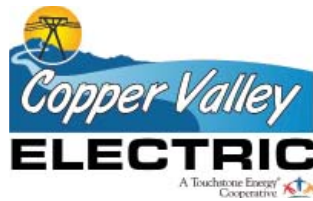
Mary Ellen is the revenue accountant at CVEA. She is celebrating 25 years with the cooperative in 2016. Prior to CVEA she worked at Gakona Lodge and was a title examiner for Fidelity Title in Winter Park, Florida.

Originally from Orchard Park, New York, Mary Ellen has lived in the Copper Basin for 27 years. Mary Ellen's family is husband Don, stepdaughter Aryn and her husband David, granddaughters Melea and Siri and grandson Thatcher. Murphy, their one-year-old Australian Shepherd completes their family.

Mary Ellen enjoys traveling and spending time outside camping, hiking, and hanging around the bonfire with friends and family when not at work.

In the last five years, Mary Ellen believes the biggest change has been turnover due to retirements. She says she wishes people knew that CVEA is a great place to work, where everyone works very hard, as a team, for the members, and that the people she works with are her favorite thing about her job.

According to her supervisor, Jaime Matthews, "As our seasoned revenue accountant, Mary Ellen sets the bar high for customer service. She has worked hard with new personnel at CVEA to maintain these high standards. Her 25 years at CVEA is something all employees strive for!"



## CVEA is Working Safely One Day at a Time

Working safely is important to employees and employers alike in every industry. However, in the electrical utility industry it is extremely important. One small mistake or wrong move can quickly turn a routine task into a serious injury or death.

Working with high voltage electricity is very dangerous. Add the element of Alaska's extreme weather conditions to that work, and the hazards have been significantly increased.

CVEA takes safety very seriously, not just for the line crews and operators, but also for office and administrative employees.

In 2011 CVEA began to redesign and revamp the safety program, making it a much more important part of everyday business.

After several years of improved and focused training, mitigation of safety hazards, the creation of safety teams, and most importantly changing the safety culture, the co-op is starting to see this hard work pay off.

2015 turned out to be a record setting year in the field of safety at CVEA.

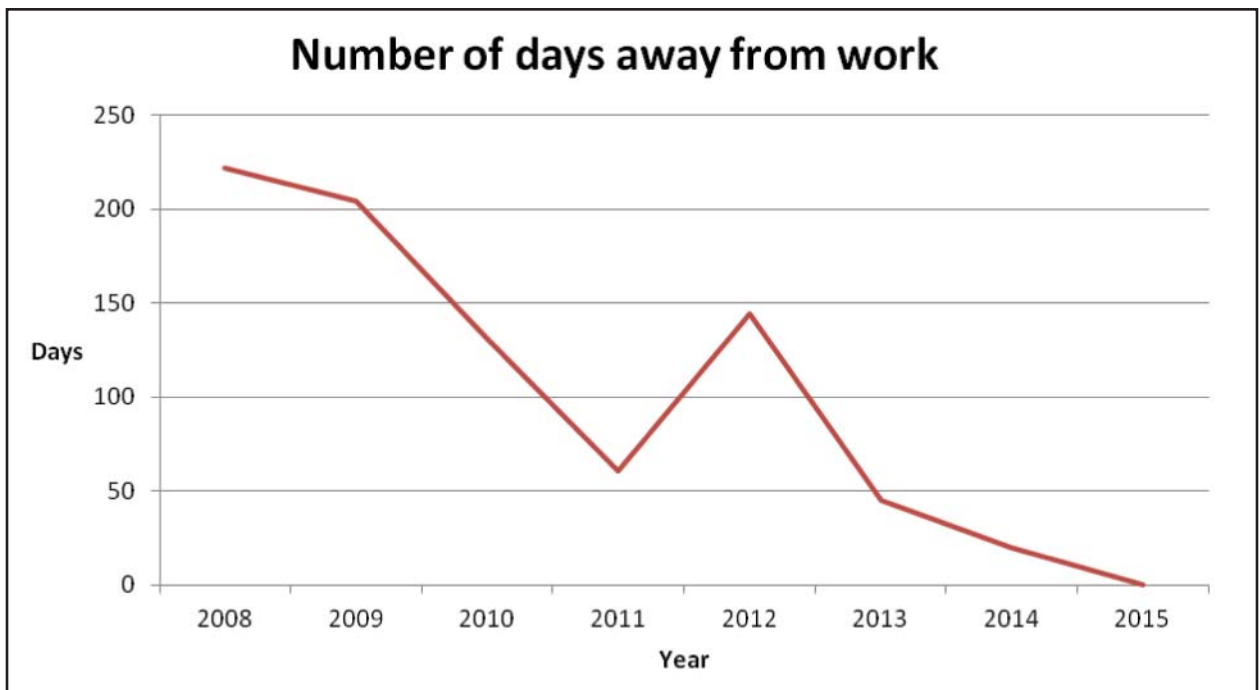
When this article was written, the CVEA team had hit a milestone, having worked 513 consecutive days since the last loss time injury.

A loss time injury is defined as "an injury sustained by an employee that will ultimately lead to the loss of productive work time in the form of worker delays or absenteeism".

Numerous other safety matrices that CVEA tracks are at 10 year or all time record low levels, including number of injuries and the total number of days that an employee has missed work due to injury.

It has truly taken a team effort to accomplish these goals, and the co-op congratulates and thanks the employees for their efforts.

CVEA continues to focus on the safety of the entire team and will continue to improve the safety program. ■







## Safety Newsletter

October 2015
Volume 2, Issue 3

**In This Issue:**

- Safety Statistics
- What's Happening in Safety
- Winter Driving
- OSHA "Fatal Four"
- Slips, Trips & Falls
- Upcoming Training

**CVEA Safety Statistics:**

Observation Results &

### What's Happening in Safety?

We have entered into the final quarter of 2015. Construction season is coming to an end, budgets and work plans are being finalized for the upcoming year. In reflecting back on 2015 regarding safety at CVEA, a number of major milestones have been achieved, and each day new benchmarks are being set.

I just want to take a second to thank everyone at CVEA for their hard work and dedication to both the day-to-day operations of the co-op and to the safety program. As of the writing of this newsletter, we currently sit at 436 days since the last accident that caused someone to miss work. It has been over 10 years since the last time CVEA exceeded 365 days!

Keep up the great work looking out for yourselves and your coworkers.

Thanks to the Safety Review and Recommendation Team (SRRT) members who volunteered this year. We will have our final meeting in November. If you are wanting to volunteer to be on the SRRT for 2016, please let me know.

Finally, if you have any safety suggestions or recommendations, please let any member of the SRRT or me know.

Travis Million

### Winter Driving

**Top left, Jessi Gallatin, a member of the Safety Committee in Valdez, with her commemorative 'Record Safety Year' thermos in front of the Lost Time Injury day counter**  
**Top right, CVEA employees in the Glennallen office during First Aid/CPR training in 2015**  
**Bottom left, Lineman Walt Lynch during Pole Top Rescue training**  
**Above, a photo of the quarterly Safety Newsletter sent to all employees**



## CVEA Spotlight-Cindy Butherus



Cindy has been the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Admin in the Valdez District for 10 of her almost 15 years at CVEA. She also served as the Valdez Customer Service Representative and the Office Administrative Assistant.

According to Dale Orvedahl, Cindy's supervisor, "I am very fortunate to have Cindy as my Admin. Look up "go-getter" in the dictionary and you will find her picture. Her impact is felt not only in the T&D Department but throughout CVEA. I really appreciate that if something needs to be done, she will do it, no questions asked. A few of her duties are not all that glamorous, but she completes them in a professional and respectful manner."

In order to highlight Cindy, we recently asked her a few questions:

**Q. What do you do as the T&D Admin?**

**A.** In my position I support the T&D Department staff; I track outages, communicate with members regarding planned outages, and update service area maps and drawings. I also do the closed account collection and there's always 'other duties as assigned'.

**Q. What kinds of things should members call on you for?**

**A.** Members mostly call on me when they are looking for information regarding scheduled outages or their closed account collection status.

**Q. What things do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

**A.** I enjoy playing with my husband, dog, and mother in the

outdoors fishing, boating, camping, and kayaking. I love to cook, swim, and walk the beach. Hopefully I'll be able to cross country ski again someday.

**Q. What do you like most about living in Valdez?**

**A.** I love everything about living in Valdez!

**Q. What things do you enjoy doing in the community?**

**A.** I enjoy working with the Friends of the Valdez Animal Shelter Board of Directors and swimming regularly at the pool.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** I have seen many big projects including taking ownership of Solomon Gulch and the transmission line and the construction of Allison Creek. Most importantly, however, I've seen a wonderful change in the internal atmosphere that has changed a good work environment into a great one.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I love working with AutoCad and Excel, which most of my job entails, so that is great for me.

**Q. What about your job or the Cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I am proud of the hard work and effort by the staff, line crews, and operators in regards to outages. Having been out for days in the Lower 48, I appreciate that I have never had a truly long outage in Valdez. ■

## Winter Reminders from Your Electric Cooperative

### Keep Your Electric Meter Clear

Many probably never notice your electric meter. It sits silently spinning, measuring the amount of electricity your household consumes.

However, the people at Copper Valley Electric Association do think about your meter on a daily basis. It is the link between your home or business and the utility.

That is why it is crucial CVEA has access to your meter at all times.

Because you never have to worry about your electric meter, it can be easily forgotten.

Meters can be located in a variety of places around your home or business. The next time you are walking around your property, take the time to find out exactly where your meter is located.

Be aware the meter should be easily accessible by CVEA employees. This means a meter reader or other CVEA authorized staff member should be able to clearly read the meter by standing next to it.

In winter, when snow levels get high, CVEA meter readers are faced with many obstacles.

Here is a list of common winter obstacles and how you can help CVEA staff do their best to serve you:

- Snow and ice can obstruct the path to the meter, when removing snow, keep in mind a path to the meter must be kept clear
- Keep firewood piles away from the meter, if you must pile wood in the vicinity of your meter, leave a clear, unobstructed view for our meter readers
- If your meter is located behind a gate or fence, make sure access is not impaired by snow or ice



- Keep pets away from the immediate area, pets should never be chained or housed next to the meter, please contact CVEA if your pet poses a hazard or other concern
- Store seasonal items away from the meter

By following these simple suggestions, you can help CVEA's meter readers do their jobs more accurately and efficiently.

If circumstances beyond the Cooperative's control make meter reading dangerous or impractical, CVEA will send a bill based on estimated usage considering,

where applicable, the consumer's usage during the same month of the previous year or the amount of usage during the preceding month or months.

Keeping your meter clear and obstacle free will ensure the CVEA meter reader is able to take a precise read, providing you with the best possible service.

### Moving Snow Safely

CVEA would like to remind everyone involved in snow removal, whether commercial or residential, to be aware of the dangers associated with piling snow on,





under, or near CVEA equipment, lines, and facilities.

State of Alaska statutes prohibit any equipment from operating within 10 feet of an overhead electrical line. The 10 foot rule includes the highest point of the equipment being used and includes people on the ground, on a snow bank, or on the equipment. When snow is pushed under or near CVEA electrical lines, it creates a potential hazard for the equipment operator and general public. CVEA asks all snow removal equipment operators to keep in mind the 10 foot rule when pushing and piling snow.

Snowfall often obscures electrical equipment located directly on the ground and identified with snow markers. Make sure you are aware of the location of this equipment when moving snow. If you are unsure, please contact CVEA at the numbers below.

Do not push snow against or pile snow on top of any electrical equipment. The force of the moving snow may cause damage to the equipment and create electrical hazards. This may also compromise reliability of the system due to the barrier created when access to the equipment becomes necessary.

If you come into contact with the equipment and your vehicle or equipment becomes entangled, a hazardous condition may exist. Please do not attempt to free your vehicle or equipment and do not exit your vehicle unless a

more hazardous condition exists inside the vehicle or equipment. If it is necessary to exit your vehicle, jump away from your vehicle ensuring you do not come into contact with your vehicle and the ground at the same time. Call CVEA immediately.

CVEA is asking everyone to keep an eye out for potential electrical hazards. Never approach or make contact with an electrical line or damaged equipment. If you see a hazardous situation, please contact CVEA immediately at 822-3211 or 835-4301. To report something after-hours, please call 866-835-2832.

### **Cold Weather Vehicle Safety**

Driving in the winter means snow and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you make it safely through winter, here are some suggestions from the National Safety Council to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared.

Weather affects road and driving conditions and can pose serious problems. It is important to listen to forecasts on radio, TV, cable weather channel, or in the daily papers.

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time and you must be prepared.

Following a tuneup, a full tank of gas, and fresh anti-freeze, your trunk should carry a properly inflated spare tire, wheel

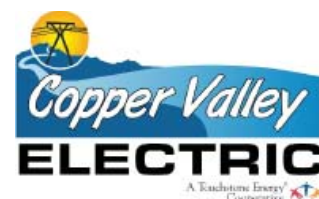
wrench and tripod-type jack, a shovel, jumper cables, tow and tire chains, a bag of salt or cat litter, and a tool kit.

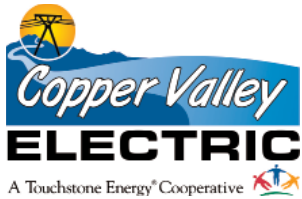
Be prepared with a “survival kit” that should always remain in the car, and remember to replenish after use. Essential supplies include working flashlight and extra batteries, reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth, compass, first aid kit, exterior windshield cleaner, ice scraper and snow brush, wooden stick matches in a waterproof container, scissors and string/cord, non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits, and hard candy.

In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold, snowy, and icy conditions, you should also carry supplies to keep you warm, such as a heavy coat, heavy woolen mittens, boots, socks, a cap, and blankets.

If you become stranded, do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation.

For more information, visit [nsc.org](http://nsc.org). ■





## It's Your Cooperative.... Get Involved!



The CVEA Board of Directors joined Co-op Staff on a tour of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project construction site in 2015  
Photo by Sharon Crisp

### **CVEA Board of Directors Candidates Wanted**

Join a dedicated group of community members who work on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all CVEA members.

Three director seats will be up for election in 2016; these seats are currently held by Michael Johnson and Fred Williams in the Copper Basin and Dan Stowe in Valdez.

As a CVEA director, you can help make decisions that impact your neighbors and friends, the folks up and down the T-line, and all cooperative members.

The Board meets once a month, normally on the third Thursday, for regular board meetings, and occasionally for special meetings or work sessions. Directors may also travel to participate in statewide and national meetings.

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continu-

ous months, are a member in good standing (defined as having no more than one delinquency in payment during the last 12 consecutive months of service), and are not an employee or close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications. Bylaws can be found at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

In order for a member to become a candidate, they must be nominated by petition. Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by 5 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2016.

For more information on the election, please stop by CVEA for a nomination packet.



Top left, President Paul Kildal at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Glennallen

Top middle, Vice President Lon Rake and Treasurer Will Stark after completing the Credentialed Cooperative Director course, a curriculum designed to provide basic knowledge and skills required of electric cooperative Directors

Top middle, Director Fred Williams helping recycle paper at the Recycling Our Areas Resources Center during Co-op Month

Top right, Secretary Mary Odden getting a tour of the Solomon Gulch Hydro assets shortly after she was elected to the CVEA Board of Directors

Bottom left, the Board of Directors saying goodbye to past Director and President Jim Manning when he left the Board in 2014

Bottom right, Directors Jeff Saxe and Dan Stowe at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Glennallen

### Help Wanted for Credentials and Election Committees

A very important part of the annual meeting election process is the Credentials and Election Committee.

The people who serve are responsible for validating the signatures on the back of the envelopes and counting the ballots for Director elections and Bylaws amendments.

Each district's C&E Committee is comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates or relatives of these persons.

The Board will appoint committee members for each district in February. Service on the C&E Committees will take place during March, with most of the work performed the week prior to the meeting.

In 2016, the annual meeting is scheduled for April 5 in the Valdez District and April 7 in the Copper Basin District.

### The Foundation Scholarship Selection Committees Need You

If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, the Scholarship Selection Committee is for you.

The Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, conduct interviews, and select who will receive scholarships.

Participation on the committees requires attending three or four meetings, and is estimated to take up to 15 hours.

If you have questions, or would like more information on CVEA Director elections, Bylaws amendments or you would like to volunteer for the C&E or Scholarship Committees, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■

## Copper Valley Electric Association Community Foundation 2016 Scholarship Opportunities



**Left, Alaska representatives at the 2015 Idaho Youth Rally** Photo courtesy Alaska Power Association  
**Top right, 2015 Copper Basin scholarship winners Lacayah Engebretson and John Scott**  
**Bottom right, Valdez 2015 scholarship recipients Samantha Farmer and Shelby Gudge**

The CVEA Community Foundation (CVEACF) will award roughly \$8,500 in scholarships in 2016.

The CVEACF is changing the scholarship program in the upcoming year by eliminating the Electrical and Community College Scholarships, as they haven't demonstrated high demand in the last several years, and by offering one \$2,000 General Scholarship and one Youth Rally Leadership Camp Scholarship in each district.

According to Sharon Crisp, CVEA Manager of Member Services, "the \$2,000 General Scholarship is the largest scholarship ever given by the CVEACF, and the Board is excited to offer this substantial amount of money to help a qualifying student in each district reach their educational goals."

This scholarship will be awarded to high school seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education through a vocational or technical school, an apprenticeship training or a college degree program.

The CVEACF isn't just changing the number and amount of scholarships offered, they're changing the criteria in order to attract well rounded students. The General Scholarship will continue to be merit based, but scores will be equally weighted among four categories: education, community involvement,

future education/career goals, and need.

The Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship provides an opportunity for sophomores and juniors attending high schools in our service area to attend a week-long electric industry leadership camp where students practice leadership, communication skills, and teamwork while learning about electric utility issues.

The CVEACF scholarship programs are funded with unclaimed, escheated capital credits and voluntary donations from CVEA members, like you.

Scholarship recipients will be decided in April and announced at CVEA's Annual Meeting and at 2016 graduation ceremonies.

Scholarship information and applications will be available at the high school counselors' offices, at either CVEA office, and on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) under Community Support in the Scholarship section. Applications will be available after December 28, 2015.

The deadline for submitting completed scholarship application packets is 5 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2016.

If you have questions about the Scholarship Program or need assistance, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■



## CVEA Spotlight-Ryan Cook

Ryan Cook is the Line Crew Foreman in the Copper Basin District, a position he's held for one year. Prior to becoming the Foreman, Ryan served the members of CVEA as a Lineman in Glennallen for 10 years. According to John Schenck, CVEA Line Superintendent, "Ryan's dedication to CVEA, as well as to our community, sets the standard for us all. He leads by example and has earned the respect of the entire operations team, myself included. His knowledge of power line construction and maintenance is outstanding, and he willingly shares this knowledge with his crew. He maintains a positive attitude and often provides valuable input and suggestions on ways to make the Cooperative more efficient. I appreciate all he does."

In order to highlight Ryan, we recently asked him a few questions:

**Q. What do you do in your position as Line Crew Foreman?**

**A.** I am the lead man on a three, soon to be four man crew.

**Q. What other positions have you held with CVEA?**

**A.** When I first hired on Andy Hess and I were both linemen. We remained linemen for the first 10 years of my employment at CVEA until Andy eventually became the Line Crew Foreman before retiring. For a decade we rolled on hundreds of outages together. We kept the lights on.

**Q. What kinds of things should members call on you for now?**

**A.** Members usually don't deal with me directly until they go through the Line Superintendent or Solomon Gulch Dispatch. After that, my crew deals with virtually anything that has to do with CVEA's system north of Thompson Pass.

**Q. What are some things you do that members might be surprised to find out?**

**A.** Linemen at CVEA are expected to operate virtually any piece of equipment provided us, work on overhead transmission lines, work in substations, build overhead and underground distribution and secondary lines, connect and disconnect meters, perform cable locates, maintain a warehouse, inventory material, work on CT metering installations, switch circuits, fall danger trees, cut brush, occasionally read meters, perform high voltage work in the power plants, and respond to outages in any weather condition, around the clock. They might

be surprised to know we actually enjoy most of this.

**Q. What things do you do that are 'outside' of your typical job duties?**

**A.** I've been looking for something that is outside of my typical job duties for a long time, whenever I think I've found one, somebody will tell me I need to do that as well. They should change the name to "Homestead Electric." The work is never ending.

**Q. What do you like most about living in the Copper Basin?**

**A.** I like the fact that living in the Copper Basin can be challenging. You have to stay on your toes and keep moving or this place will take you down to size in a hurry. Because of this it creates a group of exceptionally tough, independent, and resourceful people, a people to be admired. Most people in the Lower 48 are almost helpless compared to your average resident of the Copper Basin.

**Q. What kinds of things do you enjoy doing in the community?**

**A.** My kids are very active in school sports and I enjoy watching them play. Last year they played three sports apiece, that's a lot of trips to Tok, Delta, and Valdez.

**Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A.** During the summer and fall I like to hunt, fish, and explore in the Wrangell Mountains. In the winter I enjoy riding snow machines with my family.

**Q. What is one little known fact about you that you'd share?**

**A.** That meeting my wife was the best thing that ever happened to me. I'm blessed. She's given me two beautiful children and made a fairly decent man out of a tramp lineman that used to call four or five western states, "home."

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** I've seen the Four Dam Pool dissolve and CVEA take ownership of the transmission line and substations associated with it. As a result of this we have had to perform an enormous amount of necessary maintenance on these facilities. I have seen numerous upgrades within the Glennallen Diesel Plant, most



notably the Unit 9 installation. Now we have Allison Creek almost up and running and for me that is exciting because it seems like the company is moving into the future deliberately. Farther into the future I would like to see the company pursue as many hydro projects as we can afford. I am from the Northwest originally, and I grew up seeing the benefits of hydro power.

The change that has affected the company more than any other is occurring right now. There has been a change in management style that has profoundly impacted almost everybody at CVEA. The company is pulling together and working together for the first time since I walked through the front door 11 years ago. That is quite a feat.

**Q. What about your job or the Cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I am most proud of our outage recovery rate. For a small three man crew we keep the lights on a substantial amount of the time, especially when you factor in extremely adverse weather conditions and difficult terrain. Although I am proud of our efforts I will caution that all consumers should prepare themselves for an extended outage, it's only a matter of time before we have a major storm that may put people in the dark for days or weeks. I think most people understand this though, at least I hope they do.

**Q. What are some things you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I like the fact that my job constantly changes. I am never in one place for very long. It isn't unusual for me to be in Kenny Lake building a new service and two hours later be out at Eureka addressing an outage. That kind of lifestyle would drive some people crazy, I actually like it. ■



ing and electrical wiring to get the units up and running, improving the overall efficiency of the Valdez Diesel Plant.

### **Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) Tailrace Expansion**

CVEA has been working with VFDA for the past two years to increase the amount of water supplied from the Solomon Gulch Power Plant to the VFDA fish hatchery directly across Dayville Road.

In 2015 the Solomon tailrace, which supplies fresh water (water that has already been used to produce electricity) to the hatchery, was upgraded to allow the Cooperative to supply the hatchery with nearly three times as much water. This year the piping providing emergency high pressure water (water not yet used for electrical generation) is being upgraded.

The consideration of water supply needs, timing of the out-migration for the fish, and the need to maximize electrical generation when water is available in Solomon Lake, all combined to require significant coordination between CVEA and VFDA. This partnership is very beneficial for the community of Valdez. This project will allow for many years of reliable water supply between the two facilities and for future expansion if the hatchery chooses to do so.

### **Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project**

As reported at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Membership, we are on the home stretch of the project and are scheduled to begin commissioning of the new equipment in early fall. Check out page 32 of this issue of Ruralite for an update on the project. ■

#### **Opposite, CVEA crew working on the Silver Bay Seafoods expansion project**

**Top right, the upgraded CVEA Solomon Gulch Hydro Plant tailrace; providing additional freshwater to VFDA**

**Middle right, work on the emergency high pressure water upgrade**

**Bottom right, penstock being installed in the tunnel at the Allison Creek Hydro construction site**





## CVEA Spotlight - Todd Stahley



Laura Stahley



Todd Stahley is the Valdez Line Foreman at CVEA, a position he's held for the entire 12 years he's been at the Cooperative.

According to John Duhamel, CVEA CEO, "Todd has been with CVEA through many changes. He has provided the necessary continuity as other linemen have come and gone. He is a steady and solid worker. I appreciate the dedication Todd gives to CVEA every day. He is a vital member of our team."

In order to highlight Todd, we recently asked him a few questions.

**Q. What do you do in your position?**

**A.** I work with two linemen doing line work, substation work, tree cutting, vehicle maintenance, and many other things the Co-op needs.

**Q. What are some things you do that members might be surprised to find out?**

**A.** They might be surprised at all the different things we do besides line work. At various times we've done meter reading, work in power plants, and even blow up balloons at the annual meetings.

**Q. What things do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A.** I enjoy fishing, hunting, and cutting firewood.

**Q. What do you like most about living in Valdez?**

**A.** I like the (3) sunny days we get.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** The biggest change has been the non-stop turnover of management, and the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project has been a big project for the Cooperative since I've been with CVEA.

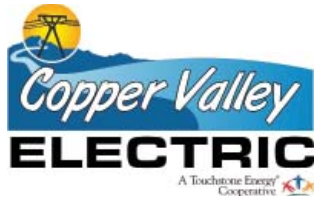
**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I like that we work in a small town.

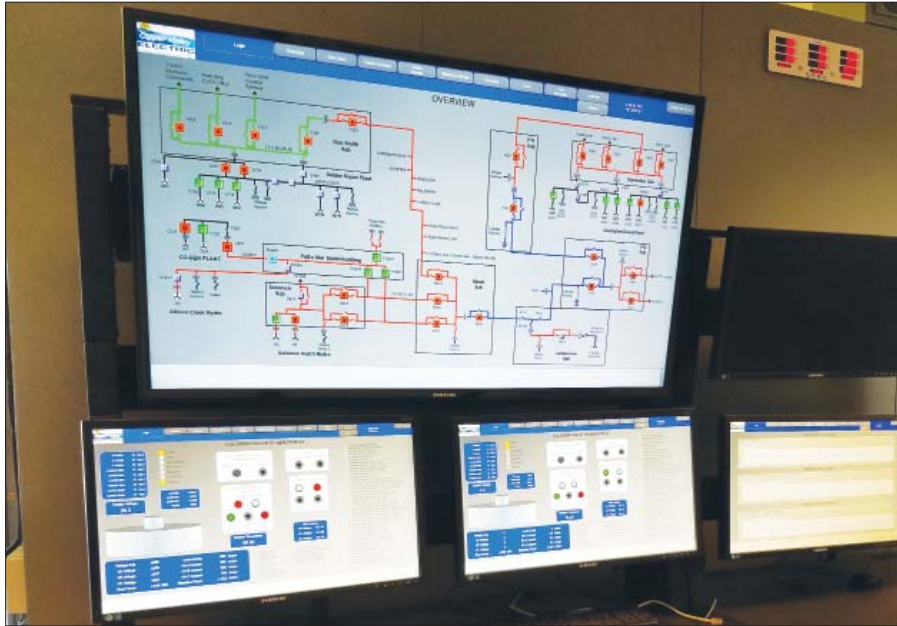
**Q. What about your job or the cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I like my job, and I am good at my job. I'm proud of how we keep the lights on. ■





## What You Need to Know About SCADA at CVEA



By Travis Million and Tom Tate

Next time you find yourself in the company of engineers, wow them with your knowledge of SCADA. You say you don't anything about SCADA? Well, you have come to the right place!

Let's begin with the basis of the acronym: Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition. Basically, SCADA systems help electric co-ops quickly spot and solve power outages – this means safer, more reliable electricity for you, the co-op member.

Believe it or not, most of us use a SCADA system everyday. Do you drive? Consider the dashboard your car's Personal SCADA system. From the driver's seat, you can instantly gauge your speed, fuel level and engine diagnostics. Utility-scale SCADA is conceptually the same, only much bigger. The system is bigger because there are more things that need to be monitored and controlled.

Now that the baseline is set, let's discuss the components of a SCADA system. Both hardware and software are used. The software provides the intel-

ligence. It processes the data gathered, allows operators to program automated responses to particular situations and displays the data in a graphical format for the operators so they can easily interpret what is happening in the co-op's service territory. The hardware consists of sensors that collect data; programmable logic controllers (PLCs) that monitor the sensors and transmit the data on the SCADA network; and actuators that perform actions based on data and system commands, and communications gear.

So how do SCADA systems impact members of Copper Valley Electric? Let's walk through an example. We want to ensure that everything is operating correctly at our five substations. Inside the substation, sensors and actuators that are connected to a PLC are installed. A secure communication link is created between the devices and the co-op's Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant, which serves as our dispatch center, by using wireless, hardwired or fiber optic connections.

Our engineers program the operating charac-

teristics they want to monitor and control – in this example, let’s say it’s voltage and frequency. This is to ensure that the power leaving the substation meets power quality standards. A diagram of the substation is created and displayed on a computer so the dispatch operators can see what is happening inside.

Everything is powered up and the SCADA system goes into action. Suppose the voltage from a transformer goes too far out of its range, creating a potentially dangerous situation. The sensor sends this data to the PLC. The PLC sends this to the SCADA software and an alarm is generated in our dispatch center.

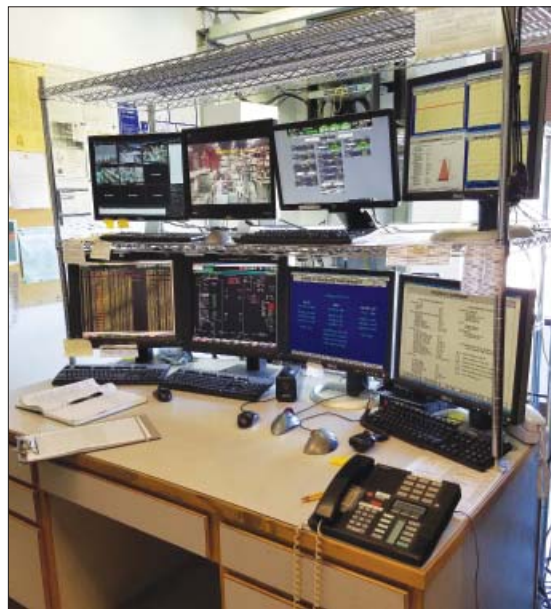
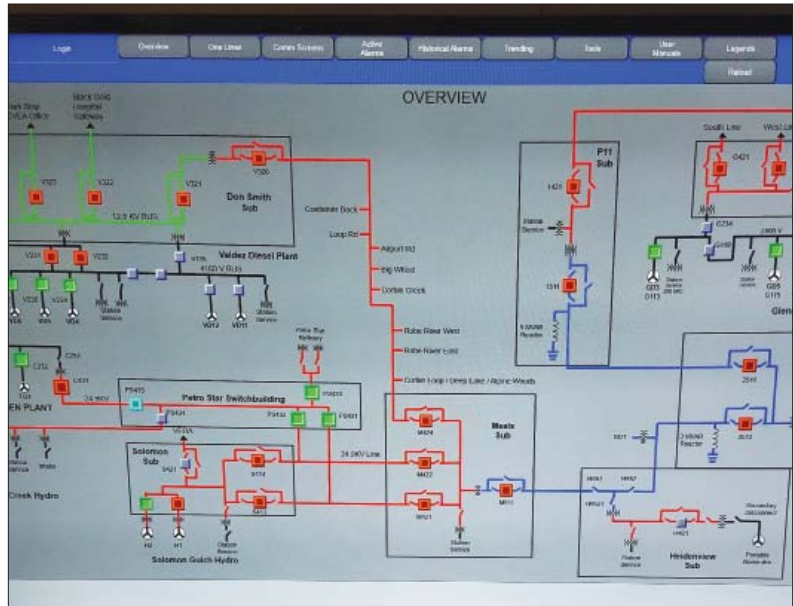
When an alarm is received, a couple of actions are possible. An automated response can be programmed into the system that tells the PLC to use actuators to implement a particular corrective measure. These types of automated actions provide immediate response to a situation while alerting the operators that it has occurred. Or, if warranted our engineers can assess the situation and issue commands from their computer to diagnose the problem. The system is flexible, so the engineers can automate what they want and opt for human intervention for especially important actions.

Since the data is supplied in near real-time, these systems are extremely valuable to ensuring the safe, reliable and stable operation of the grid. They are also becoming important in the creation of a Smart Grid.

At its most basic use, it involves two-way communication between devices installed within the grid. At its most advanced, it automates major portions of grid operations to provide immediate response to grid conditions that can lead to problems for co-op members.

So, the next time you find yourself in the company of engineers, you can impress them with your knowledge of SCADA systems. To learn more about SCADA and other ways Copper Valley Electric is improving the safety and reliability of electricity, visit [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org). ■

*Travis Million is the Chief Operating Officer at CVEA and Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



**Opposite, the SCADA system at the CVEA Solomon Gulch Hydro Plant dispatch center**

**Top right, an up close view of the system one line diagram  
Bottom right, a picture of the old SCADA system at Solomon Gulch; the new system is much more condensed and efficient**



**Board of Directors**  
 Paul Kildal, President  
 Lon Rake, Vice President  
 Mary Odden, Secretary  
 Will Stark, Treasurer  
 Michael Johnson, Director  
 Jeff Saxe, Director  
 Dan Stowe, Director  
 Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
 Glennallen, AK 99588  
 www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
 (907) 822-3211  
 (907) 822-5586 (fax)  
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**  
 (907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
 (866) 835-2832

### Important Dates

#### June

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2016, in Glennallen

#### July

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, July 4, 2016, for Independence Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The July meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2016, in Valdez

AK-34

## Allison Creek Home Stretch

CVEA believes hydropower is the most viable and cost-effective renewable resource and has continued to aggressively move the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project forward since efforts began in 2008. Allison Creek promises several renewable energy benefits. The project will:

- displace 725,000 gallons of fuel annually when it is commissioned in 2016
- eliminate 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually
- allow Solomon Gulch Lake to store more water going into the winter
- generate 15 million kWhs to increase CVEA's renewable energy portfolio from 50 to 64 percent of total generation requirements
- provide benefits for generations

In May, the Allison Creek project team mobilized to begin the final construction season. The newest hydro project in CVEA's generation portfolio will be commissioned in the fall of 2016. Goals for this season include:

- Installation of the remaining 23 pieces of penstock
- Construction of the final 10 percent of the diversion structure
- Tie-in of electrical and communications from powerhouse to diversion structure
- Diverting water to penstock for the first time
- Performing operational tests
- Training CVEA Operators to run the new power plant
- Generation of commercial power



A short video documenting the construction project to date was shown at the CVEA Annual Meeting in April. We encourage everyone interested to check it out by visiting [cvea.org](http://cvea.org), the CVEA Facebook page, or the award winning Allison Creek website at <http://allisoncreekhydro.cveahydro.org>. This website was created to keep you informed of the progress of the project and to provide access to project information, historical reports, and articles written for Ruralite Magazine to keep members informed. This page will stay up to date with important information and construction photos as we move through the final construction phase of the project.

If you have questions please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■

# Copper Valley Electric 2016 Annual Meeting Photo Highlights



CVEA's Todd Stahley and Carl Schmokel hanging the Allison Creek Hydro Banner in Valdez



Darin Sauls and CEO Duhamel in discussion at the net metering table



Christopher Spring, William Matthews, and Theron Rude; future members of CVEA



100 door prizes were give away at this year's annual meeting



Members going through registration at the meeting in Glennallen



President Kildal giving meeting reports in Valdez



President Kildal and CEO Duhamel pose with Zena Disney celebrating 10 years with CVEA and Cindy Butherus celebrating 15



CVEA Board member, Fred Williams, chatting with member Warren Ulrich



CVEA employees Toni Daniels and Misty Rude awaiting members at the registration table in Glennallen



CEO Duhamel celebrated service awards with Barbara Eaton (10 years), Mary Ellen Bedrick (25 years), and Travis Million (5 years)



Cassidy Matthews taking her traditional photo with the CEO after the meeting in Glennallen



Jamie and Kit Winchester and their little ones enjoying the Annual Meeting in Valdez



Registration tables at the meeting in Valdez



Local kids grabbing their goody bags at the meeting in Valdez



CVEA's Alex Gearhart and Pinky Becker pose with Miguel Saavedra at the meeting in Glennallen



Craig Grams poses inside the Chevy Tahoe Beater he won at the Copper Basin meeting



CVEA employees Cindy Unger, Nancy Heidelberg, Joyanna Hoffman, and Coreen Palacios



Approximately 250 people enjoyed the meeting in Valdez



Madison and Hailey Sauls handed out door prizes with the team in Valdez



Board Secretary Mary Odden announcing door prizes in Glennallen

## 2016 Annual Meeting Recap



**CEO John Duhamel addresses the crowd at the Annual Meeting in Glennallen**  
Sharon Crisp

Local community members came out in large numbers in April to support your electric co-op, with approximately 250 people attending the 2016 Annual Meeting in Valdez and 310 attending in Glennallen.

CEO Duhamel told the crowd that the co-op is in the home stretch on the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project, showed a video of project construction to date, and outlined what work is left to do before commercial power production begins this fall. He also discussed ways CVEA is saving the members money by doing more work in-house, increasing hydro output from Solomon Gulch, and increasing efficiency. Finally, members were reminded that winter rates were lower in 2015 due to fuel cost savings, and made aware that changes will be made to the Tariff that governs the co-ops Net Metering Program once the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project comes online.

Other highlights included the announcement of the Board of Directors election results, the introduction of the 2016 Community Foundation scholarship award recipients, and recognition of employee service awards.

Concerning the Board of Director elections Brad Honerlaw was elected, and Fred Williams was re-elected in the Copper Basin District, and Dan Stowe was re-elected in the Valdez District.

Community Foundation scholarship awards were announced and a split-the-pot fundraiser raised \$645 to benefit Foundation programs. See page 28 in this issue for details on all winners.

Several CVEA employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative. Travis Million celebrated 5 years; Zena Disney and Barbara Eaton celebrated 10 years; Cindy Butherus celebrated 15 years, and Mary Ellen Bedrick celebrated 25 years of service.

100 door prizes were given out in each district. Craig Grams won the Chevy Tahoe in Glennallen and Chuck and Delores Gard went home with the Ford Beater in Valdez!

CVEA thanks everyone who attended and those that helped make this year's events successful.

If you have questions on this or any CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■





## CVEA Community Foundation Joins the Annual Meeting

The CVEA Community Foundation (Foundation) is proud to offer educational scholarships to graduating seniors, to sophomores and juniors hoping to attend the Idaho Youth Rally, and to make contributions to local non-profit organizations.

In 2016, the Foundation awarded a \$2,000 general scholarship to one student in each district to help further their educational goals, and a scholarship for one student from each district to represent our cooperative, our communities, and our state at the Idaho Youth Rally leadership camp in Caldwell, Idaho, this summer.

Funding of the scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits that have reverted to the Cooperative, members who have made one-time or recurring donations to the

Foundation, and from those who participate in Foundation fundraisers.

At this year's meeting, Foundation volunteers Genia Duhamel, Cindy Orvedahl, Zoe Langseth, Cassidy Matthews and Christian Spring were on hand selling Split-the-Pot tickets to raise funds for the Foundation.

Marc Grugier took home \$360 in Valdez, and Sarah Valentine won \$285 in Glennallen. In total \$645 was raised to benefit Foundation programs.

Through the Foundation and the scholarship program, CVEA is making an investment in our youth and in our future. Please join us in congratulating the 2016 CVEA Community Foundation scholarship winners.

## \$2,000 General Scholarship Winners



**Zoe Langseth**  
Valdez District



**Taylor Vollman**  
Copper Basin District





Top left, Zoe Langseth and Genia Duhamel selling Split-the-Pot tickets in Valdez. Top middle, Marc Grugier won \$360 and supported the Community Foundation. Top right, President Kildal and CEO Duhamel with Zoe, winner of a \$2,000 general scholarship. Bottom left, Grazyna Brocka and Magdalena Brocka Mccay purchasing tickets from volunteer Cindy Orvedahl. Bottom middle, Sarah Valentine shows off her \$285 win. Bottom right, volunteers Genia Duhamel and Cassidy Matthews selling tickets in Glennallen. (Christian Spring not pictured)

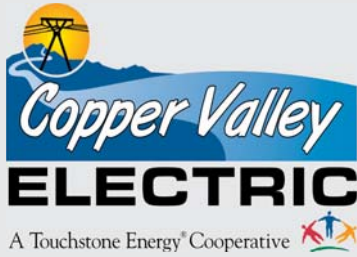
## Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship Winners



**Timothy Kimble**  
Valdez District



**Gerek Chmielowski**  
Copper Basin



**Board of Directors**  
 Paul Kildal, President  
 Lon Rake, Vice President  
 Mary Odden, Secretary  
 Will Stark, Treasurer  
 Michael Johnson, Director  
 Jeff Saxe, Director  
 Dan Stowe, Director  
 Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
 Glennallen, AK 99588  
 www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
 (907) 822-3211  
 (907) 822-5586 (fax)  
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**  
 (907) 835-4301  
 (907) 835-4328 (fax)  
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
 (866) 835-2832

**Important Dates**

**May**

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2016, in Valdez

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 30, 2016, for Memorial Day

**June**

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2016, in Glennallen

AK-34

# Copper Valley Electric Association 2016 Election Results

At the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members, Board of Director election results were announced. The Copper Basin District re-elected Fred Williams and elected Brad Honerlaw, each to a three-year term. The Valdez District re-elected Dan Stowe to a three-year term.

The Credentials and Election Committees in both districts reported voting results for the director election as follows:

<u>Valdez</u>		<u>Copper Basin</u>	
Ballots Received	166	Ballots Received	272
Ballots Counted	149	Ballots Counted	253
Dan Stowe	148	Brad Honerlaw	146
		Fred Williams	177
		Peggy Sutton	Withdrew

CVEA welcomes the returning directors and appreciates the participation of all director candidates in the election.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**  
*Alaska*  
 DIGLINE, INC.



## National Lineman Appreciation Day

On April 11, electric cooperatives across the nation will celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

CVEA encourages all members to honor the dedicated co-op employees who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen respond to outages at

the worst times and in the worst conditions, yet they do it with pride and professionalism" said CVEA CEO John Duhamel. "Despite working with very dangerous equipment in difficult circumstances, they have a safety record better than we have seen before. I appreciate what they do for us every day."

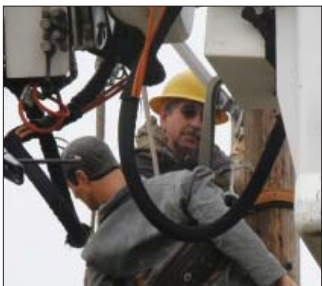
A team of six linemen maintain over 500 miles of transmission and distribution lines throughout CVEA's service territory.

CVEA encourages members to thank a lineman for the work they do this April, and invites members to visit the Copper Valley Electric Association Facebook page on April 11 to enter a comment of thanks using #thankalineman and show your support for the employees who light up our lives.

All comments and notes of gratitude will be shared with the line crews and the entire transmission and distribution team. ■

**Todd Stahley \* Garrette Francis \* Ryan Cook \* Walt Lynch \* Mark Kirkpatrick**





Photos courtesy CVEA, Jean Wilkinson, Arcadis, and Janice Reynolds



## CVEA Spotlight - Erik Brenden



Erik has been with CVEA for close to 19 years. He started as a brush cutter summer hire, then became the Staking Engineer, and the IT/SCADA Technician. As dependence on technology expanded, Erik's position as Information Systems Technician developed.

According to Jaime Matthews, Erik's supervisor, "Having supervised Erik for the past 10 years, I am beyond grateful for his technical abilities. Erik is a quick study and enjoys his job; CVEA is lucky to have him!"

In order to highlight Erik, we recently asked him a few questions:

**Q. What do you do as the Information Systems Technician?**

**A.** I am responsible for the information systems and technology. This includes maintaining several databases, maintaining several local area and wide area networks, staging and deployment of workstations, internal phone systems, data lines, video conferencing systems, and just about anything dealing with planning and managing CVEA's IT infrastructure.

**Q. What are some little known facts members might be surprised to find out?**

**A.** I was born and raised in the Copper Valley. We moved to Valdez during my high school years, then I returned after military service and college. In addition, my father worked for CVEA as an Operator in Valdez, so I am the second generation of my family to work here.

**Q. What things do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A.** Camping, hiking, and fishing top the list. GeoCaching has been a fun family activity as well.

**Q. What do you like most about living in the Copper Basin?**

**A.** No matter which of the two seasons we may be in, the natural beauty and solitude of the area are enjoyable.

**Q. What things do you enjoy doing in the community?**

**A.** I have volunteered at the Copper Basin 300 and have helped out at the local Lego Robotics Club.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** I was part of the PetroStar Cogeneration Project and integrating communication and controls to the Solomon Gulch Hydro dispatch. I also took part in the diesel plant generator renovation and the main database conversion. Just being part of the CVEA team on advancing technology throughout the company has been very rewarding.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** It is never dull; I can plan and anticipate my next work day, but I truly never know what to expect.

**Q. What about your job or the cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** When evaluating a project, the consumer interests are always considered first, along with cost, reliability and overall fit to the cooperative. ■

# Top five energy users in your home. A Starting Point For Savings

By Anne Prince

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs?

To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

- Space cooling
- Space heating
- Water heating
- Lighting
- Refrigeration

## Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps

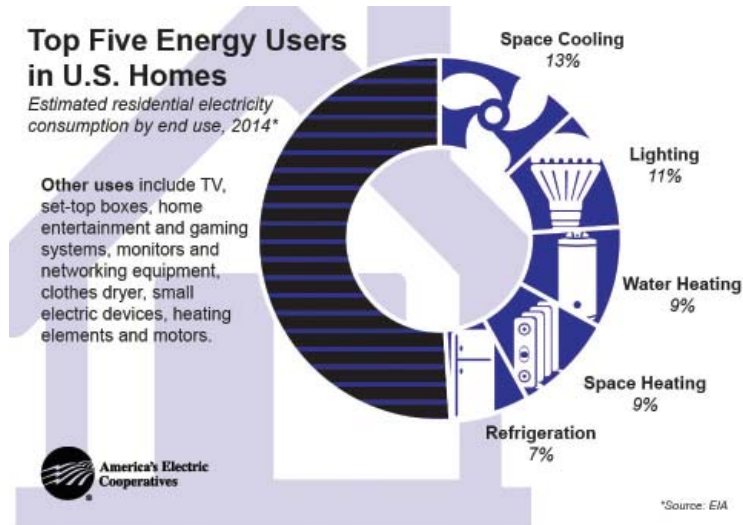
- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit
- Cleaning the filters of your system can cut costs from five to 15 percent
- Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

## Top Five Energy Users in U.S. Homes

Estimated residential electricity consumption by end use, 2014\*

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.



## Shine the light on savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you money. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

## Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

## Put cold hard cash back in your wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If

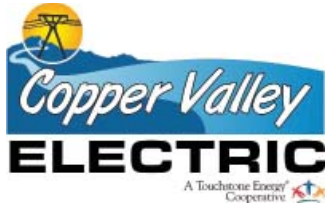
you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards.

Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

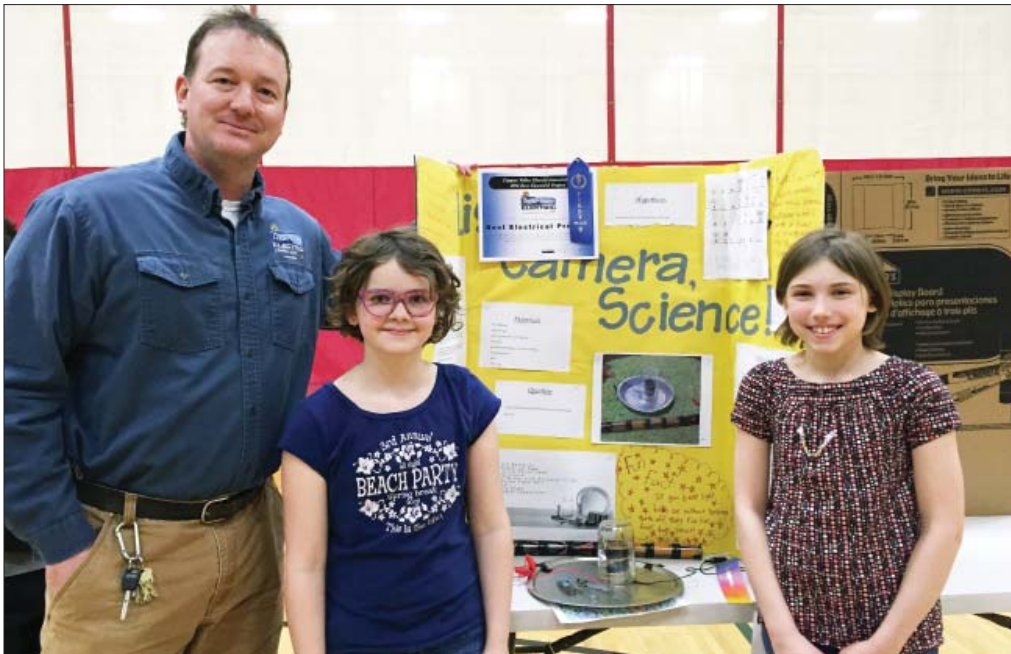
By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

For additional ways to save, check out the energy information link at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) or visit [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com). ■

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



## 2016 Valdez Science Fair Really Cool Projects, Real Results



Left, CVEA's Darin Sauls with Rylee Christensen and Madeline O'Neil, winners of the 2016 'Best Electrical Project' award at the Valdez Science Fair

Photo courtesy Dahlia O'Neil

Below, Wayne McKinzey, of CVEA, volunteered as judge at this year's Valdez Science Fair

Photo by Darin Sauls



After a year hiatus, the Valdez City Schools Valdez Science Fair was held on March 9, 2016. All students in the community were invited to participate and there were participants from Hermon Hutchins Elementary School and from local home-schools. In total 49 projects representing students in grades 2-5 were entered, according to event coordinator Ruthie Knight.

Copper Valley Electric employees Darin Sauls and Wayne McKinzey were on hand to help Knight judge the projects. They were joined by other judges Heidi Fox from Providence Counseling Center, Joshua Buffinton from Valdez Fisheries, Michelle Cullen from Prince William Sound College, Jim Nygaard of Valdez City Schools, and Bill Bryson, who is retired from Valdez City Schools.

In addition to overall judging, Darin and Wayne judged projects looking for the 'Best Electrical Project', a special award sponsored by CVEA.

This year's winner was a team of Rylee Christensen and Madeline O'Neil. Their project was titled *Lights, Camera, Science*, and basically used batteries across two sizes of lead to

make the lead (carbon) light up. They ran several tests to measure how long the lead would stay lit up.

Darin and Wayne were looking for scientific method applied to the project, an interest in the subject, and information on what they learned from the project. According to Darin, “What made these girls stand out was their knowledge of the project and their completeness of the scientific method, particularly the measurement and recording of those measurements.”

For their hard work, Rylee and Madeline were given an award certificate and a \$50 Visa card. Rumor has it they’ll share their winnings by going out to dinner.

Other first place finishers are listed by grade and category below:

Grade level	Category	Name
2nd	Electricity/Magnetism	Austin Morgan
2nd	Chemistry	Autumn Boone
3rd	Surveys	Dalen Beck and Kovai Christensen
4th	Consumer Science	Moe Togagae
4th	Physical Science	Jaimie Crisp
4th	Electricity/Magnetism	Electric Paint 5-G
4th	Chemistry	Rafe Caruthers
4th	Math/	
	Consumer Science	Caelyn Wise
4th	Mathematics	Christina Wise
5th	Consumer Science	Mason Holmes and Mya Christoffersen
5th	Physical Science	Spencer Holbrook
5th	Physical Science	Carsyn Hinkle and Ginger Keller
5th	Electricity/Magnetism	Rylee Christensen and Madeline O’Neil
5th	Chemistry	Malia Kamauoha
5th	Biology/Behavioral	Chloe Auble
5th	Materials Science	Conan Curtis
5th	Computer Science	Fisher Mishmarsh and Piers Shirk

CVEA would like to thank Ruthie Knight and the Valdez City Schools for fostering a love of science in our youth and for the invitation to participate and support local students. Congratulations to the winners and all of the participating students on their hard work. ■

**Top, first place Consumer Science project (5th grade) by Mason Holmes and Mya Christoffersen, demonstrating the sugar content in various drinks**  
**Top middle, Spencer Holbrook next to his first place Physical Science project (5th grade) on evaporation**  
**Bottom middle, Jaimie Crisp showing off her first place Physical Science (4th grade) win for exploding watermelons with rubberbands**  
**Bottom, Wayne and Ruthie reviewing project scores**

Photos courtesy Tammy Holmes, Erika Holbrook, Kim Crisp, and Darin Sauls







**Board of Directors**  
Paul Kildal, President  
Lon Rake, Vice President  
Mary Odden, Secretary  
Will Stark, Treasurer  
Michael Johnson, Director  
Jeff Saxe, Director  
Dan Stowe, Director  
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
(907) 822-3211  
(907) 822-5586 (fax)  
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**  
(907) 835-4301  
(907) 835-4328 (fax)  
367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**  
(866) 835-2832

## Important Dates

### April

**Annual Meeting:** The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, in the Valdez district and Thursday, April 7, in the Copper Basin district; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2016, in Glennallen

### May

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2016, in Valdez

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 30, 2016, for Memorial Day

AK-34

## 2016 Construction Season is Almost Upon Us

Summer appears to be coming early to the CVEA service territory this year and members are eager to begin work on home building projects, renovations, upgrades and yard work. As you begin to plan and move forward on your projects, here are a few things to remember.

If your building plans include a new electrical service or existing service upgrade, contact CVEA at 835-4301 or 822-3211, while you're in the planning stages. A representative from the cooperative can evaluate your needs and schedule a site inspection. If you have questions regarding construction specifications, visit the Electrical Service, Construction Information section at [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

### Call Before You Dig

Anyone planning an outdoor project that requires digging, regardless of the depth or the size of the project, must contact Alaska Digline by calling 811 before you dig.

Alaska Digline serves as a message handling and notification service, taking information about planned excavations and providing this information to CVEA. Digline now serves as a single point of contact for all utility locates. One call will do it all!

Advance notice will still be required. Alaska law requires anyone engaging in any type of excavation to provide advance notice. This notice must be at least 48 hours/2 full business days prior to the start of excavation, and the project must begin within 15 working days from when the locate is requested. Requests for locates after 5 p.m. will be processed as if received at 8 a.m. the next business day.

When calling in an emergency locate request, inform the Alaska Digline call center operator that an emergency exists and be prepared to explain the situation and/or conditions.

Alaska Digline asks callers to be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name, address, and contact information
- Location at which the excavation/demolition will take place
- Type and extent of the work involved
- What the depth of the excavation will be
- Start date and time of the planned excavation/demolition

To request locates, just call toll free numbers 811 or 1-800-478-3121.



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**  
Alaska  
DIGLINE, INC.



## 2016 CVEA Meet the Director Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by March 11, along with candidate biographies and your official annual meeting notice.

To be counted, return ballots must be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

There are two seats up for election in the Copper Basin District and one seat in the Valdez District.

Candidates have been nominated to fill these seats via the petition process. You, as a CVEA member, will soon have the opportunity to exercise your right to

vote. Please exercise this right.

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. Recent elections have been dangerously close to hitting the minimum, which, if happened, would invalidate the election. Please help CVEA ensure this doesn't happen by voting.

To learn about the candidates, they were asked to respond to three important questions. The questions are listed here and the candidate responses follow.

Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 75 words per question.

### Question 1

What knowledge, skills, and experience will you bring to CVEA's Board of Directors?

### Question 2

What do you feel are the co-op's biggest challenges in the next five years?

### Question 3

How will your knowledge/skills and experience contribute to overcoming the co-op's biggest challenges?



**Copper Basin District**  
**John (Brad) Honerlaw**

Brad is a resident of Copper Center and works at the National Park Service-Wrangell St. Elias National Park. He has been a member of CVEA for 10 years.

### Question 1

I bring several years of experience in evaluating information and making hard decisions. I also have an understanding that some user groups will not be satisfied with the decisions made, regardless of what those decisions are. I have a

strong understanding and appreciation of the unique needs and independent spirit of many residents in the Copper Valley.

### Question 2

I feel the biggest challenges faced by the co-op in the next five years are the environmental factors which cause outages, costing time and money in repairs. Additionally, I think there will be increased regulatory pressure to consider alternative energy sources and decreased reliance on diesel power generation. These alternatives will cost time and money to research and make work in our area.

### Question 3

I think a proactive approach to clearing rights of way, re-routing transmission lines around known slide areas and other known natural hazards will help prevent future service interruptions. I think an objective and rational evaluation of alternative energy production will help guide

the co-op in the future.



**Copper Basin District**  
**Peggy (Eleanore) Sutton**

Peggy is a resident of Kenny Lake and is now retired. She has been a member of CVEA for over 40 years.

### Question 1

I sat on the CVEA Board of Directors for six years and served as president and treasurer during that time. I attended trainings and earned the Certified Director's Certificate. I have lived in this

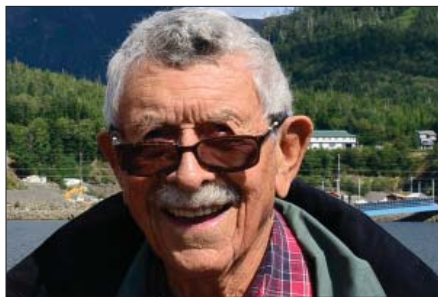
area for over 50 years and have been a CVEA member since the early 1970s. I have a background in budgeting and accounting for various organizations and worked in the career and technology department of the Anchorage School District.

### **Question 2**

I feel that one of the biggest challenges facing CVEA is the fact that the membership is static or declining. The co-op must look at alternative energy sources. The economy in this area is depressed and families are leaving to find work in other areas.

### **Question 3**

With my background in budgeting and accounting, and as a former board member, I feel I will be able to contribute financial knowledge and skills to assist the co-op in coping with the current challenges. Since I have lived in the area for a long time, I am familiar with the problems the communities are facing and can work with the communities to find solutions.



**Copper Basin District**  
**Fred Williams \*Incumbent**

Fred is a resident of Copper Center and is retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Fred has been a member of CVEA for 43 years and a Director since 1971.

### **Question 1**

During the years that I have been on the board of CVEA, I have acquired a good amount of knowledge and experience as to the responsibilities of being

an effective board member. For example, when the Solomon Gulch project was being constructed, the board members were very involved. During that period I served as president of the board.

### **Question 2**

Our biggest challenge is to produce all our energy needs with renewables. When the Allison project comes online, about 65 percent of our energy will be produced by renewable (hydro). The government may soon require us to produce all of our electric power needs with renewables.

Right now the best alternative to diesel is hydro, however, we do not have the finances to pay additional construction costs for new projects at this time. A large portion of the cost of Allison was paid for with state grants; the present condition of the state finances precludes any help from the state. Help from the federal government is also unlikely.

### **Question 3**

Assuming that federal and/or state money will be available sometime in the future, we should continue to look for other hydro sites and investigate new technology for producing clean power. We must have all our ducks in a row for when financing may be available. I believe that the board and state will be up to the challenge. We must be able to construct new, clean power facilities without using the rate structure to pay for all of the bill. I believe that our board can do the job, and I feel I can be effective in this future planning.



**Valdez District**  
**Dan Stowe \*Incumbent**

Dan is a resident of Valdez. He is a retired geological/petroleum engineer. Dan has been a member of CVEA for 26 years and a director since 2004.

### **Question 1**

I am an engineer with a BS degree in Geological/Petroleum Engineering. I am recently retired after 43 years as a project engineer and project manager with various oil companies throughout the world. I am a past and current CVEA Director (2004-2007, 2010-present) as well as a Certified Cooperative Director. Having lived and worked in Valdez for over 25 years, I am well versed in what the community of Valdez needs from their electric co-op, and how to achieve some of those goals.

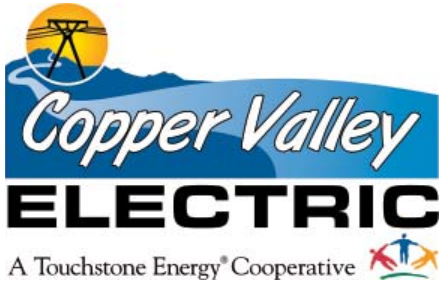
### **Question 2**

CVEA is working diligently to complete the final construction for the Allison Creek Hydro Project. I am behind this project all the way, but I also believe there are other possibilities out there that we should be looking at: other potential hydro sites, a natural gas line, a tie-in to the Railbelt system, and obtaining grants toward development of alternative sources of energy. I am willing to listen to all suggestions from our members.

### **Question 3**

As a resident of Valdez for over 25 years, I am vitally interested in the future of our community and making it more affordable for all residents. I will work diligently to assure that CVEA continues investigation into all potential sources for alternative energy, and that the board remains constantly aware of any new state and federal grants that may be available for development of alternative sources of energy.

Having served on the board for over nine years, I am not only acquainted with all current board members, I am also knowledgeable with how the board operates. I can and will work diligently to improve reliability while at the same time providing the lowest possible rates to all of our customers.

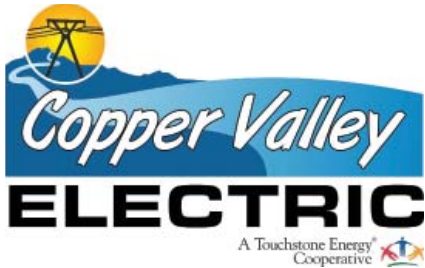


## CVEA Line Crews Hard at Work Repairing Winter Damage

Winter weather conditions throughout the CVEA service area this year yielded excessive frost and ice buildup on large portions of the co-op's 500 miles of distribution and transmission lines. Extreme icing conditions east of Thompson Pass resulted in physical damage to several transmission line structures in the area. CVEA's Line Crews have been hard at work; through inclement weather, difficult terrain, and in areas only accessible on foot or by helicopter, making necessary repairs to ensure the transmission line is back up and in working order.

Photos by Garrette Francis and Dale Orvedahl





## Working Hard For You CVEA Service Awards



**Travis Million**  
Manager of Power Generation and  
Compliance - Copper Basin  
5 Years of Service

Travis is celebrating five years of service as the manager of power generation at CVEA and has recently added compliance to his title. Prior to CVEA, Travis worked as a power engineer and environmental, safety, and health manager at HAARP. Travis came from eastern Washington, near Pullman, and has lived in the Copper Basin for 11 years with his wife Emily. Travis and Emily have two daughters, Sophie and Reese, and a Bearded Collie named Laney.

In his spare time Travis enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, camping, and running. He spends time on home improvement projects, volunteers as a youth basketball coach, and serves on the Copper Valley Telecom Board of Directors.

Travis' favorite thing about CVEA is the people he gets to work with every single day. He says that every day is something different and he enjoys the variety of challenges, problems, and rewards. According to CEO John Duhamel, "Travis leads our Power Generation and Compliance Department but his influence on the organization

goes much deeper than that. There isn't much that goes on at CVEA that he doesn't influence in one way or another. His work on the safety program touches everyone, every day. His efforts to increase efficiency in power generation have made a significant impact to reduce our use of fossil fuel. His knowledge of environmental and compliance requirements keep CVEA on track with regulatory agencies and laws. Travis is a class act and we are lucky to have him as a leader on our team."



**Zena Disney**  
Generation Admin - Valdez  
10 Years of Service

Zena is the Power Generation Admin and is celebrating her 10th year at CVEA. Prior to CVEA, she worked for Alyeska as an engineering assistant.

Originally from Marshall, Alaska, Zena has spent the last 16 years in Valdez with her family; husband Donald, sons Daile, James, Isaac, and Spencer, and daughter Emory. Rounding out the family are their two dogs and cat. In her spare time Zena likes camping, fishing, berry picking, hiking/geocaching with her family, cooking and baking, watching movies and old tv shows, photography, and attending her children's sporting and music events.

When asked what has changed in her position in the last five years, Zena said that she was assigned as the primary backup for customer service in 2013, and she likes that she gets to interact and help CVEA customers more. She mentions that it's funny how customers she now helps at customer service ask her if she's new, or wonder when she started working at the electric cooperative.

Zena wishes people knew how hard CVEA employees do work to provide excellent service both in the office and in the field and says her favorite thing about working for CVEA is how all departments come together as a team to accomplish goals. She also enjoys that the office is less than two minutes from her house. According to her supervisor Travis Million, "Zena has worked with me as the Admin for the Generation Department for 5 of her 10 years at CVEA. Zena is very detail oriented, organized, and is the go to person if you need something done right the first time. I enjoy working with Zena and look forward to working with her for many years to come."



**Barbara Eaton**  
Office Manager - Copper Basin  
10 Years of Service

Barb is the office manager for CVEA, a position she's held for roughly 10 years. Barb came to CVEA and the Copper Basin from LaConner, Washington where she was the office manager for LaConner Maritime.

Barb lives in Glennallen with her husband John and has a son, Aaron and a daughter Jessie. Two dogs, a cat, six gold fish, 19 chickens and a turkey round out the family.

Barb likes to garden and spend time at their comfortable cabin on Tom Lake in her spare time; it is her goal to open her own road-side self check produce stand in the future.

When asked what she feels has changed in her position in the last five years, Barb says that the biggest change is happening right now as her long-time accountant retired and she's training her replacement. There has also been a change in management and the company is pulling together and working together.

One thing she wishes people knew is that accountants truly believe they can save the world through reconciliation. It is like a core motivational inspirational factor and she thinks maybe our world needs more people focused on peace and reconciliation.

Her favorite thing about working for CVEA is the great team she works with. When asked to provide a quote, she gave this, "Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. You have today to make a difference, live it well." - Francis Gray

According to her supervisor Jaime Matthews, CVEA Manager of Administration and Finance, "Barb works endless hours to ensure the accounting department is orderly yet strives to have a positive attitude. Her dedication to CVEA is a reflection of her work."



**Cindy Butherus**  
Transmission & Distribution  
Admin - Valdez  
15 Years of Service

Cindy is celebrating 15 years with CVEA. She is currently the Transmission and Distribution Admin in the Valdez office. Cindy has lived in Valdez for 17 years and worked as admin for the Dean of Instruction and PWSCC prior to coming to work for CVEA. Originally from Clark County, Washington, Cindy now lives in Valdez with her husband Randy, her mother Kay, and Ruffy, their Australian Cattle Dog. In her spare time Cindy enjoys boating, fishing, camping, cooking, swimming, and kayaking.

When asked what has changed in her position, Cindy tells us she has gotten more training on AutoCad and really enjoys using it for large map and drawing projects.

When asked about a funny story, she tells us that in 2015, after teasingly complaining for years that she'd never been to the Solomon Gulch dam, she was finally given a tour. Unfortunately on the way back, they had a flat tire. They enlisted assistance from a contractor, but still had to be rescued by another co-worker, much to her tour guide's chagrin.

One thing she wishes people knew about the cooperative, is that employees value the fact that CVEA is a cooperative and not about hurting the members for profit. Employees simply work hard to keep the power on and at the lowest rates possible given the extreme conditions we face. She also wants members to know that employees do not get free or discounted power.

Dale Orvedahl, Cindy's supervisor, had this to say about Cindy, "I am very fortunate to have Cindy as my admin.

Her impact is felt throughout the cooperative. I really appreciate that if something needs done, she will do it, no questions asked."



**Mary Ellen Bedrick**  
Revenue Accountant  
Copper Basin  
25 Years of Service

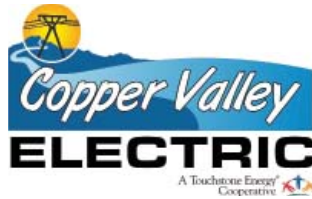
Mary Ellen is the revenue accountant at CVEA. She is celebrating 25 years with the cooperative in 2016. Prior to CVEA she worked at Gakona Lodge and was a title examiner for Fidelity Title in Winter Park, Florida.

Originally from Orchard Park, New York, Mary Ellen has lived in the Copper Basin for 27 years. Mary Ellen's family is husband Don, stepdaughter Aryn and her husband David, granddaughters Melea and Siri and grandson Thatcher. Murphy, their one-year-old Australian Shepherd completes their family.

Mary Ellen enjoys traveling and spending time outside camping, hiking, and hanging around the bonfire with friends and family when not at work.

In the last five years, Mary Ellen believes the biggest change has been turnover due to retirements. She says she wishes people knew that CVEA is a great place to work, where everyone works very hard, as a team, for the members, and that the people she works with are her favorite thing about her job.

According to her supervisor, Jaime Matthews, "As our seasoned revenue accountant, Mary Ellen sets the bar high for customer service. She has worked hard with new personnel at CVEA to maintain these high standards. Her 25 years at CVEA is something all employees strive for!"



## CVEA is Working Safely One Day at a Time

Working safely is important to employees and employers alike in every industry. However, in the electrical utility industry it is extremely important. One small mistake or wrong move can quickly turn a routine task into a serious injury or death.

Working with high voltage electricity is very dangerous. Add the element of Alaska's extreme weather conditions to that work, and the hazards have been significantly increased.

CVEA takes safety very seriously, not just for the line crews and operators, but also for office and administrative employees.

In 2011 CVEA began to redesign and revamp the safety program, making it a much more important part of everyday business.

After several years of improved and focused training, mitigation of safety hazards, the creation of safety teams, and most importantly changing the safety culture, the co-op is starting to see this hard work pay off.

2015 turned out to be a record setting year in the field of safety at CVEA.

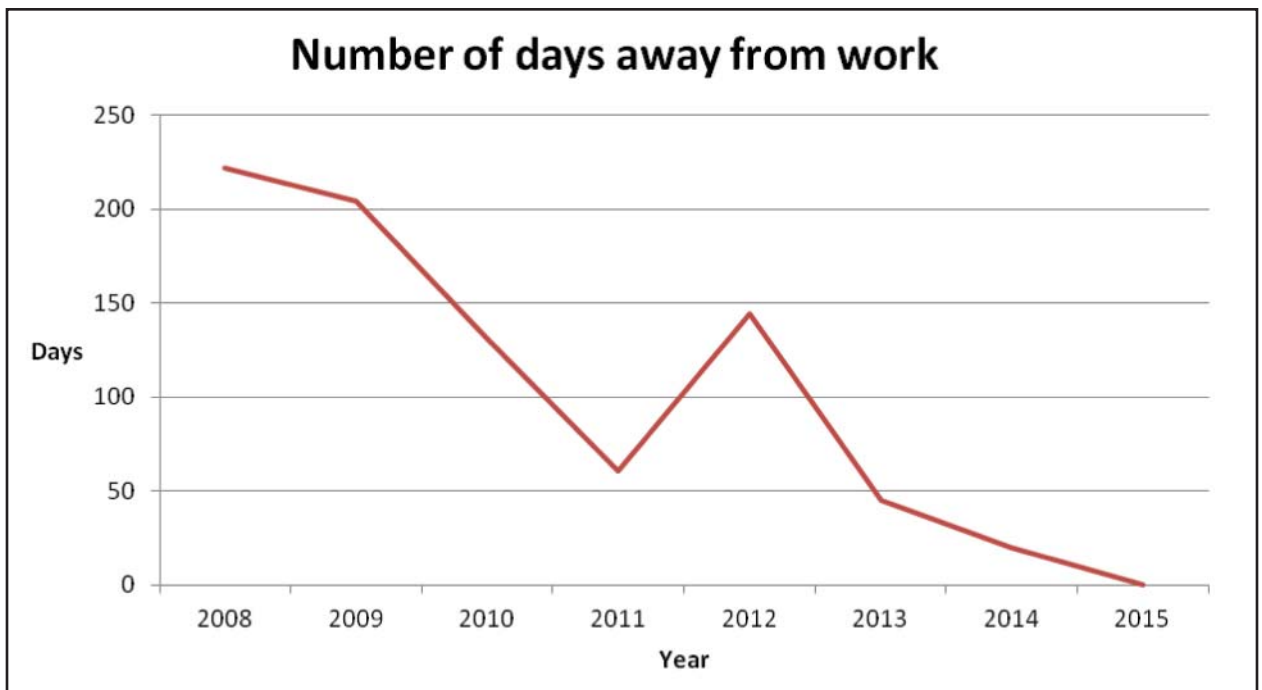
When this article was written, the CVEA team had hit a milestone, having worked 513 consecutive days since the last loss time injury.

A loss time injury is defined as "an injury sustained by an employee that will ultimately lead to the loss of productive work time in the form of worker delays or absenteeism".

Numerous other safety matrices that CVEA tracks are at 10 year or all time record low levels, including number of injuries and the total number of days that an employee has missed work due to injury.

It has truly taken a team effort to accomplish these goals, and the co-op congratulates and thanks the employees for their efforts.

CVEA continues to focus on the safety of the entire team and will continue to improve the safety program. ■







## Safety Newsletter

October 2015
Volume 2, Issue 3

**In This Issue:**

- Safety Statistics
- What's Happening in Safety
- Winter Driving
- OSHA "Fatal Four"
- Slips, Trips & Falls
- Upcoming Training

**CVEA Safety Statistics:**

Observation Results &

### What's Happening in Safety?

We have entered into the final quarter of 2015. Construction season is coming to an end, budgets and work plans are being finalized for the upcoming year. In reflecting back on 2015 regarding safety at CVEA, a number of major milestones have been achieved, and each day new benchmarks are being set.

I just want to take a second to thank everyone at CVEA for their hard work and dedication to both the day-to-day operations of the co-op and to the safety program. As of the writing of this newsletter, we currently sit at 436 days since the last accident that caused someone to miss work. It has been over 10 years since the last time CVEA exceeded 365 days!

Keep up the great work looking out for yourselves and your coworkers.

Thanks to the Safety Review and Recommendation Team (SRRT) members who volunteered this year. We will have our final meeting in November. If you are wanting to volunteer to be on the SRRT for 2016, please let me know.

Finally, if you have any safety suggestions or recommendations, please let any member of the SRRT or me know.

Travis Million

### Winter Driving

**Top left, Jessi Gallatin, a member of the Safety Committee in Valdez, with her commemorative 'Record Safety Year' thermos in front of the Lost Time Injury day counter**  
**Top right, CVEA employees in the Glennallen office during First Aid/CPR training in 2015**  
**Bottom left, Lineman Walt Lynch during Pole Top Rescue training**  
**Above, a photo of the quarterly Safety Newsletter sent to all employees**





## CVEA Spotlight-Cindy Butherus



Cindy has been the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) Admin in the Valdez District for 10 of her almost 15 years at CVEA. She also served as the Valdez Customer Service Representative and the Office Administrative Assistant.

According to Dale Orvedahl, Cindy's supervisor, "I am very fortunate to have Cindy as my Admin. Look up "go-getter" in the dictionary and you will find her picture. Her impact is felt not only in the T&D Department but throughout CVEA. I really appreciate that if something needs to be done, she will do it, no questions asked. A few of her duties are not all that glamorous, but she completes them in a professional and respectful manner."

In order to highlight Cindy, we recently asked her a few questions:

**Q. What do you do as the T&D Admin?**

**A.** In my position I support the T&D Department staff; I track outages, communicate with members regarding planned outages, and update service area maps and drawings. I also do the closed account collection and there's always 'other duties as assigned'.

**Q. What kinds of things should members call on you for?**

**A.** Members mostly call on me when they are looking for information regarding scheduled outages or their closed account collection status.

**Q. What things do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

**A.** I enjoy playing with my husband, dog, and mother in the

outdoors fishing, boating, camping, and kayaking. I love to cook, swim, and walk the beach. Hopefully I'll be able to cross country ski again someday.

**Q. What do you like most about living in Valdez?**

**A.** I love everything about living in Valdez!

**Q. What things do you enjoy doing in the community?**

**A.** I enjoy working with the Friends of the Valdez Animal Shelter Board of Directors and swimming regularly at the pool.

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** I have seen many big projects including taking ownership of Solomon Gulch and the transmission line and the construction of Allison Creek. Most importantly, however, I've seen a wonderful change in the internal atmosphere that has changed a good work environment into a great one.

**Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I love working with AutoCad and Excel, which most of my job entails, so that is great for me.

**Q. What about your job or the Cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I am proud of the hard work and effort by the staff, line crews, and operators in regards to outages. Having been out for days in the Lower 48, I appreciate that I have never had a truly long outage in Valdez. ■

## Winter Reminders from Your Electric Cooperative

### Keep Your Electric Meter Clear

Many probably never notice your electric meter. It sits silently spinning, measuring the amount of electricity your household consumes.

However, the people at Copper Valley Electric Association do think about your meter on a daily basis. It is the link between your home or business and the utility.

That is why it is crucial CVEA has access to your meter at all times.

Because you never have to worry about your electric meter, it can be easily forgotten.

Meters can be located in a variety of places around your home or business. The next time you are walking around your property, take the time to find out exactly where your meter is located.

Be aware the meter should be easily accessible by CVEA employees. This means a meter reader or other CVEA authorized staff member should be able to clearly read the meter by standing next to it.

In winter, when snow levels get high, CVEA meter readers are faced with many obstacles.

Here is a list of common winter obstacles and how you can help CVEA staff do their best to serve you:

- Snow and ice can obstruct the path to the meter, when removing snow, keep in mind a path to the meter must be kept clear
- Keep firewood piles away from the meter, if you must pile wood in the vicinity of your meter, leave a clear, unobstructed view for our meter readers
- If your meter is located behind a gate or fence, make sure access is not impaired by snow or ice



- Keep pets away from the immediate area, pets should never be chained or housed next to the meter, please contact CVEA if your pet poses a hazard or other concern
- Store seasonal items away from the meter

By following these simple suggestions, you can help CVEA's meter readers do their jobs more accurately and efficiently.

If circumstances beyond the Cooperative's control make meter reading dangerous or impractical, CVEA will send a bill based on estimated usage considering,

where applicable, the consumer's usage during the same month of the previous year or the amount of usage during the preceding month or months.

Keeping your meter clear and obstacle free will ensure the CVEA meter reader is able to take a precise read, providing you with the best possible service.

### Moving Snow Safely

CVEA would like to remind everyone involved in snow removal, whether commercial or residential, to be aware of the dangers associated with piling snow on,



under, or near CVEA equipment, lines, and facilities.

State of Alaska statutes prohibit any equipment from operating within 10 feet of an overhead electrical line. The 10 foot rule includes the highest point of the equipment being used and includes people on the ground, on a snow bank, or on the equipment. When snow is pushed under or near CVEA electrical lines, it creates a potential hazard for the equipment operator and general public. CVEA asks all snow removal equipment operators to keep in mind the 10 foot rule when pushing and piling snow.

Snowfall often obscures electrical equipment located directly on the ground and identified with snow markers. Make sure you are aware of the location of this equipment when moving snow. If you are unsure, please contact CVEA at the numbers below.

Do not push snow against or pile snow on top of any electrical equipment. The force of the moving snow may cause damage to the equipment and create electrical hazards. This may also compromise reliability of the system due to the barrier created when access to the equipment becomes necessary.

If you come into contact with the equipment and your vehicle or equipment becomes entangled, a hazardous condition may exist. Please do not attempt to free your vehicle or equipment and do not exit your vehicle unless a

more hazardous condition exists inside the vehicle or equipment. If it is necessary to exit your vehicle, jump away from your vehicle ensuring you do not come into contact with your vehicle and the ground at the same time. Call CVEA immediately.

CVEA is asking everyone to keep an eye out for potential electrical hazards. Never approach or make contact with an electrical line or damaged equipment. If you see a hazardous situation, please contact CVEA immediately at 822-3211 or 835-4301. To report something after-hours, please call 866-835-2832.

### **Cold Weather Vehicle Safety**

Driving in the winter means snow and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you make it safely through winter, here are some suggestions from the National Safety Council to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared.

Weather affects road and driving conditions and can pose serious problems. It is important to listen to forecasts on radio, TV, cable weather channel, or in the daily papers.

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time and you must be prepared.

Following a tuneup, a full tank of gas, and fresh anti-freeze, your trunk should carry a properly inflated spare tire, wheel

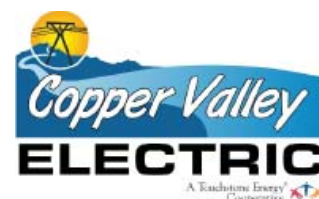
wrench and tripod-type jack, a shovel, jumper cables, tow and tire chains, a bag of salt or cat litter, and a tool kit.

Be prepared with a “survival kit” that should always remain in the car, and remember to replenish after use. Essential supplies include working flashlight and extra batteries, reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth, compass, first aid kit, exterior windshield cleaner, ice scraper and snow brush, wooden stick matches in a waterproof container, scissors and string/cord, non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits, and hard candy.

In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold, snowy, and icy conditions, you should also carry supplies to keep you warm, such as a heavy coat, heavy woolen mittens, boots, socks, a cap, and blankets.

If you become stranded, do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation.

For more information, visit [nsc.org](http://nsc.org). ■





## It's Your Cooperative.... Get Involved!



The CVEA Board of Directors joined Co-op Staff on a tour of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project construction site in 2015  
Photo by Sharon Crisp

### **CVEA Board of Directors Candidates Wanted**

Join a dedicated group of community members who work on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all CVEA members.

Three director seats will be up for election in 2016; these seats are currently held by Michael Johnson and Fred Williams in the Copper Basin and Dan Stowe in Valdez.

As a CVEA director, you can help make decisions that impact your neighbors and friends, the folks up and down the T-line, and all cooperative members.

The Board meets once a month, normally on the third Thursday, for regular board meetings, and occasionally for special meetings or work sessions. Directors may also travel to participate in statewide and national meetings.

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continu-

ous months, are a member in good standing (defined as having no more than one delinquency in payment during the last 12 consecutive months of service), and are not an employee or close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications. Bylaws can be found at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

In order for a member to become a candidate, they must be nominated by petition. Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by 5 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2016.

For more information on the election, please stop by CVEA for a nomination packet.



Top left, President Paul Kildal at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Glennallen

Top middle, Vice President Lon Rake and Treasurer Will Stark after completing the Credentialed Cooperative Director course, a curriculum designed to provide basic knowledge and skills required of electric cooperative Directors

Top middle, Director Fred Williams helping recycle paper at the Recycling Our Areas Resources Center during Co-op Month

Top right, Secretary Mary Odden getting a tour of the Solomon Gulch Hydro assets shortly after she was elected to the CVEA Board of Directors

Bottom left, the Board of Directors saying goodbye to past Director and President Jim Manning when he left the Board in 2014

Bottom right, Directors Jeff Saxe and Dan Stowe at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Glennallen

### Help Wanted for Credentials and Election Committees

A very important part of the annual meeting election process is the Credentials and Election Committee.

The people who serve are responsible for validating the signatures on the back of the envelopes and counting the ballots for Director elections and Bylaws amendments.

Each district's C&E Committee is comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates or relatives of these persons.

The Board will appoint committee members for each district in February. Service on the C&E Committees will take place during March, with most of the work performed the week prior to the meeting.

In 2016, the annual meeting is scheduled for April 5 in the Valdez District and April 7 in the Copper Basin District.

### The Foundation Scholarship Selection Committees Need You

If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, the Scholarship Selection Committee is for you.

The Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, conduct interviews, and select who will receive scholarships.

Participation on the committees requires attending three or four meetings, and is estimated to take up to 15 hours.

If you have questions, or would like more information on CVEA Director elections, Bylaws amendments or you would like to volunteer for the C&E or Scholarship Committees, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■

## Copper Valley Electric Association Community Foundation 2016 Scholarship Opportunities



**Left, Alaska representatives at the 2015 Idaho Youth Rally** Photo courtesy Alaska Power Association  
**Top right, 2015 Copper Basin scholarship winners Lacayah Engebretson and John Scott**  
**Bottom right, Valdez 2015 scholarship recipients Samantha Farmer and Shelby Gudgell**

The CVEA Community Foundation (CVEACF) will award roughly \$8,500 in scholarships in 2016.

The CVEACF is changing the scholarship program in the upcoming year by eliminating the Electrical and Community College Scholarships, as they haven't demonstrated high demand in the last several years, and by offering one \$2,000 General Scholarship and one Youth Rally Leadership Camp Scholarship in each district.

According to Sharon Crisp, CVEA Manager of Member Services, "the \$2,000 General Scholarship is the largest scholarship ever given by the CVEACF, and the Board is excited to offer this substantial amount of money to help a qualifying student in each district reach their educational goals."

This scholarship will be awarded to high school seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education through a vocational or technical school, an apprenticeship training or a college degree program.

The CVEACF isn't just changing the number and amount of scholarships offered, they're changing the criteria in order to attract well rounded students. The General Scholarship will continue to be merit based, but scores will be equally weighted among four categories: education, community involvement,

future education/career goals, and need.

The Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship provides an opportunity for sophomores and juniors attending high schools in our service area to attend a week-long electric industry leadership camp where students practice leadership, communication skills, and teamwork while learning about electric utility issues.

The CVEACF scholarship programs are funded with unclaimed, escheated capital credits and voluntary donations from CVEA members, like you.

Scholarship recipients will be decided in April and announced at CVEA's Annual Meeting and at 2016 graduation ceremonies.

Scholarship information and applications will be available at the high school counselors' offices, at either CVEA office, and on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) under Community Support in the Scholarship section. Applications will be available after December 28, 2015.

The deadline for submitting completed scholarship application packets is 5 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2016.

If you have questions about the Scholarship Program or need assistance, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■



## CVEA Spotlight-Ryan Cook

Ryan Cook is the Line Crew Foreman in the Copper Basin District, a position he's held for one year. Prior to becoming the Foreman, Ryan served the members of CVEA as a Lineman in Glennallen for 10 years. According to John Schenck, CVEA Line Superintendent, "Ryan's dedication to CVEA, as well as to our community, sets the standard for us all. He leads by example and has earned the respect of the entire operations team, myself included. His knowledge of power line construction and maintenance is outstanding, and he willingly shares this knowledge with his crew. He maintains a positive attitude and often provides valuable input and suggestions on ways to make the Cooperative more efficient. I appreciate all he does."

In order to highlight Ryan, we recently asked him a few questions:

**Q. What do you do in your position as Line Crew Foreman?**

**A.** I am the lead man on a three, soon to be four man crew.

**Q. What other positions have you held with CVEA?**

**A.** When I first hired on Andy Hess and I were both linemen. We remained linemen for the first 10 years of my employment at CVEA until Andy eventually became the Line Crew Foreman before retiring. For a decade we rolled on hundreds of outages together. We kept the lights on.

**Q. What kinds of things should members call on you for now?**

**A.** Members usually don't deal with me directly until they go through the Line Superintendent or Solomon Gulch Dispatch. After that, my crew deals with virtually anything that has to do with CVEA's system north of Thompson Pass.

**Q. What are some things you do that members might be surprised to find out?**

**A.** Linemen at CVEA are expected to operate virtually any piece of equipment provided us, work on overhead transmission lines, work in substations, build overhead and underground distribution and secondary lines, connect and disconnect meters, perform cable locates, maintain a warehouse, inventory material, work on CT metering installations, switch circuits, fall danger trees, cut brush, occasionally read meters, perform high voltage work in the power plants, and respond to outages in any weather condition, around the clock. They might

be surprised to know we actually enjoy most of this.

**Q. What things do you do that are 'outside' of your typical job duties?**

**A.** I've been looking for something that is outside of my typical job duties for a long time, whenever I think I've found one, somebody will tell me I need to do that as well. They should change the name to "Homestead Electric." The work is never ending.

**Q. What do you like most about living in the Copper Basin?**

**A.** I like the fact that living in the Copper Basin can be challenging. You have to stay on your toes and keep moving or this place will take you down to size in a hurry. Because of this it creates a group of exceptionally tough, independent, and resourceful people, a people to be admired. Most people in the Lower 48 are almost helpless compared to your average resident of the Copper Basin.

**Q. What kinds of things do you enjoy doing in the community?**

**A.** My kids are very active in school sports and I enjoy watching them play. Last year they played three sports apiece, that's a lot of trips to Tok, Delta, and Valdez.

**Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A.** During the summer and fall I like to hunt, fish, and explore in the Wrangell Mountains. In the winter I enjoy riding snow machines with my family.

**Q. What is one little known fact about you that you'd share?**

**A.** That meeting my wife was the best thing that ever happened to me. I'm blessed. She's given me two beautiful children and made a fairly decent man out of a tramp lineman that used to call four or five western states, "home."

**Q. What are some of the big projects you've been involved in or changes you've seen since you began working at CVEA?**

**A.** I've seen the Four Dam Pool dissolve and CVEA take ownership of the transmission line and substations associated with it. As a result of this we have had to perform an enormous amount of necessary maintenance on these facilities. I have seen numerous upgrades within the Glennallen Diesel Plant, most



notably the Unit 9 installation. Now we have Allison Creek almost up and running and for me that is exciting because it seems like the company is moving into the future deliberately. Farther into the future I would like to see the company pursue as many hydro projects as we can afford. I am from the Northwest originally, and I grew up seeing the benefits of hydro power.

The change that has affected the company more than any other is occurring right now. There has been a change in management style that has profoundly impacted almost everybody at CVEA. The company is pulling together and working together for the first time since I walked through the front door 11 years ago. That is quite a feat.



**Q. What about your job or the Cooperative are you most proud of?**

**A.** I am most proud of our outage recovery rate. For a small three man crew we keep the lights on a substantial amount of the time, especially when you factor in extremely adverse weather conditions and difficult terrain. Although I am proud of our efforts I will caution that all consumers should prepare themselves for an extended outage, it's only a matter of time before we have a major storm that may put people in the dark for days or weeks. I think most people understand this though, at least I hope they do.

**Q. What are some things you like about your job at CVEA?**

**A.** I like the fact that my job constantly changes. I am never in one place for very long. It isn't unusual for me to be in Kenny Lake building a new service and two hours later be out at Eureka addressing an outage. That kind of lifestyle would drive some people crazy, I actually like it. ■

