



## CVEA Cares for Our Communities



Independence Day Parade in Glennallen

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 CVEA today. As a local business, staffed by your friends and neighbors, we look for ways to make a difference - big 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, Valdez Gold Rush Days parade, Relay for Life, Frosty Fever, the Valdez Adventure Alliance, Copper Basin Independence Day parade, and the Kenny Lake Fun Run, to name a few.

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 Project Santa in the Copper Basin and hosts a festive Christmas gathering for the seniors at the Valdez Senior Center.

CVEA supports many educational and youth programs including participation in career and health fairs, 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.

Finally, CVEA continued the member tour program in 2019. 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 2019 the Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$16,182 to 11 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 support educational, scientific, or charitable purposes are encouraged to apply.

The Foundation's Board just approved \$17,575 to fund the 2020 contribution season; the largest amount of available funds to date.

Applications will be available in July 2020, 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, CVEA employees and volunteers pose for a picture after participating in the Valdez Gold Rush parade**

**Top right, Operator Alex Gearhart gives the Glennallen High School shop class a tour of the Glennallen Diesel Plant**

**Middle left, COO Travis Million speaks to members during a tour of the Solomon Gulch Hydro Project in Valdez**

**Middle right, Glennallen Elementary School students pose in front of the CVEA office in Glennallen**

**Bottom left, Operator Matt Craig showing Valdez Summer Fun participants cameras during a tour of the Solomon Gulch Hydroplant**

**Bottom right, CVEA's Darin Sauls with his daughters Madison and Hailey helping pick up trash during the Valdez Clean Up Day**



## 2019 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest Winners

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 13th Annual Ruralite Magazine Cover Photo Contest.

Congratulations to Ed Pinsky, Russell Posey, Deb Yamakami, Wayne McKinzey, and Kathryn Peltier. Three of Ed Pinsky's photos were chosen by CVEA employees this year; *A Good Catch*, *Always Hungry*, and *Moonrise in the Pass*. Kathryn Peltier and Russell Posey won with two photos each; Kathryn for *Water's Edge* and *Layers of Reflection* and Russell Posey for *Golden Sunrise* and *Wrangell Lights*. Wayne McKinzey won for his photo *Ridge Over Solomon*, and Deb Yamakami for her photo *Winter Sunshine*.

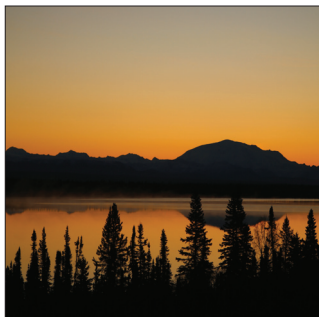
There were 33 photos submitted by 9 member photographers. After being narrowed to 21 finalists, a volunteer team of 11 CVEA employees were given the photos, without the photographers being identified, and were asked to vote. These votes were tallied to determine our winners.

Nine photos were selected this year. Winners receive \$100 per photo and will be featured on the cover of Ruralite Magazine one month during 2020. 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. ■



**Moonrise In the Pass**  
**Winter Sunshine**  
**Wrangell Lights**



**Golden Sunrise**  
**Always Hungry**  
**Ridge Over Solomon**



**A Good Catch**  
**Water's Edge**  
**Layers of Reflection**

# Don't Slip Up This Winter

By Michael Rovito

Alaskans are not the type to cower inside all winter just because it's cold and snowy outside. There's work to be done, outdoor recreation to pursue and general cabin fever to fight off.

But with winter weather comes increased risk to Alaskans for slips and falls and other hazards that come with the icier time of year. Electric cooperatives in the state know this all too well. Their employees often venture into the field in all manner of nasty weather to ensure consumers have reliable power no matter the conditions. Safety is a primary concern of electric co-ops in Alaska.

Of course, keeping winter safety in mind is a good idea, even for those who aren't climbing utility poles or restoring power. Alaskans should be conscious of best practices for staying safe, every day.

The United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration has a plethora of tips for staying safe and (hopefully) injury free this winter. Following some of these recommendations can contribute to a fun and productive winter without a time-loss injury

## Slips on Snow and Ice

- Wear proper footwear when walking on snow or ice is unavoidable. A pair of insulated and water-resistant boots with good rubber treads is a must for walking during or after a winter storm. Keep a pair of rubber over-shoes with good treads that fit over your street shoes during the winter.

- When walking on an icy or snow-covered walkway, take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction.



Follow these tips to keep your feet under you this winter.

## Winter Driving

- Maintain your car. Check battery, tire tread and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.
- Have on hand. Keep a flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets for your vehicle. For long trips, add food, water, medication and cellphone.
- Stopped or stalled? Stay with your car, don't over exert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine the dome light. If you run your car, clear the exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.
- Plan your route. Allow plenty of time. Check the weather and leave early if necessary, be familiar with the maps/

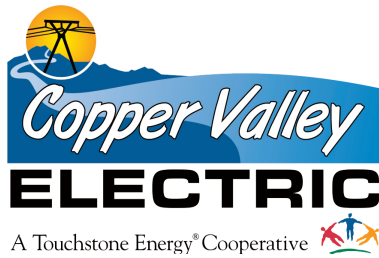
directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

## Shoveling Snow

- Warm up before the activity.
- Scoop small amounts of snow at a time and when possible.
- Push the snow instead of lifting it.
- Use proper lifting technique to avoid back and other injuries when shoveling snow. Keep your back straight.
- Lift with the legs and do not turn or twist the body.

Winter is a beautiful time in Alaska, but it can also be very dangerous. Through vigilance and caution, Alaskans can enjoy the season and be injury free for when the snow melts and summer recreation takes over. ■

Go to [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) for more tips.



## 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 communities together.

Co-op Month kicked off with the opening of CVEA's 13th 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 33 entries from 9 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 and cold weather blanket and clothing drive throughout October. Thanks to members' donations, your local Cooperatives were able to bring nonperishable food items to the food banks in Valdez and the Copper Basin and cold weather gear to the Parent Resource Center in Valdez 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 donations were rewarded with an entry into a drawing for a \$100 CVEA energy credit. Janet Rembe and Dolores Gard were both winners.

Co-op Month wrapped up with the 2019 Halloween Downtown Spooktacular events on Thursday, October 31, which were a HUGE success in both districts. Just under 1,500 people hit the streets in search of candy and fun; and they found it.

This year CVEA transformed into a Dr. Seuss Whoville/How the Grinch Stole Christmas themed adventure; offering five treat stops, a Whoville themed photo booth with a take home picture, and a Grinch candy/grocery bag as a free gift.

Over 40 businesses participated in CVEA's event in Glennallen. According to CVEA Admin and event coordinator Joyanna Hoffman, "It was a record year and we were happy to include businesses outside of the downtown center this year. Even more fun was had by all."

When CVEA employees weren't decorating or dressing up as Grinches and Whos, 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. Special thanks to Cindy Unger for going above and beyond to make this year's events wildly successful.

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, Glennallen office employees all dressed up for the Whoville inspired Halloween Spooktacular  
 Top left, Cindy Unger and Selah Bauer dropped off 448.2 pounds of nonperishable food items with volunteers at the Valdez Food Bank  
 Top right, employees in the Valdez office got into the Whoville Halloween spirit at this year's Spooktacular  
 Middle left, CVEA employees at the ROAR center in Glennallen  
 Middle, Betty Gregory accepted cold weather clothing and blanket donations for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Glennallen  
 Middle right, the Valdez Boardroom was transformed into the Whoville downtown Whobillation for the Spooktacular  
 Bottom left, local kids stopped by the Whoville photo booth for a picture  
 Bottom middle, Who houses made by Cindy Unger lined the walls, turning both CVEA offices into Whoville  
 Bottom middle, Selah Bauer and Cindy Unger dropped off clothing and blankets for the Parent Resource Center in Valdez with Gianna McCune  
 Bottom right, Erik 'the Grinch' Brenden and his wife Stephanie enjoying the Halloween Spooktacular in Glennallen



#### Board of Directors

Paul Kildal, President  
Will Stark, Vice President  
Dan Stowe, Secretary  
Yvette Delaquito, Treasurer  
Lon Rake, Director  
Jeff Saxe, Director  
Mark Shorten, Director  
Fred Williams, Director

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Glennallen, AK 99588  
[www.cvea.org](http://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

##### December

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, December 19, 2019, in Glennallen

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

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, December 23 at 12 p.m. through Wednesday, December 25, 2019, for the Christmas Holiday, and Tuesday, December 31, 2019, for New Year's Eve

##### January

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

The CVEA offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020, 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 9, 2020

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

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## CVEA Bylaws Amendments

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2020 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 9, 2020. 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 [cvea.org](http://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).