



Community Foundation representative Sharon Scheidt presenting a contribution to the Valdez Senior Center in 2019



CVEA Community Foundation

2020 Contribution Season Begins

It is Community Foundation Contribution Season time. Nonprofit program requests will be accepted until August 20.

The Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes and sponsors the community support activities of CVEA, allowing CVEA to do more for the people it serves.

The mission of the Foundation is “to provide scholarships for students and make contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities.”

The Foundation’s two flagship programs are the Educational Scholarship Program and the Youth Leadership Program. However, each year the

Foundation also makes contributions to local nonprofit organizations to support new or expanding projects and programs.

Since 2008 the Community Foundation has provided approximately \$94,000 to 20 worthwhile nonprofit organizations.

In 2020, the Foundation has \$17,575 available for contributions. The goal of the

funding is to help local nonprofits make an even greater impact in our communities.

The Contribution Season is open July through August each year, and is the **ONLY** time the Foundation accepts requests for funding.

If your organization is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization looking for funding for new or expanding projects or programs within the next 12 months, please review the Contribution Guidelines to determine eligibility, and fill out the Contribution Request Form in its entirety. Incomplete applications may not be considered.

The deadline to submit all contribution requests for funding is Thursday, August 20, 2020, as indicated on the CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Request Form. The form is available at either CVEA office and at cvea.org/community-support.

Please note that the Foundation's contribution process and guidelines vary from the cooperative's contribution program. CVEA has a small community support program that will continue to fund small cash (up to \$500) and in-kind donations for events and activities throughout the year. The requirements for the CVEA program are different and separate from the Foundation and can also be found on cvea.org.

Please ensure your organization meets the specific guidelines for Foundation funding and the correct application is submitted. If unsure where a request is best suited,

please contact the Cooperative for assistance.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a volunteer committee in September, awards will be approved by the Board of Directors in October, and checks will be distributed in November/December.

The Foundation is looking for interested members to serve on the Contributions Committee. If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, this committee is for you.

Committee members are responsible for reviewing and scoring all nonprofit contribution requests and making funding recommendations to the Board. If you are interested, plan on participation in late September and October; attendance at 2-3 meetings is required. In all, commitment is estimated at 15 hours.

If you have questions, contact Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email scheidt@cvea.org. ■

Community Support Guidelines

CVEA Guidelines

- It is CVEA's goal to provide the maximum benefit to the greatest number of members in the communities we serve; due to the large number of requests received, we regret being unable to fulfill all requests
- Requests are evaluated and funded based on the amount of funds available and how well the request meets CVEA's requirements
- CVEA looks for events/activities that benefit a large portion of the communities we serve
- CVEA limits donations to a maximum of \$500
- CVEA does not donate or discount products or services that are provided to all members in the Tariff
- CVEA does not donate funds to individuals
- Due to the large number of sports teams in our service area, CVEA does not fund sports teams or sporting activities unless there is a district-wide benefit

CVEA Community Foundation Guidelines

- Education and youth programs are often the biggest recipients of Foundation funds
- The Foundation does not fund organizational operating costs
- The Foundation looks to contribute to new programs/projects or the expansion of existing programs/projects
- The Foundation will evaluate the amount of each request based on the merits of the application; an interview or demonstration may be required

For either CVEA or the CVEA Community Foundation, nonprofits **MUST meet the following minimum requirements:**

- The organization must be a nonprofit entity
- The organization must benefit the public welfare or have a charitable, educational, or scientific benefit to the membership
- The organization's program or event must provide broad CVEA membership benefit
- The organization must support members in the CVEA service area

Individuals, religious organizations, and political organizations are not eligible for assistance

New Haven for Hikers at Solomon Lake

CVEA Improvements Encourage Users to Take a Break and Enjoy the View Atop the John Hunter Memorial Trail

In 2014, CVEA renamed the recreational hiking trail to Solomon Lake the 'John Hunter Memorial Trail', recognizing John Hunter, a dedicated employee of the Cooperative for over 38 years, after his passing in 2013.

This was fitting as John spent hundreds of hours on this trail throughout his career at CVEA either accessing the Solomon Gulch dam or checking on other CVEA hydro assets. John was an avid photographer and also spent his personal time taking beautiful photos of the area and the area's wildlife.

The trail is considered moderate, and roughly 3.5 miles roundtrip, from the trailhead in the parking lot on Dayville Road to Solomon Lake and back.

It boasts beautiful scenery, a rock bordered swimming hole when water is flowing down the gulch, panoramic views of Valdez, and spectacular sights surrounding Solomon Lake and the dam

when you finally reach the top.

Development of the trail was an important recreational component of the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project, and trail maintenance remains a responsibility of the co-op today, under the license agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, who inspects all aspects of the project annually.

While a favorite of many regular hikers in the community, CVEA believes the trail is an underutilized recreational opportunity for locals and visitors alike.

To encourage more people to take advantage of the trail, CVEA built a covered shelter at the top, near the lake. The shelter has a picnic table, and will soon have a bbq grill for public use. Also on site is a wildlife proof garbage container, provided in partnership by the City of Valdez, to help keep the area free of debris and reduce interest from bears in the area.

According to Wayne McKinzey, CVEA

Director of Power Supply, "to encourage more use, we realized a shelter was needed near the lake. People are often tired when reaching the top, or they face inclement weather, but there was really no place to sit, relax, and enjoy, especially in the rain. Providing a place where people can rest and have a snack that is out of the elements will make the trail more user-friendly and create an enhanced public recreational opportunity."

The co-op asks that everyone continue to practice personal accountability. CVEA will empty the garbage can weekly, but people should plan to take out what they bring when it makes sense, avoid overfilling, and make sure to latch the garbage can lid to protect the can, and the area, from bears.

Hikers are also reminded to use precaution when hiking as bear sightings are frequent along the trail.

CVEA encourages everyone to enjoy the trail, the lake, and the amazing views from the Solomon Gulch dam responsibly.

For questions on this or any CVEA project, email scheidt@cvea.org. ■



Don't Make a Deadly Mistake

By Michael Rovito

The unthinkable has happened: an accident occurs and your car hits a utility pole. You are not injured, but now an energized power line lies across your car. Your life now hangs in the balance.

What should you do?

This is what Don Maynor, loss control specialist at ARECA Insurance Exchange, spends some of his time thinking about. AIE is an Alaska-based commercial insurer that provides coverage to nonprofit electric utilities in the state.

Don has more than a decade of experience focusing on electric utility safety, spending 16 years with Golden Valley Electric Association in Fairbanks. Even though Don's job was to ensure the safety of GVEA's employees, his role naturally led him to address consumer safety as well.

In the scenario above, the reflex reaction of the car occupants might be to get out of the vehicle and run for safety, but this can be the most dangerous move.

According to Don, if a power line falls on your car—assume it is energized—stay in the vehicle and call for help. While you are seated in the car, the electricity from the downed line is following a path to the ground that runs through the car but around the occupant. Dialing 911 is the best course of action, since first responders will contact the electric utility to have the line deenergized.

But staying in the vehicle might not be an option, especially if it is on fire and the risk of injury or death from the fire becomes too great. If this happens, Don advises jumping from the car, then shuffling your feet until you are 30 to 40 feet away. Touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time makes you the easiest path for electricity, according to Don.

"Shuffling for this purpose



means not lifting your foot off the ground, with the heel of your foot never going past the toes of your other foot," Don says.

Since the electricity coursing through the ground will dissipate the farther you get from the power line, if you walk normally and step from one voltage level to another, you could be electrocuted.

Danger from downed power lines also exists to those not in vehicles. Strong winds, earthquakes and other disasters can bring down power lines, strewing them on the ground like high-voltage snakes. This is where Don says bystanders must protect themselves, but also help protect others.

"If in a public area where someone could get into lines you should stay and warn others of the hazard," Don says. "Call 911 to help with crowd control and they will call the electric company. You should also call the electric utility so you can give them specific information that will help evaluate the hazard."

Other, less lethal hazards come with electrification. Home electronics and some appliances can be damaged if a surge is introduced in the power lines from a

lightning strike, or two wires touching from snow unloading, trees falling, or in high wind scenarios.

If this happens, the voltage traveling into a home can rapidly spike, potentially causing electronics to overload with power and become damaged or inoperable. To guard against this, Don recommends using power strips and turning them off during an outage, if you can. Power strips are designed to absorb electricity fluctuations. The price of a strip is cheap insurance for expensive electronics such as a television or computer.

When the power does go out, a dedicated crew of men and women head into the elements to get electric service on again. Line work is a hazardous profession, but there are steps community members can take to help make the job safer.

Don says it's important to never use utility poles for personal use.

"Don't attach lights, antennas or signs," he says. "It's dangerous for you and the lineman who has to climb the pole."

Community members can also help their local electric cooperative address problem trees and other hazards that could impact reliable electric service.

"It's good to report trees out of the right-of-way that are leaning toward distribution lines so they can be removed before they cause an outage," Don says. "If you see anything that you're not sure of, feel free to contact your local electric company and let them decide if they need to check it out."

Electric co-op employees who focus on safety often say everyone who works at the cooperative should be a safety professional. The same is true for consumers. Co-ops are member-owned and governed, and those same members can take part in ensuring safety both for themselves, their families and fellow community members. ■

\$25 Copper Valley Electric Community Cares Gift Certificate

To: CVEA Residential Member

From: CVEA, in partnership with local businesses

- This certificate can be redeemed at participating local businesses within the CVEA service territory, Copper Basin and Valdez, that provide goods or services
- This certificate may be combined with other offers
- This certificate may not be redeemed for cash
- This certificate is valid through Saturday, August 8, 2020

Signature of CVEA CEO, Travis Million:



\$25 Community Cares Gift Certificates hit member mailboxes June 10. Members are encouraged to spend their certificate at the local business of their choice. For a complete list of participating businesses, visit cvea.org.

CVEA Co-op Cares Community Support Program

In order to help mitigate the effects of COVID-19, follow current health mandates regarding large gatherings, respect social distancing guidelines, and ensure the health and safety of CVEA employees and members, the CVEA Board of Directors made the hard choice to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members.

When doing so, the Board authorized funds typically budgeted for the meeting, as well as incremental funds, to be used for a program that would provide direct benefit and support to CVEA members most impacted during this

difficult time. In addition to providing assistance, it was important the message of the program was clear; that we are all in this together.

Travis Million, CVEA CEO, gathered a group of employee volunteers and set out to put such a program together.

The CVEA Co-op Cares Community Support Program, developed to meet these important criteria, has several components:

- \$100 grocery gift cards were initially sent to members immediately faced with negative financial impacts related to COVID-19

- Meals were provided to essential workers thanking them for continuing to work hard and keep CVEA communities going strong throughout the pandemic
- Local restaurants were supported when multiple meals were purchased weekly for essential workers
- A \$25 Community Cares Gift Certificate, which can be spent at most local businesses, was sent to every CVEA residential member; providing a small amount of financial support for members and

businesses

- A summer activity program, with financial rewards, was developed for kids age 2-18, to support their physical, social, and mental well-being
- Incremental funding will be provided to local nonprofit organizations who have increased support to those needing extra care as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

If you have questions, contact Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email scheidt@cvea.org. ■

- To assist our **communities** with the negative impacts of COVID-19
- To provide direct **benefit** to residential members of CVEA
- To provide direct **support** to local businesses
- To remind CVEA members that we are in this **together**

CVEA Cares For Kids Summer Activity Program

How to participate and receive a \$10 gift certificate to a local business:

- Review the list of activities
- Select which activities you want to complete
- Complete selected activity, have fun, and make sure to take a picture
- Complete any 5 activities on the list
- Email your 5 pictures with activity title, date completed, youth name, correct age category, and mailing address to caringforkids@cvea.org

Complete 10 activities and be entered to win \$500:

- Complete 10 activities on the list
- Complete each activity, have fun, and make sure to take a picture
- Email all 10 pictures with activity title, date completed, youth name, correct age category, and mailing address to caringforkids@cvea.org

Additional Details:

- Age categories: 2-6, 7-12, 13-18 (one \$500 winner for each age category)
- Visit CVEA's Facebook page or cvea.org for the official list of fun activities
- Deadline to complete and email submissions is Saturday, August 8, 2020
- \$500 drawings will be Monday, August 10, 2020





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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After hours outage line

866-835-2832

Important Dates

July

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Thursday, July 2, 2020, for Independence Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The July meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020, in Valdez

August

CVEA Board Meeting: The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, August 20, 2020, in Glennallen

AK-34



INDEPENDENCE DAY



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**