



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2023 Director Election

Meet the Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director election is fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by March 30, along with candidate biographies, and your official annual meeting notice.

To be counted, return ballot envelopes must have a valid signature and be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

Candidates have been nominated 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. For this reason, even though there may be only one candidate for the open seats, the co-op still needs you to vote.

All valid ballots, with signed ballot envelopes, returned by the deadline will be entered to win a \$50 CVEA energy credit.

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

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, and what will you contribute to overcoming these challenges?

Question 3

If elected as a CVEA Director, how will you balance the desire to keep rates low with the need to complete expensive maintenance projects necessary to ensure system reliability?

*denotes incumbent



***Jeff Saxe**
Valdez District

Question 1

I was raised in a family directly involved in the hydroelectric industry and have always been interested in it. Serving on the Board of Directors these past 12-plus years, I have learned much and strive to help the Co-op with my knowledge.

Question 2

Reducing our dependency on fossil fuels and maintaining rates. Always researching and looking for alternative sources to produce power. I try to keep myself up-to-date on all new regulations that impact the Cooperative and the Membership

Question 3

I will work to balance out major projects through rates, plus borrowing funds for larger projects. Borrowing funds for big projects would not put all the burden on the current membership, but spread costs out over multiple years, so future members are paying for it as well.



Jan Maslen
Copper Basin District

Question 1

I have established lasting personal and professional relationships throughout the Copper River Valley through my position with the National Park Service and my service on local boards. I am trustworthy, enthusiastic, enjoy learning new things, work collaboratively with others, and am willing to share ideas and ask tough questions. I can provide direction for management to make substantive, good quality decisions, ensure fiscal responsibility and develop policies that enable an organization to work consistently toward its mission.

Question 2

Challenges that face CVEA during the next 5 years include finding ways to keep rates affordable for members, increasing overall system reliability, reducing dependency on fossil fuel, finding alternative energy sources, obtaining funding for expansion projects, and succession planning for staff retirements. To overcome

these challenges, I will represent the shareholders, evaluate and provide direction for management, monitor business functions, assess financial health, acquire and preserve assets, and strengthen the co-op through workforce development and advocacy.

Question 3

This is definitely a balancing act which necessitates transparency, education and communication with the Membership; amplifying their concerns, while promoting the Cooperative Business Model and benefits of membership when rates need to increase.

It requires ongoing review and evaluation of the organization's budget and infrastructure to make informed decisions. It also involves assessing upcoming maintenance projects, researching alternative sources of energy, working with elected officials and developing partnerships to secure alternative funding for expensive maintenance projects.

Want Your Vote to Count?

When you vote on CVEA business, such as the board election coming up in April, you are required to sign the ballot envelope. If the signature does not match the signature on the membership card on file with CVEA, the vote cannot be counted.

For residential customers, if you have changed marital status, or names, please make sure those changes are reflected on your signature card. If you have a joint account, please make sure both members on the account have signed the card. Finally, if your signature has simply changed substantially over the years, an update is recommended for you as well.

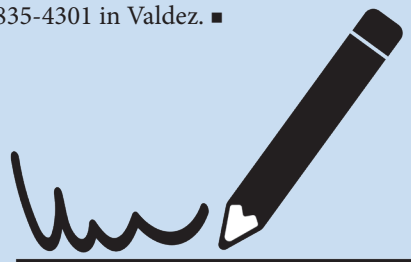
Organizations, businesses, and associations usually have board members who are authorized to transact business for the group. The person who signs the election envelope must be an authorized signer on the account.

If your Board of Directors, Executive Officer, or authorized signers have changed in the past year, then

it is time to update your CVEA membership card.

Please update your information as soon as possible; the deadline to update your signature for participation in the upcoming Director election is March 20, 2023. Fillable signature cards are easy to access under Member Services at cvea.org. Simply fill it out, sign it, and email to customerservice@cvea.org or drop it off at your local office by the deadline.

If you have questions or are unsure what is on your residential or business signature card, please stop by either office or call 907-822-3211 in Glennallen or 907-835-4301 in Valdez. ■





Save the Date

2023 CVEA Annual Meeting Valdez: Tuesday, May 2 Copper Basin: Thursday, May 4

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members. The CVEA Annual Meeting is your chance, as a member-owner, to find out what is going on at your electric cooperative.

This year's meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center, and Thursday, May 4, in the Copper Basin District at the Glennallen Community Center (formerly Murdock Center). Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting begins at 6 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, ask questions about your cooperative, accept director election results, scholarship awards, employee service recognition, and transact any other business that may come before the membership.

In addition to learning valuable information, every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win a ton of cool prizes, including a \$1,000 cash grand prize, and will receive a \$10 credit on their power bill! Don't be late! Finally, attendees can enjoy information booths, fun take-home gifts, a raffle to support the CVEA Community Foundation, and a tasty meal.

In April all cooperative members will receive the official notice of the annual meeting in the mail, along with the 2022 Annual Report, and the 2023 Director Election materials. Director candidate profiles, a ballot, and a stamped return envelope will be included. Co-op members in both districts will select one candidate. As a member of your cooperative, the single-most important action you can take is to vote for your

Board representatives.

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. For this reason, even if there is only one candidate, we still need you to VOTE!

Ballots must be received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2023. When voting, please remember the back of the ballot envelope must be signed by the member whose signature is on file. If you are unsure what is on your signature card, or need an update, please stop by either office or give us a call at 907-822-3211 or 907-835-4301 prior to March 22, 2023.

All valid ballots, returned in signed envelopes, received by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!

So, please, when you receive your ballot, make your voice heard and exercise your right to vote!

Have additional questions, email Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at sscheidt@cvea.org. ■



COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



GROWLER BAY
VALDEZ BREWING CO. ALASKA

**SMALL BATCH
CRAFT BEVERAGES**
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**BREWERY / TAPROOM
LOCATED IN VALDEZ
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907-835-4222 / GROWLERBAYBREWING.COM / INFO@GROWLERBAYBREWING.COM



YOUR FEEDBACK REQUESTED!

CVEA will be evaluating the Co-op Connections Member Benefit Program this spring and your input is **IMPORTANT!**

- Survey entries will have several chances to win prizes!
- Stay tuned for details
 - cvea.org
 - CVEA's Facebook page
 - Ruralite magazine






Upgrade Your Home With Technology

Choosing smart home technology can increase convenience and efficiency

By DeAnna Greene

Smart home technology is on the rise. This type of technology includes devices that can be controlled remotely by a phone or computer, which offers convenience to its user. Using smart home technology can help you save time, add enhanced safety features to your home and enable more energy-efficient opportunities.

Convenience

Adding smart home technology to your house gives you the convenience of using one device to control many aspects of your home. These technologies can help you regulate and monitor your home from anywhere you have an internet connection.

This flexibility allows you to control your home from one central location, such as your smartphone or tablet. Smart home applications are made to be fast, easy and convenient—giving the user total control over their devices anywhere, anytime.

Save Time

Using one device saves time since you can make changes without going directly to each device, even allowing you to do so remotely.

Have you ever forgotten if you locked your front door? With a smart lock entry system, you can check without having to go back home. Need coffee to be made in the morning? Start your brew with ease from your bed with your smartphone.

Added Safety

Smart home security systems have several benefits that help better protect the user. Smart home security cameras are more proactive than traditional security systems. They can alert you to activities around your home as well as inside it.



ADOBE STOCK ILLUSTRATION BY MAST3R

Unlike traditional home security systems that you have to turn on and off as you come and go, smart home security systems are always monitoring your home. There is no more forgetting to arm your home because it is always on. Many home insurance companies recognize the benefits of smart home security systems and may give lower premiums for those who use them.

Energy Efficiency

Appliances with smart home capabilities are built to be more energy efficient, as well as easier to operate.

The most direct energy savers are smart thermostats, which adjust to your energy needs. With more sensors, they can better regulate the temperature of the entire home, not just one area. These thermostats can lower or raise the temperature depending on the season and if someone is home.

Energy-efficient smart devices also can help save money with lighting. Not only are smart bulbs more energy efficient in general, smart devices can turn lights on and off automatically or remotely. For instance, with a smart home lighting system, you can control lights from another room or while you are away to give the look of someone being home.

Independent Living

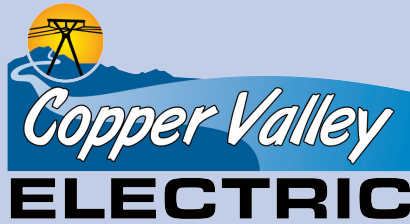
Smart home appliances can make it easier for people with disabilities and older adults to live more independently. People who may not be able to get around easily can use automated smart home gadgets to accomplish simple tasks such as turning on lights and changing the thermostat. Some smart home devices can even be controlled with verbal commands.

Smart home features can help caregivers and families monitor those living at home. There are even devices to help the user make phone calls and ask for help. If someone falls, they can ask the device to either call family or emergency services. This can give caregivers, as well as the users, more confidence.

Customize Your Needs

Having a smart home is not an all-or-nothing type of service. The range of options for smart devices is extensive, and you can choose the ones that work for you.

Many types of devices can help you automate your life and become more efficient, such as security cameras, door locks, blinds, TVs, speakers, thermostats, lighting and appliances to name just a few. You get to decide between gimmick and gotta-have-it. ■



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
Jeff Saxe, Director
Mark Shorten, 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

March

CVEA Board Meeting: The March meeting of the Board of Directors is 12 p.m. Thursday, March 16, 2023, in Valdez

Public Meeting to Discuss Tariff Changes: CVEA will hold a public meeting to discuss tariff changes related to the Rate Study and other housekeeping items; the meeting is 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 20, 2023, at the CVEA office in each District

April

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, April 20, 2023, in Glennallen

Voting Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2023

*don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

May

CVEA Annual Meeting: Tuesday, May 2, in the Valdez District, and Thursday, May 4, in the Copper Basin District

AK-34

Notice of Tariff Changes and Public Hearing March 1, 2023

Copper Valley Electric Association's Board of Directors gives notice to its members of proposed tariff changes. As proposed, the changes will be effective June 1, 2023. Below is a summary of the proposed changes.

- The main purpose of these tariff changes is to modify residential and small commercial rates as a result of the 2022 rate study:
 - o Transition both classes to unified rates of 11¢ per kWh within five years
 - See schedule CB1, CB2, V1, and V2
- Other non-material changes – Updates to CVEA's office hours, contact info, etc.
 - o 6.9 – Deposits
 - Clarify deposit language to include member regardless of service location
 - Remove guarantee information in section 6.9A3
 - Updated language on interest received for how our billing software handles it
 - o 7 – Line Extensions
 - Added clarification on length of time cost estimates are valid for
 - Changed permanency criteria to be twelve as there was inconsistencies in the tariff (section 4.1 and 7.11)
 - o 10 – Billing and Collections
 - Change delinquent/past due language to be consistent with our billing process
 - Remove 10.7 budget billing as other billing programs are not listed in the tariff
 - o 17 – Net Metering
 - Removed section relating to limitation of participants
 - Modified language on waiving requirements of the switch
 - Updated insurance language to be annual rather than specific dates

A full red-lined copy of the tariff changes is available at www.cvea.org.

Detailed information regarding these changes may be obtained from Jaime Matthews, Chief Financial Officer, CVEA, PO Box 45, Glennallen, AK 99588, phone: (907) 822-3211, (907) 835-4301 or by email: JMatthews@cvea.org.

Any interested CVEA member may provide comments on the proposed tariff sheets either by hard copy or email. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, May 8, 2023.

A public hearing has been scheduled to receive member input on the proposed changes.
Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., CVEA Glennallen and Valdez Office Board Rooms