



## Working Hard For You CVEA Service Awards

Copper Valley Electric employs over 40 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 fulfill CVEA's mission to provide exceptional customer service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service as well as CVEA's vision to reduce or completely eliminate our dependence on fossil fuel and stabilize the Cooperative's cost of generation with regional, sustainable resources. 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 accomplishment.



**Mike Leeper**  
Copper Basin Line Foreman  
25 Years of Service

In 2014, Mike Leeper celebrates his 25<sup>th</sup> year of service to CVEA. Mike is the Line Foreman in the Copper Basin District and has worked for CVEA since coming to the area from East Rochester, New York, in 1989.

Prior to CVEA, Mike was a Lineman

in Fairbanks. Mike and his wife Julie have seven children; Timothy, Christopher, Nicholas, Rachel Rose, Harvey, Rachel Rene, and Jonathan, who are all grown and live in Alaska, Arizona, and Connecticut. Mike and Julie have a tricolor Beagle named Alice.

In Mike's spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, boating, and rafting as well as performing Godfather and Grandpa duties.

Mike has spent the last couple of years working on the T-line Piling Project and says his favorite thing about working at CVEA is operating the equipment.

When asked what one thing Mike wished members knew about CVEA he replied, "that we really enjoy and care about our members and their families." Mike also offers this quote, "Play to win; fire 'is' inspirational."

According to Dale Orvedahl, CVEA Manager of Transmission and Distribution, "This year marks the 25th year that Mike has been an integral part of our Glennallen Line Crew. His expertise and vast historical knowledge continue to pay dividends to the members."



**Walter 'Pinky' Becker**  
Copper Basin  
Plant Operator  
20 Years of Service

Walter 'Pinky' Becker is a Plant Operator at the Glennallen Diesel Plant.

Pinky came to the Copper Basin from Butler, PA, in April 1977 and worked in construction as well as a mechanic and truck driver before working for CVEA. This year, he celebrates 20 years of service with CVEA. Pinky and his wife Judy raised four children and now have five grandchildren who all still live in Alaska.

In his spare time, Pinky likes to hunt and fish and spend time with his family. In addition, Pinky enjoys serving his community. He has been a volunteer fire fighter since 1987 and is a retired EMT, having served for 12 years.

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## Employee Service Awards (Continued from page 8)

When asked what has been the biggest change in his position in the last five years, Pinky tells us that with Jay Johnson, Mark Troll, and Dan Dempsey having retired over the last five years, it's left him the only 'old timer', passing on knowledge and his version of old stories and experiences of life in the Glennallen Diesel Plant. He tells the story of asking CVEA management to hire vegan operators so more of the crew can take time off to hunt. Pinky said what he enjoys most about CVEA is getting the chance to work with a great bunch of people.

Travis Million, CVEA Manager of Power Generation, says, "Pinky is truly a joy to be around each and every day. He is the father figure at the Glennallen Diesel Plant and everyone looks up to him. He is a wonderful teacher and mentor to all that work alongside him. It is truly impressive to watch Pinky in action when an unforeseen event takes place on the system and he is behind the controls restoring power to the Copper Basin."



**Darrell Banner**  
Valdez Meter Reader  
15 Years of Service

Darrell Banner celebrates his 15<sup>th</sup> year with CVEA. Darrell is the Valdez Meter Reader, a position he was actually contracted to perform four years prior to his

CVEA employment.

Darrell also works full-time for the Valdez Fire Department. He is a Captain and an EMT-3. He has held this position for 24 years. Darrell grew up in Ontario, Oregon, before coming to Valdez a little over 25 years ago. Darrell and his wife Claudie have four children; Kari, Kami, Kesa, and Jeremy. In his spare time, Darrell loves to fish, hunt, go shrimp-ing, play sports, and spend time with his family.

When asked what one thing he wished people knew about CVEA, he said he wished people knew that CVEA employees are very dedicated to serving their community. When asked his favorite thing about working at CVEA, he says "working with great people." Darrell believes "the obstacles in front of you are never as great as the power behind you."

Dale Orvedahl has this to say about Darrell, "meter reading is not the most glamorous job within CVEA but it is a very important one. Darrell performs this task flawlessly which provides timely and accurate billing for all Valdez members."



**Andy Hess**  
Copper Basin Lineman  
15 Years of Service

Andy Hess is a Lineman in the Copper Basin District who has been working for CVEA for 15 years.

Andy is a long-time utility guy, having worked for utilities since 1976. Andy was born in Minnesota and raised in Oregon before coming to Alaska in 1994.

Andy and his wife Nancy have five boys. When not working, Andy likes to hunt and fish and enjoys woodwork and traveling.

About CVEA, Andy says, "I like the diverse requirements of my position and I want members to know that being a small utility requires the line crews to wear many hats and cover a multitude of positions." When asked to provide a quote, Andy said, "I'll get to it once I've gotten my arms around it."

Dale Orvedahl provides, "Andy continues to be a star performer in our Glennallen crew. Rain, snow, wind, or cold never get in Andy's way when his services are needed to restore power or maintain our system."



**Mike Rodgers**  
Valdez Plant Operator  
15 Years of Service

Mike has been a Valdez Plant Operator for CVEA for 15 years. Before CVEA, he was an IBEW inside wireman and worked in power plant operations.

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## Employee Service Awards (Continued from page 25)

Mike and his wife Michelle have four sons; Michael, William, Shawn, and Joseph, and one daughter, Jennifer. When not at work, Mike works on remodeling projects around the house and the family cars. According to Travis Million, "Mike has worked for CVEA for 15 years. He was an Operator when the Cogen project was constructed and brought on-line for the first time."



**Todd Stahley**  
Valdez Line Foreman  
10 Years of Service

Todd Stahley is the Line Foreman in the Valdez District. In 2014, he celebrates 10 years of service with CVEA.

He lives in Valdez with his wife Laura. They have three children; Amanda, Sara, and Allen. In his spare time he likes to hunt and fish.

Todd's favorite thing about working for CVEA is that he enjoys working in Alaska.

According to Dale Orvedahl, "Todd continues to distinguish himself as Valdez Line Foreman. He possesses the perfect mix of knowledge, dedication, and motivation to keep the Valdez District on track."



**Ryan Cook**  
Copper Basin Lineman  
10 Years of Service

Ryan Cook has worked for CVEA as a Lineman in the Copper Basin District for 10 years.

Dale Orvedahl says the Glennallen District is fortunate to have Ryan in the line crew ranks. His dedication and desire to improve operations clearly stand out. He is truly a "roll up the sleeves" kind of lineman.



**Alex Gearheart**  
Copper Basin  
Plant Operator  
5 Years of Service

Alex is celebrating five years as a Plant Operator in the Glennallen Diesel Plant. Alex has lived in the Copper Basin for over 25 years and began his career at

CVEA after going to school to study process technology.

Alex and his wife Samantha live with their son, Brett, two dogs and a cat. He loves hunting, fishing, and camping, loves to be outdoors, and enjoys exploring new areas.

When asked what he likes most about working for CVEA, he replies, "I like the people I work with."

According to Travis Million, "Alex has truly developed into a good Operator in the five years he has worked at the Glennallen Diesel Plant. He is always eager to learn and take on new tasks and assignments. He takes pride in the work that he performs. I look forward to working with Alex for many more years."



**Mike Rego**  
Copper Basin  
Chief Plant Operator  
5 Years of Service

Mike has worked for CVEA for five years and is currently the Chief Plant Operator at the Glennallen Diesel Plant. Prior to CVEA, Mike was a journeyman Millwright throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Mike is originally from the Copper Basin where he has lived for over 28 years. He, his wife, and their two small



children have many species of pets from fish to dogs, to chickens, turkeys, and even goats.

In his spare time Mike pursues all things outdoors, including multi-season hunting, trapping, and fishing. He has also spent a great deal of time building his family home.

According to Mike, "working for CVEA has been one of the most unique and rewarding opportunities in my career as a Millwright/Operator. Although the scope of work is broad and often challenging, the team at CVEA is punctual, enthusiastic, and competent. I am proud and honored to work with the entire staff to facilitate safe, reliable, cost-effective service for our members."

When asked to provide a quote, Mike provided, "The very remoteness kindles the imagination of the adventurer hunter. From the top of any mountain the challenge extends far and wide, until the mountains meet the sky." - Fred Bear

According to Travis Million, "In the five short years that Mike has worked for CVEA he has demonstrated many of his impressive skills and abilities in a multitude of areas. In 2013 he accepted a promotion to the Chief of the Glennallen and Valdez Diesel Plants. It is apparent that he is very passionate about his work and the Diesel Plants."



**Anthony Martin**  
**Valdez Plant**  
**Operator Trainee**  
**5 Years of Service**

Anthony has worked for CVEA for five years. He began as a groundskeeper and after 3 1/2 years, worked his way to becoming a Plant Operator Trainee in the Valdez District.

According to Travis Million, "Just five short years ago Anthony was hired at CVEA to cut the grass and shovel snow at the Valdez office. Since that time he has also dealt with the ongoing vegetation clearing at Solomon Gulch and various odd jobs with great vigor. In 2012 Anthony was promoted into the Power Plant Operator Trainee Program at the Valdez Plants and is currently working solo shifts operating the Hydro and Diesel Plants. It has been a pleasure to be a part of Anthony's professional growth at CVEA."

*Not pictured*

**Mike Haley**  
**Valdez Plant Operator**  
**5 Years of Service**

Mike has worked for CVEA as a Plant Operator in Valdez for five years.

When asked about Mike, Travis Million responded, "Mike is an Operator for CVEA in the Valdez Plants. He is always in a great mood and everyone enjoys working with him. He is very dedicated and is always willing to take on any task no matter how big or small."

**Congratulations to all service award recipients.**  
**Thank you for your many contributions to**  
**CVEA!**

