

## CVEA Cares for Our Communities



Mojo and the Sauls family getting ready for the Gold Rush Days Parade in Valdez

Publicly owned utilities were formed to bring affordable electricity to those who needed it. At the heart of their mission, was neighbors coming together to better their communities. That same spirit continues at the heart of CVEA. As a local business, staffed by your friends and neighbors, we look for ways to make a difference - in big ways and small.

### Commitment to Community

Each year your Cooperative supports a wide variety of community groups and events such as the Copper Basin Senior Citizens, Valdez Museum, Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Native Village of Gakona, Valdez Gold Rush Days parade, and Valdez Co-op Preschool, to name a few. This year, CVEA also supported the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Kenny Lake Fun Run, Relay for Life, and Frosty Fever.

Gifts, door prizes, and auction items are donated for various events and meetings throughout the year. Each holiday CVEA provides toys for children in need as part of Copper Valley Telecom's Project Santa in the Copper Basin and hosts a festive Christmas gathering for the seniors living at the Valdez Senior Center.

CVEA supports many educational and youth programs including participation in the Glennallen School career fair, classroom presentations, and tours to students and youth groups. Additionally, employees participate in community

events and serve on many community work groups, task forces, and committees, providing community support and leadership.

Travis Million and Sharon Scheidt, of CVEA, recently spoke to the entire sixth grade class in Valdez about the Cooperative, CVEA's power plants, how electricity is made, and the various types of resources used for power generation. The presentations were followed by a tour of the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant. In 2019 this same educational opportunity is planned for the Glennallen Middle School. CVEA provided tours for a group from the Alaska State Chamber in June, and several other tours were given throughout the year, ranging from first grade students to adult students attending Prince William Sound College.

Finally, CVEA continued the new member tour program in 2018, hosting one tour in the Copper Basin and two in Valdez. The tours are comprehensive and educational, and are considered an excellent opportunity by all who have participated.

### Community Foundation

The CVEA Community Foundation (Foundation) was created to help the Cooperative do more for the communities it serves. The Foundation provides scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities. The Foundation is funded by capital credits that have escheated back to CVEA, generous donations from

CVEA members and vendors, and fundraisers.

Annually, the Foundation awards thousands of dollars in educational scholarships as well as scholarships for students to participate in industry youth leadership programs, like the Idaho Youth Rally.

Each year the Foundation contributes funding to local nonprofit organizations looking to fund new or expanding programs that meet the Foundation's contribution guidelines.

In 2018 the Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$13,800 to local nonprofit organizations serving CVEA communities. Checks will be distributed in December, so please check out the January issue of Ruralite to see who received awards.

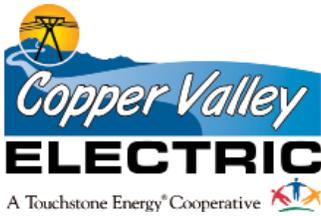
The Foundation's contribution season begins in July and runs through the month of August each year. Local organizations whose missions are for educational, scientific, or charitable purposes are encouraged to apply.

The Foundation's Board just approved \$16,269 to fund the 2019 contribution season; the largest amount of available funds to date.

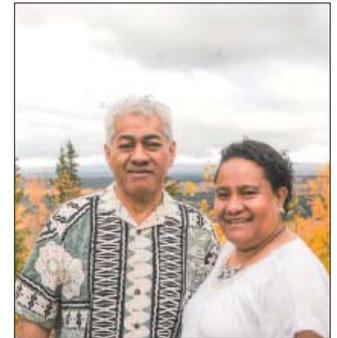
Applications will be available in July 2019, due in August, and awards will be made in November. For additional information on the Community Foundation or any CVEA community support activity, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5006, 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org). ■



**Top left, Valdez 6th grade science classes pose for a group photo after touring the Solomon Gulch Hydro Plant**  
**Top right, CVEA COO, Travis Million, during school presentation**  
**Middle left, Copper Basin Lineman Mark Kirkpatrick during visit to CRNA preschool**  
**Middle right, Members of the Alaska State Chamber on the tailrace at Solomon Gulch Hydro Plant**  
**Bottom left, CVEA Production Manager, Wayne McKinzey, with Glennallen School 8th grade students at the Valdez Diesel Plant**  
**Bottom right, CVEA members Glen Tepasky and Jane Brown at the Glennallen Diesel Plant as part of the 2018 member tour program**



## CVEA Spotlight-Toa Finau



Toa has been the Copper Basin District custodian since March 2007. She maintains the Glennallen office and traveling staff apartment.

Jaime Matthews, CVEA's Chief Financial Officer, had this to say about Toa, "Toa has been CVEA's Glennallen custodian for over a decade. She is one of the hardest working people I know, balancing several jobs and volunteering a lot of her time in the community. CVEA appreciates all Toa's hard work!"

In order to highlight Toa, we recently asked her a few questions:

**Q.** What do you do as the Custodian?

**A.** I clean, organize, and do whatever else needs to get done.

**Q.** What do you like most about living in Glennallen?

**A.** It is a nice, quiet community, very similar to Tonga, where I came from.

**Q.** What are some of the big projects you've been involved in since you began working at CVEA?

**A.** CVEA recently built a new operations garage in Glennallen, and in July changed to a new 4-10 work schedule.

**Q.** What are some little known facts about you?

**A.** I have nine kids and one granddaughter. Six have graduated, one with honors from the military, and three are in high school. Four of my kids are serving in the military. In addition, I run a daycare in my home.

**Q.** What do you like about your job at CVEA?

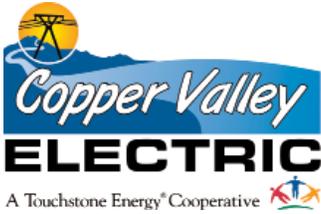
**A.** I appreciate that it is flexible. I can accomplish my work when it is convenient for my family and me.

**Q.** What kind of things do you do in the community?

**A.** I am the Athletic Director with Sarah Cook at Glennallen School. I enjoy helping the community through fundraising, planning and orchestrating events, and catering for school activities.

**Q.** What about your job are you most proud of?

**A.** I am proud to work for a company that appreciates me and shows me their appreciation through great benefits such as holiday pay and Christmas gifts. ■



# 2018 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest Winners

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 12th Annual Ruralite Magazine Cover Photo Contest.

Congratulations to Ed Pinsky, Dan Heckathorn, Brian Rhodes, Dahlia O'Neil, Rich Loftin, Jordan Perez, and Russel Posey. Two of Ed Pinsky's photos were chosen by CVEA employees this year; *Incoming* and *Technicolor Mountain*. Dan Heckathorn also won for his two photos *Night Fury* and *They Said it Couldn't Be Done*. Brian Rhodes won for *Orca Mist*, Dahlia O'Neil won for her photo *Shades of Violet*, Rich Loftin won for *Bluebird Daze*, Jordan Perez for *Cosmic Snowfall*, and Russell Posey for his photo *Winter Solstice*.

There were a record 63 photos submitted by 16 member photographers. After being narrowed to 24 finalists, a volunteer team of 13 CVEA employees were given the photos, without the photographers being identified, and were asked to vote. These votes were tallied to determine our winners.

Nine photos were selected this year; one more than advertised, because the beautiful selection made choosing the winners very difficult. Winners receive \$100 per photo and will be featured on the cover of Ruralite Magazine one month during 2019. They will also be featured on Facebook and [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

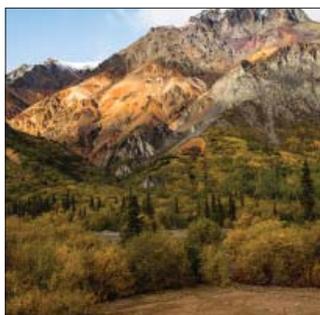
CVEA is thrilled to showcase Co-op members. Again, congratulations to all winners and thank you to all participants. ■



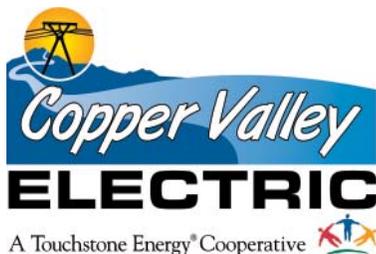
**They Said it Couldn't Be Done**  
**Winter Solstice**  
**Bluebird Daze**



**Orca Mist**  
**Night Fury**  
**Incoming**



**Shades of Violet**  
**Technicolor Mountain**  
**Cosmic Snowfall**



## Cooperative Month Fun



In October, CVEA joined cooperatives in Alaska and across America to celebrate National Cooperative Month. Every October cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique; the Seven Cooperative Principles: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

"Cooperatives are special," says Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but also believe we have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and be involved in and enhance our communities. We enjoy helping our community and having fun during Co-op Month every year."

CVEA celebrated this year's Cooperative Month with events throughout October that brought the cooperative and community together.

Co-op Month kicked off with the opening of CVEA's 12th Annual Ruralite Cover Photo Contest. Winners receive \$100 per winning photo and are showcased in Ruralite, on CVEA's website and Facebook page, and with local media outlets. The contest received 63 entries from 16 local photographers. After CVEA employees judged the photos, the winners were announced and are highlighted on pg. 8 of this issue.

In true cooperative spirit, CVEA and CV Telecom partnered

on a successful food drive throughout October. Thanks to members' donations, your local Cooperatives were able to bring nonperishable food items to the Food Bank in Valdez and the Copper River Native Association Food Bank, Connecting Ties, and Crisis Pregnancy Center in Glennallen; giving all organizations the ability to provide extra assistance to their clients as we head into winter.

People who brought food were rewarded with an entry into a drawing for a \$100 CVEA energy credit. Ashlie Hicks, of Glennallen, and Kathryn Peltier, of Valdez were both winners.

Co-op Month wrapped up with the 2018 Halloween Downtown Spooktacular events on Wednesday, October 31, which were a HUGE success in both districts. Over 1,100 kids, young and old, hit the streets in search of candy and fun; and they found it.

This year CVEA transformed into a Willy Wonka themed adventure; offering five treat stops, a Wonka themed photo booth with a take home picture, and a full size Wonka bar. Five lucky kids found a golden ticket in their bar and collected a \$25 Visa card. Fun was had by all!

A record 38 businesses participated in CVEA's event in Glennallen. According to CVEA COO Travis Million, "It was great to see everyone's eyes widen as they entered the CVEA building. Everyone said it was the best one yet. We laughed as adults came in without their kids to walk through and see all the fun."

When CVEA employees weren't decorating or dressing up as Oompa Loompas and other characters, they spent their time volunteering their lunch hours each week throughout the month of October processing recyclables at the Recycling Our Areas Resources Recycling Center in downtown Glennallen. CVEA employees generously donate their time to this cause each October during Co-op Month.

Congratulations to the CVEA winners and a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the CVEA Co-op Month events this year. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding Co-op Month or any other CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org). ■



Opposite page, Valdez office employees, and volunteer Diana Crisp, all dressed up for the Wonka inspired Halloween Spooktacular  
 Top left, a stack of nonperishable food items donated by CVEA members in Valdez before distribution  
 Top right, employees in the Glennallen office got into the Halloween Spooktacular  
 Middle left, CVEA employees at the ROAR center in Glennallen  
 Middle, Gunner Colby is all smiles as he shows off his golden ticket  
 Middle right, Brenda hauls the food collected during the food drive into CRNA  
 Bottom left, Kristen Hart with the golden ticket that won her a \$25 Visa card  
 Bottom middle, Terry, from Connecting Ties, will use food from the food drive to support her clients as we head into winter  
 Bottom Middle, CVEA's Kathryn Peltier demonstrating the Spooktacular's version of Wonkavision  
 Bottom right, Coreen Palacios, dressed as an Oompa Loompa, handing out candy at the office in Glennallen



#### Board of Directors

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Mary Odden, Vice President  
Dan Stowe, Secretary  
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Jeff Saxe, Director  
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Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
[www.cvea.org](http://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

##### December

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2018, in Glennallen

##### **CVEA Offices Closed:**

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25, 2018, for the Christmas Holiday, and Monday, December 31, 2018, for New Year's Eve

##### January

##### **CVEA Offices Closed:**

The CVEA offices will be closed Tuesday, January 1, 2019, for the New Year's Holiday

##### **CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition**

**Deadline:** Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted by petition no later than 6 p.m. Thursday, January 10, 2019

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 17, 2019, in Valdez

AK-34



## CVEA Bylaws Amendments

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2019 ballot by filing a petition with the Board of Directors. The petition must be signed by at least 10 percent of the membership and filed at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Please submit any amendments by petition prior to 6 p.m., Thursday, January 10, 2019. Petitions may be submitted to the Glennallen or Valdez office.

A copy of CVEA Bylaws can be picked up at either office or referenced online at [www.cvea.org](http://www.cvea.org).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon Scheidt at (907) 822-5506, (907) 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org).