

Look Who's Working Hard For You

Copper Valley Electric employs 39 Alaskans, all of whom live and work in the communities we serve. We are proud of our employees and the work each one does to help "provide exceptional customer service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service and programs."

Each year, CVEA recognizes employees with extended years of loyal and dedicated service to the cooperative. We invite you to join us in congratulating them on their accomplishments.



Terry Delay
Power Plant Operator
15 Years of Service

Terry is a longtime Alaskan, having lived in Alaska since he was 11 years old. He came to Valdez from Ketchikan in 1987, where he still lives with his wife, 11 year old son, and Nina, the family's pug.

When not at work, Terry spends time with his family and enjoys heavy metal cars and race cars. Terry is excited to attend the Richard Petty Racing School in Phoenix this year, where he will get to spend the day at the Phoenix International Raceway and drive a NASCAR certified race car. Good luck Terry!

John Hunter, CVEA's manager of production, says, "Terry Delay is a good employee, hard working and is very reliable. He is qualified to operate and maintain the three Valdez plants."

Terry enjoys working at CVEA because of the diversity of things he does, whether it's routine, new or handling an emergency. He believes in always treating members with courtesy and respect.

According to Terry, "a smile is worth a 1,000-watt bulb!" ■



Erik Brenden
Information Systems Technician
10 Years of Service

Erik is a true local, having spent most of his life in either Glennallen or Valdez. Erik was born in Glennallen and moved to Valdez in the early 1980s. After graduating from Valdez High School, Erik attended college in Anchorage.

Erik lives in Glennallen with his wife, Stephanie, and two sons, Joseph and Matthew.

Now information systems technician for CVEA, Erik supports the information technology infrastructure of four production power plants, multiple substations, two ad-

ministrative offices and the operations facilities.

According to Erik's supervisor, Jaime Matthews, "Erik is a hard-working individual who keeps the technical aspect of the company running. Without Erik's hard work and dedication, CVEA would not be where we are today."

"CVEA is set apart from other companies because of the people I work with," says Erik. "The cooperative ideology is present throughout the organization, creating an exciting work environment, while putting the members first." ■



Marlynn Bell
Valdez Customer Service Representative
5 Years of Service

Marlynn is a longtime Valdez resident, having lived in Valdez for 22 years. Also in Valdez are Marlynn's adult children, Ren and Tabi, whom she loves spending quality time with.

In her spare time, Marlynn enjoys cooking and baking, and getting outside for hiking and camping.

Having lived in Valdez so long, Marlynn knows a lot of people. She admits one of her favorite things is simply "hanging with the girls."

Mary Ellen Bedrick, CVEA revenue accountant, says “Marlynn has been the face of the Valdez office for five years. Her hard working, positive attitude and friendly smile at the front desk ensures customers leave with a great first impression of CVEA and reminds them that we are dedicated to serving their needs.”

What Marlynn likes best about working for CVEA in Valdez is that so many people, like her, have lived in Valdez for many years. She believes it makes conducting business comfortable for her customers and herself. ■



Chris Botulinski
Manager of Engineering
5 Years of Service

Chris has lived in Valdez since starting work with CVEA five years ago. He lives with his wife, Mel, their dog, Scooby, and two cats, Stinky and Slim.

When Chris is not in the office, he spends a lot of time working on his house, which he enjoys sometimes more than others.

What he truly loves is watching his wife sing and act, watching movies, cooking, wine tasting and spending time with friends.

One aspect of Chris’ job that gives him the most satisfaction is working with the residents of Valdez and the Copper Basin to bring ser-

vice to areas that do not have power. He enjoys helping people realize there are people working hard for them 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to keep the lights on.

According to Steve Bushong, CVEA’s chief operating officer, “Chris is a can-do kind of employee. Chris is the first point of contact for consumers that need line extensions, service upgrades, and is responsible for system improvements. Chris is a key player in the evaluation and advancement of technical issues for the cooperative.”

Asked for a quote, Chris offered, “Good sense is a thing all need, few have and none think they lack.” *Benjamin Franklin.* ■



Steve Bushong
Chief Operating Officer
5 Years of Service

Steve has spent his entire career working for cooperatives. He started in 1974 working as a cooperative education student while going to college. Steve graduated from Virginia Tech in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering technology.

Steve has lived in Alaska for 14 years, and spent the last five in Valdez, where he lives with his wife, Denny, and children, Matthew, Ethan and Taylor.

Steve enjoys working with his fel-

low employees and being involved with the technical challenges that face CVEA.

“I hope that I am able to make improvements that are needed for the long term wellbeing of those that I am here to serve.” he says.

CVEA Chief Executive Officer Robert Wilkinson, says, “They broke the mold when they made Steve Bushong. Born 100 years too late, it is little surprise Steve emigrated from the Shenandoah Valley to the wilds of rural Alaska. Steve was a friend, mentor and colleague for eight years prior to joining CVEA, and it has been my privilege for the past five years to work closely with and admire Steve’s talents, abilities and unquestioned dedication to the public power industry.” ■



Robert Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer
10 Years as CEO

In 2006, Robert Wilkinson celebrated his 20th year of service to Copper Valley Electric Association. This year, he celebrates another milestone: 10 years as the chief executive officer.

Robert was presented an award recognizing this achievement by CVEA Board President Jim Manning during the February 2007 Board of Directors meeting in Glennallen. ■