

## 2019 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 ballot envelopes must have a valid signature and be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

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 is only one candidate for the single open seat in Valdez, 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 Yvette DelaQuito

Yvette is a resident of Copper Center and Lake Louise and works at Northern Adjusters, Inc as a claims adjuster. She has been a member of CVEA for 2.5 years.

#### Question 1

As an owner/operator of Lake Louise Lodge, I have learned how to operate a small business and value the importance of monitoring/managing a budget. I have been an active member of our local com-

munity board since 2009, mainly holding the Treasurer seat. While in this position, I assisted with our community grant-writing and was directly involved with interaction with the Mat-Su Borough governing body while dealing with local community issues as they arise.

#### Question 2

- How do you meet challenges as a small Co-op with the dynamic regulatory environment
- Member relationships and how the Co-op operates to include education on billing practices
- Fluctuation of diesel costs and the impact on the Cooperative
- Reduction of winter diesel generation

#### Question 3

As a self employed small business owner, I have learned how to work together as a team to reach set goals. We generate our own power at our lodge at Lake Louise. We have gained much perspective on the

importance of energy consumption and really how fuel costs effect the overall bottom line. If given the opportunity to serve on the CVEA Board, I will work hard and diligently for the Co-op.



**Copper Basin District  
George Gillman**

George is a resident of Tazlina. He works for Tazlina Department of Transportation. He has been a CVEA member for 26 years.

**Question 1**

To be exact on what to say, I am not certain. I never sat on any board other than the Copper River Snowmobile Club. But, I believe I am as qualified as anyone on the Board at this time.

**Question 2**

To produce affordable power to a dwindling amount of people in the Copper River Valley. Families are moving out, more than moving in to the Valley. In the 90's, when I moved here, you couldn't find a place to rent, and if a place came up for sale, it was grabbed immediately. Now, there are more and more places for sale and rent than ever before.

**Question 3**

I've owned my own business, rented equipment when I needed, rather than buy, hired people when I knew it was cheaper than have full-time employees, so in closing, I guess I know as much as most of the Board does at this time.



**Copper Basin District  
Fred Williams \*Incumbent**

Fred is a resident of Copper Center and is retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Fred has been a member of CVEA for 48 years and a Director since 1971.

**Question 1**

During the years that I have been on the board of CVEA, I have acquired a good amount of knowledge and experience as to the responsibilities of being an effective board member. For example, when the transmission line project was being constructed, the board members were very involved. The contractor had no experience in this type of construction nor working in this type of terrain. The Board, at that time, was very helpful to the contractor because several board members had knowledge of terrain and weather conditions. During that period I served as president of the board.

**Question 2**

Our biggest challenge is to produce all our energy needs with renewables. With the Allison project online, about 65 percent of our energy is produced by renewable (hydro). The government may soon require us to produce all of our electric

power needs with renewables.

Right now the best alternative to diesel is hydro, however, we do not have the finances to pay additional construction costs for new projects at this time. A large portion of the cost of Allison was paid for with state grants; the present condition of the state finances precludes any help from the state. Help from the federal government is also unlikely. We will have to maximize our renewable sources to generate maximum electricity and reduce the use of diesel engines.

**Question 3**

Assuming that federal and/or state money will be available sometime in the future, we should continue to look for other hydro sites and investigate new technology for producing clean power. We must have all our ducks in a row for when financing may be available. I believe that the board and state will be up to the challenge. We must be able to construct new, clean power facilities without using the rate structure to pay for all of the bill. I believe that our board can do the job, and I feel I can be effective in this future planning.

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## Meet the Director Candidates

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### Valdez District Dan Stowe \*Incumbent

Dan is a resident of Valdez. He is a retired geological/petroleum engineer. Dan has been a member of CVEA for 29 years and a director since 2001 (with the exception of two terms).

#### Question 1

I am an engineer with a BS degree in Geological/Petroleum Engineering. I am recently retired after 43 years as a project engineer and project manager with various oil companies throughout the world. I am a past and current CVEA Director (2001-2004, 2010-present) as well as a Certified Cooperative Director. Having lived and worked in Valdez for over 29 years, I am well versed in what the community of Valdez needs from their electric co-op, and wish to continue working with CVEA to achieve those goals.

#### Question 2

CVEA and the board worked diligently for over five years to complete the final construction and start-up of the Allison Creek Hydro Project. I was behind this project all the way, and it is paying great dividends for us all. I believe there are other future possibilities: other potential hydro sites, a natural gas line, a tie-in to the Railbelt, and obtaining grants toward development of alternative sources

of energy. As a board member, I will encourage investigation into the economics of all potential possibilities, and I am willing to listen to all suggestions from members.

#### Question 3

As a resident of Valdez for over 29 years, I am vitally interested in the future of our community and making it more affordable for all residents. I will work diligently to assure that CVEA continues investigation into all potential sources for alternative energy, and that the board remains constantly aware of any new state and federal grants that may be available for development of alternative sources of energy.

Having served on the board for over 12 years, I am not only acquainted with all current board members, I am also knowledgeable with how the board operates. I can and will work diligently to improve reliability while at the same time providing the lowest possible rates to all of our customers. ■

#### 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.



## WISE Learning from the Outdoors Offers Tools for Life



By Robin Mayo

On the banks of the Gulkana River, a group of teens are gathered around the remains of a spawned out salmon, focusing intently on body parts. Then they get busy jotting down impressions in their notebooks, creating vivid descriptions. Nearby are the rafts and tents that are transportation and home for the group for the next four days.

Leading this activity is Alex VanWyhe, a quiet young English teacher from Haines who is guest educator for the Copper River Stewardship Program (CRSP). CRSP is presented by a partnership of agencies and nonprofits, including Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment (WISE), Copper River Watershed Project, Prince William Sound Science Center, Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Over ten years ago, Alex was one

of the Stewards travelling down the Copper River on a journey to discover the meaning of a watershed. Now he has come full circle, having earned a master's degree at University of Alaska Fairbanks, leading writing activities to help teens process their experiences, and interweaving a sense of place into everything he does with his students.

Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE) offers Copper Basin youth a year-round schedule of programs designed to get them outdoors, learning about science, the environment, and celebrating the natural wonders all around us. WISE is a locally based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, formed in 2002 by teachers, resource managers, and others who wanted to bring the benefits of environmental education to residents of all ages.

WISE programs span the seasons, and try to offer something for everyone. In winter, a science lecture series showcases research happening in the region. In the spring, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Copper River Basin are invited to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Visitors Center for Earth Discovery Day, with 12 learning stations presented by outdoor professionals from the region.

Throughout the summer, weekly hikes explore local trails, and multi-day programs focus on Aquatic Ecology, Geology, and provide support for Project Healing Waters; a group who takes wounded veterans fly fishing. WISE also offers two credit-earning courses for high school students, Copper River Stewardship Program, and Outdoor Wilderness Leadership Skills (OWLS).

Autumn brings an outdoor program called Changing Seasons to all second and third grade students in the Copper Basin schools. WISE programs, combined with other programs WISE partners with, total 21 programs! This joint effort is the glue that ensures sustainability.

Getting kids outdoors and teaching them science and how all things are connected in the environment is the short-term goal, but WISE is also interested in the long term outcomes of environmental education. Research studies show time outdoors has a positive effect on everything from social skills to good health. An important goal is that kids learn a stewardship ethic, the idea that they are responsible for taking care of their world. They are also learning about teamwork, resiliency, self-reliance, and the interdependence of all things.

Looking back on his experience on the CRSP, Alex reflects:



**Opposite, Alex Van Wyhe, as a guest educator in 2017**

Photo courtesy Bureau of Land Management

**Left, Cassidy Somerville teaching ATV safety to youth**

**Bottom left, Trevor Grams at the WILD 10 conference in Spain**

Photos courtesy WISE



“One of the greatest gifts I received was the awareness and practice of being intentional about my relationship with the Copper River Basin. As a guest educator, I was thrilled to be able to help foster and instill that same sense of purposeful, active stewardship.”

Trevor Grams is another Copper Basin youth who grew up with WISE programs. He recently graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a degree in Geology and GIS, and is applying to work with NOAA on one of their research vessels. While participating in CRSP as a High School student, Trevor caught a fascination with fisheries that led him to spend a year in Norway as an exchange student. There he discovered a totally different perspective, as most of Scandinavia’s salmon are farmed.

In 2013, Trevor travelled with a group of WISE sponsored youth to the international World Wilderness Congress, WILD10, held in Spain. “It opened my eyes up to what is going on around the world, and made me realize how good we have it in Alaska. People were comparing land management strategies, citing Alaska as a good example.”

Cassidy Somerville has participated in WISE programs since she was very young. As an elementary student, she enjoyed Changing Seasons and Earth Discovery Day: “It was a chance to be outdoors and didn’t feel like school, but we were learning about everything I was interested in.” As a high school student, she worked on the Willow Creek Research Project, supported by WISE. She is now a student at University of Alaska Southeast, and works for Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the summers as a Fisheries Research Technician. Cass credits her high school experience in research with getting her start in field research. She will graduate this spring, then plans on taking a Certificate Course in Outdoor Leadership before pursuing her dream of working in a therapeutic wilderness program.

For all three of these young people, the practical and inspiring experiences WISE provided when they were young gave them the building blocks for a life around adventure, stewardship, and wilderness.

Discovering science is also important to the mission of the organization. In 2011, WISE teamed up with the Copper Valley Electric Community Foundation and Copper Valley Telecom to implement a new program: In-Class Science for students in the Copper Basin and Valdez school districts. WISE designed hands-on science kits to coincide with curriculum science standards for elementary classes. WISE recruits instructors to deliver these lessons. In-Class Science has become the core of WISE’s winter programming, with new lessons added every year.

WISE sustains its programs through donations from people like you, the earned income nature tour program, corporations, organizations, and grants. There are even those who donate from their acquired minimum distribution from their IRA.

For more information contact Robin Mayo at 907-822-3575 or cell 907-259-3575; email: robin@wise-edu.org. ■



#### Board of Directors

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

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
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

##### March

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The March meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, March 21, 2019, in Valdez

##### April

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, April 18, 2019, in Glennallen

**Voting Deadline:** Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2019  
\*don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

**Annual Meeting:** The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, in the Copper Basin District and Thursday, May 2, in the Valdez District; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6. Join us as CVEA celebrates 60 years!

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## 2019 Annual Meeting of Members Copper Basin - Tuesday, April 30, 2019 Valdez - Thursday, May 2, 2019

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members and 60 year celebration! The CVEA Annual Meeting is your chance, as a member-owner, to find out what is going on at your electric cooperative. This year, we'll celebrate our past and look forward to the future.

The meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus Center, and Thursday, May 2, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center. Registration and food service begin 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, and to transact any other business that may come before the Membership.

In addition to learning valuable information, members will enjoy trivia, honor CVEA's oldest and dearest members, and enjoy a few surprises. In addition, every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win a ton of cool prizes, and a special 60 year celebration gift. Don't be late!

In April all cooperative members will receive the official notice of the annual meeting in the mail, along with the 2018 Annual Report, and the 2019 Director Election materials. Director candidate profiles, a ballot, and a stamped return envelope will be included.

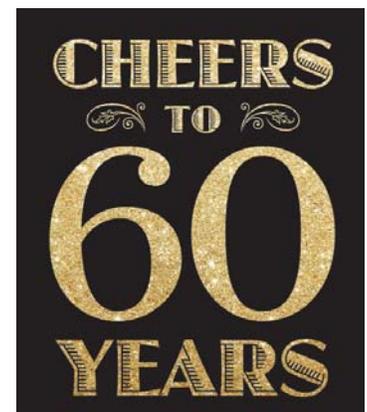
Co-op members in the Copper Basin District will select two candidates, and members in Valdez will select one. As a member of your cooperative, the single-most important action you can take is to vote for your Board representatives.

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 23, 2019. 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 to update, please stop by either office or call 822-3211 or 835-4301 prior to March 25, 2019.

**All valid ballots 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!



#cveacelebrates60