



Travis Million Leaves CVEA in Capable Hands After Three Years at the Helm

After twelve years at Copper Valley Electric, and three years as Chief Executive Officer, Travis Million will leave CVEA at the end of August. At the Annual Meeting in May, he told the membership, “I was not looking for a change, but the chance of a lifetime came looking for me. It is an opportunity that my family and I cannot pass up.”

Million will leave CVEA to take the position as Chief Operating Officer for Golden Valley Electric, in Fairbanks.

For Million, it is difficult to say what he will miss the most about CVEA; the communities that have been so welcoming to him for the last 18 years,

the community leaders and members that he has worked with, or the Copper Basin kids that he has coached over the last 15 years. However, he did say, “he will miss the incredible team that works for CVEA, who are some of the most hard working, professional, and caring people he knows.

Travis said, “I want each of you to know that CVEA has been the greatest professional experience of my life. I can say without hesitation that CVEA is one of the best organizations on the planet.”

As he prepares to move on, he leaves members with two thoughts: First, he wants to make sure members

understand that every single person at CVEA, from the Board President to the groundskeeper, cares about the members and works hard each day to do what is in the best interest of the membership. YOU are at the core of every decision made at Copper Valley Electric.

Second, he wants you to know that he is leaving the cooperative in good hands. According to Million, “I believe one of my biggest achievements at CVEA has been to help develop a cohesive, high performing team. I have no doubt the strength of this team will help Jaime Matthews, as the new CEO, continue to

achieve great things for the co-op and great things within our communities.”

Travis thanks the Board of Directors and the employees for the opportunity to work with each of them. Finally, he thanks you, the members, for supporting the co-op, and him personally, for the last 12 years.

During his tenure, Travis saw all sides of the organization; served on the Board, as Chief Operating Officer, and of course, as CEO.

He has been instrumental in developing a successful safety program and has worked hard, as CEO, to reshape the culture of the organization to one where training and growth are

priorities, and where employees feel valued, enjoy work, and take pride in working for our members.

Travis was instrumental in the development of the cooperative's first formal Strategic Plan. He has been a critical part of many important projects to include the

Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project, Solomon Gulch overhaul project, system-wide communications and controls upgrades, building of the Glennallen Operations Building, and most recently the Alyeska Intertie.

Travis has been at the forefront of important

state-wide legislation and projects, and served on or chaired many industry boards and committees.

His work over the last two years on the potential Micro Modular Nuclear Reactor Project has solidified his name as a true energy innovator and put Copper Valley Electric on

the map.

According to Lon Rake, CVEA Board President, "the entire Board would like to thank Travis for everything he has done for CVEA. He will be missed. We wish Travis the best on his new endeavors in life." ■

Jaime Matthews Takes Over as CVEA CEO

Following focused deliberation, CVEA's Board of Directors named Jaime Matthews as the organization's next CEO. She succeeds Travis Million, who steps down August 31, 2023.

According to President Lon Rake, "Jaime has been a tremendous asset to the cooperative throughout her tenure; she has impressed the Board of Directors with her financial expertise, desire to build a strategic financial forecast and capital work plan, and to streamline processes that help internal staff and ultimately provide efficiencies for the members.

Her accomplishments are many; to include graduation from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Management Internship Program in 2013 and being awarded the Alaska Power Association (APA) Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award in 2022,

which recognizes employees of APA's member utilities who provide exemplary service to their employer and community. The Board is confident in Jaime's leadership and looks forward to what she will accomplish for the members of CVEA."

About Matthews, outgoing CEO Travis Million had this to say, "Jaime has been a key player on the executive team for the last 18 years. Her growth in leadership and development of those she leads is a strong indicator of her future success as the next CEO. I'm proud of all that Jaime has accomplished and am confident in her abilities. I know CVEA will be in great hands under her leadership."

Jaime came to CVEA as the Manager of Administration and Finance in 2006. She currently holds the position of Chief Financial Officer and is responsible for the accounting, customer service, administration, financials, and risk management functions of the organization.

During her time with the co-op, Jaime has completed many significant projects; a few that stand out are the implementation of SmartHub, completion of a long-term Capital Work Plan, and most recently securing the

cooperative fiscally for the next five years with the approved 2023 rate study.

As a lifelong Alaskan, Jaime started her electric industry career as a high school student under a volunteer work program entering meter reads for Cordova Electric. She went on to receive a bachelor's degree in business administration (Finance) and a master's degree in business administration (MBA) from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). In 2000, she began working for Homer Electric Association (HEA) as a Planning and Project Management Coordinator and was later promoted to Budget Analyst.

Jaime is now a leader in her field, with over 20 years in the electric industry. She has gained the respect of every member of the employee team, Board of Directors, community members, and industry colleagues. Jaime served for Governor Dunleavy on the Real Estate Commission of Alaska from 2019 – 2023, on the Copper River School District Board from 2015 – 2021, serving as Chairperson for four years, and volunteered for the Copper River Hockey Club, helping to provide students with competitive athletic

opportunities for 13 years. Jaime also helped create the APA Accounting and Finance Conference, now in its 13th year, which serves to educate both new and experienced accounting employees throughout Alaska.

Originally from Cordova, Alaska holds a special place in Jaime's heart, specifically the Copper River Region where she raised her daughter Cassidy and son William, who both now reside in Montana and commercial fish with their family business in Alaska.

She recently became a grandmother. She enjoys spending time with her new grandson, Clayton, and being surrounded by the support of her family and friends, specifically Mel, her husband of 24 years. Together they enjoy hunting, fishing, ice fishing, and traveling.

According to Jaime, "long-term planning has been a focus of CVEA the past few years. We have a strong Board, clear strategic goals and a dynamic group of employees that work hard for the members. I look forward to leading the team and continuing to keep the cooperative on this positive, successful trajectory." ■



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY ANGELOV

August is Back-to-School Safety Month

It is back-to-school time and we're encouraging all members to make safety a priority.

Whether you drive your children to school or they ride their bicycles, walk or take the bus, it is important to be safe. Here are tips from the National Safety Council to ensure your child travels safely.

Bike Riders

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic and in a single file.
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street.
- Walk bikes across the street.
- Always wear a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing.

Walkers

- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available.
- When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left

again to see if cars are coming.

- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
- Always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.

Bus Riders

- Stand 6 feet or three giant steps away from the curb.
- If you must cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the side of the road until you are 10 feet ahead of the bus. The child and bus driver should always be able to see each other.

Driving Your Child to School

- Obey school-zone speed limits.
- Follow your school's drop-off procedure.
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street.
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children.

Stay safe and have a great school year! ■

Get Smart About Home Lighting



Freepik.com



By Abby Berry

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting. Bright, warm, purple, green—whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay “on” for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart bulb, the wall switch it's connected to must be “on” so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with



a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping! ■

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Lon Rake, President
Yvette Delaquito, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Will Stark, Treasurer
Andy Hess, Director
Paul Kildal, Director
Jan Maslen, Director
Jeff Saxe, Director

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

Copper Basin District
907-822-3211

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

907-835-4301

367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line
866-835-2832

Important Dates

August

CVEA Member Tour: The CVEA Member Tour will take place in Valdez, Saturday, August 12, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; email Sarah at sjorgensonowen@cvea.org to register by Tuesday, August 1 (advanced registration required)

CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Request Deadline:

The deadline to submit contribution request forms is 6 p.m. Thursday, August 17, 2023; forms are available under community support at cvea.org

CVEA Board Meeting: The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, August 17, 2023, in Glennallen

September

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, September 4, 2023, for Labor Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The September meeting has been cancelled

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 907-822-3211 or 907-835-4301 for removal. For additional information on right-of-way clearing or electrical safety, visit cvea.org.

As Summer Winds Down, So Will Construction

When summer comes to an end, so will CVEA's construction season. If you are planning new construction or a service upgrade before the end of the season, don't wait.

All paperwork must be submitted and payment made prior to September 15 in order to be considered for the current construction season. Please email construction@cvea.org with your request as soon as possible. Visit the construction page, under Member Services at cvea.org, for information and a general summary of the process.

Pay Your Bill and Manage Your Account Online Using Smarthub

Are you looking for convenient ways to make your life easier?

If so, log on to *Smarthub* at cvea.org. You can pay your CVEA monthly bill directly from your bank account or by using your debit card or Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card. You can also see your billing and payment history and 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 and click the *Smarthub* button on the home page.