



2018 CVEA Meet the Director Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by April 4, 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, April 24, 2018.

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. For this reason, even though there is only one candidate per open seat, the co-op still needs you to vote. All valid ballots 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?

Question 3

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



Copper Basin District
Paul Kildal *Incumbent

Paul is a resident of Glennallen and is retired after a 42 year career with Crowley Petroleum Distribution. He has been a member of CVEA for 45 years.

Question 1

I was on the Board previously for nine years and was instrumental developing the Valdez Cogeneration Plant at Petro Star. I have a very mechanical inclination for solving problems. I think I use common sense in all issues of the Co-op.

On this Board, you have to take a 40,000 ft. view and look out into the future as much as possible to see what is best for the Co-op. I have been on the Board for almost 12 years. I think I have a very good feel for what is best for CVEA.

Question 2

To keep rates on an even keel. Some of the things we are doing now to help are more automation, including automated meter reading. We are also looking at the possibility of raising Solomon Gulch

dam; giving us more hydro and reducing our fossil fuel usage.

A looming problem is the piling on of regulations by the government. The cost of compliance is not reasonable. It is important to work with our Legislators to help mitigate these costs.

Question 3

As a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association credentialed board member, it is important to understand the business of running a Co-op. I have extensive schooling on the issues we face as a Co-op and relating to the electric industry as a whole.

As always, the biggest challenge we have is to reduce our fossil fuel usage and increase our use of renewable resources.



**Valdez District
Lon Rake *Incumbent**

Lon is a resident of Valdez and is Plant Superintendent at Copper Valley Telecom. He has been a member of CVEA for 8 years.

Question 1

I have been on the Board for six years and have had the pleasure of serving in different capacities, and am the current President. We collectively have completed the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project, hired a new CEO, and upgraded facilities, just to name a few of the many accomplishments of the organization.

As board members, we attend specialized training to become Board Certified Directors, as well as specialized training on budgeting, project specific work sessions, and legal matters. We all continue to grow as a team.

Question 2

There are many challenges looking into the future with CVEA and Eastern Alaska. The state's economy, pricing of fuel and people leaving the region are but a few. Performing maintenance and improving efficiencies are paramount. We are positioning the Co-op to sell Allison Creek's excess summer energy for the new demand at the fish processing facilities and any other new high demand customers.

Another challenge is to help develop and build an intertie connection with the

main Alaskan electric grid. This is a lofty goal, but is definitely worth discussing in further detail with our Legislators.

Question 3

Teamwork is the key to success! We have a great Board of Directors and an excellent staff of employees. I've been in the utility business for 24-plus years and have learned volumes concerning the utility industry. Providing the staff with clear directions and expectations is very important. I have and will continue to work towards making this Co-op the best it can be.



**Valdez District
Will Stark *Incumbent**

Will is a resident of Valdez and is Vice President of First National Bank Alaska. He has been a member of CVEA for 19 years.

Question 1

In addition to six years of experience on the CVEA Board, I have 24 years of commercial banking experience. Additionally, I have a Master in Business Administration from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Question 2

The Co-op's biggest challenge in the next five years is to maintain reliability with minimal impact to the members. Many of CVEA's assets, especially the transmis-

sion line between Valdez and Glennallen, require substantial maintenance to maintain reliability.

Another challenge/opportunity is integrating new load to the system, including increased capacity on South Harbor Drive in Valdez for fish processing, as well as the new boat harbor. This new load is a great opportunity to sell additional hydropower produced by Allison Creek.

Question 3

I am excited to offer my experience in financial management and financing to help the Co-op meet these challenges and serve its members.

Want Your Vote to Count?

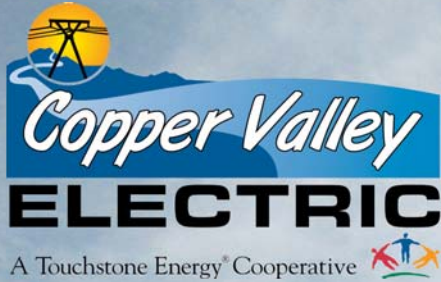
When you vote on CVEA business, such as the board election coming up in April, you are required to sign the ballot envelope. If the signature does not match the signature on the membership card on file with CVEA, the vote cannot be counted.

For residential customers, if you have changed marital status, or names, please contact CVEA to make sure those changes are reflected on your signature card. If you receive a card in the mail, please complete and bring to your local CVEA office or mail it in.

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 or executive officer has changed in the past year, then it is time to update your CVEA membership card.

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



National Lineman Appreciation Day

On April 18, 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 seven 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 18 to enter a comment of thanks using #thankalinenman 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. ■

Alaska News Page or APA Scholarships
Written by APA

Guardian Angels

Utility personnel go above and beyond to respond to community problems and help neighbors in need

By Pam Blair

Brent Wiltbank and Chris Lee had finished lunch and were making their rounds, patrolling Graham County Electric Cooperative power lines near Safford, Arizona, looking for trees encroaching on the lines and trimming them.

It was business as usual—until an unexpected flash from the front window of a home caught Brent's eye.

Thinking it could be a fire, the lineworkers turned back to check it out.

"The front room was on fire," Brent says.

A lighted candle had ignited the drapes. Fire had spread to a hutch and the carpet.

"Our timing couldn't have been better," Brent says. "The fire was just starting to spread into the walls and attic."

As Chris called 911, Brent grabbed the fire extinguisher from the cooperative's truck, broke the glass of one of the home's windows and put out the fire, saving the house.

"There were kids' toys in the yard, so we were concerned children could be inside," Brent says. "Both of us went in a little ways. The smoke was really thick, like you see in the movies."

They hollered to see if anyone was trapped in the house. No one answered.

"The best news is nobody was in there," Brent says.

Each month, the Graham

County Electric crew meets for safety training. One of the lessons was on how to use a fire extinguisher.

Brent remembered PASS, the acronym he had been taught for how to use a fire extinguisher: point, aim, squeeze, sweep.

"You never think you will have to use the training," says Brent, who is now the cooperative's safety and loss control coordinator. "I took a brief second to think, 'Should I break out the window?' Thankfully, everything worked out well. The extinguisher worked great. The fire department made sure everything was completely out."

All In a Day's Work

Providing assistance to people in need is all in a day's work for utility personnel—especially those who work in the field. They are often the first to encounter someone in trouble, or to notice something does not look right.

Because of their work-related training, utility employees often are equipped to render assistance.

Sometimes the good deeds save lives. Other times, they simply provide comfort and evidence someone cares.

CPR and first-aid training have equipped utility employees to help people they encounter who are in the



Brent Wiltbank, loss and safety control coordinator for Graham County Electric Cooperative, in front of the house he saved from fire several years ago when he and a fellow lineworker were patrolling the power lines and trimming trees.

Photo by Kim Larkey

midst of medical crises—both on and off the job.

Among the "routine" aid offered is notifying police of accidents, fixing flat tires, jump-starting cars, providing gas and summoning help for stranded motorists.

Utility workers also have shoveled snow, filled woodboxes and rescued animals.

Familiarity with people on their routes gives workers the



desire and the opportunity to make a difference.

Some communities have formal gatekeeper programs, encouraging utility personnel to alert social service organizations to potential problems.

If something looks out of place or suspicious at a consumers' home, utility employees call for help or leave a message for the owner.

"We're in the neighborhoods all day, every day," says Brent, who has worked at Graham County Electric Cooperative for 19 years.

Heroes on the Road

Several Plumas-Sierra Rural

Electric Cooperative employees have been beacons of hope—sometimes on the job, other times off the job.

Paul Erwin, who is based in Portola, California, arrived upon a rollover accident and radioed the office, which called 911. He stayed with the victims until the California Highway Patrol arrived.

Co-worker Joe Couto arrived on a rollover accident on a snowy, icy morning. A person flagged him down and asked for help. Joe turned on the vehicle's emergency lights and radioed the office, which called 911. A person inside the vehicle was badly hurt. Joe kept

the person still and let him know help was on the way.

Justin Williams and Jason Harston were the first to spot a wildfire on Highway 70, close to Blairsden, California, that was threatening homes. They immediately called 911.

Even though it was the weekend, they headed to the office, retrieved the co-op's small water truck and returned to the fire. They thought about trying to extinguish the fire themselves with shovels, but it spread rapidly. By the time they returned, emergency personnel were on the scene.

"These acts happen all the time," Brent says.

Thank Your Lineworkers

Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort of our homes. But while we hunker down, lineworkers put on their gear and brave inclement weather to restore power.

Although part of their job, it is another way utility personnel work to make sure you are safe.

April 9 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Please let your lineworkers know you appreciate their hard work, sacrifice and commitment to keep on the lights and power. ■

Taking It in Stride

When it comes to kind acts and heroism, most employees do not want the spotlight to be shined on them, Brent says, noting they are just doing what they think is right and what they would want others to do for them.

"For the most part, the guys are humble and would tell you that anyone would do what they did," Brent says. "Our job is to keep people safe. Usually that's about electricity, but sometimes it isn't.

"Our guys lend a hand where they can—from people's animals caught in fences to kids that get away from Mom and run out in the street."

"The guys I work with are husbands and fathers—family guys. They care about human life and people's property.

"We want to help, and it doesn't matter if we have the uniform on or not." ■



Board of Directors

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

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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

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, April 19, 2018, in Glennallen

Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2018

May

Annual Meeting: The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, in the Valdez District and Thursday, May 3, in the Copper Basin District; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6

CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 17, 2018, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 28, 2018, for Memorial Day

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2018 Annual Meeting of Members Valdez - Tuesday, May 1, 2018 Copper Basin - Thursday, May 3, 2018

The time has come! This is your final reminder to attend the 2018 CVEA Annual Meeting of Members. This is your opportunity, as a member-owner, to find out what's going on at your electric cooperative and the date is just around the corner!

The meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, 2018, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center and Thursday, May 3, 2018, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus Center. Registration and food service begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

Don't miss your chance to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, and ask questions about your electric cooperative. You'll also accept director election results and find out who won the CVEA Community Foundation scholarship awards.

There are tons of cool prizes in each district, including a CVEA beater. Every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win prizes, and will receive a \$10 credit on their power bill. Don't be late, and remember, you can't win if you don't attend.

CVEA will be doing a Split-the-Pot fundraiser for the CVEA Community Foundation, which provides scholarships to students and contributions to nonprofit organizations in our communities, so don't forget to bring a little extra cash if you'd like to participate!

Vote in the Director Election

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 running per seat, we still need you to VOTE!

Ballots must be received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

This year, all valid ballots received by the April 24 deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!



CVEA Board of Adjustment

The Board of Adjustment acts as an appellate body when a consumer feels the cooperative has violated its tariff or has otherwise not accorded them fair and equitable treatment. The Board of Adjustment will hear complaints which have not been resolved by CVEA's written complaint procedure.

The Board of Adjustment is appointed from the membership at the annual meeting in April. The term of a seat on the Board of Adjustment is two years. Three seats are open in the Copper Basin District and two seats are open in the Valdez District.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or stop by the sign-up table at the annual meeting.