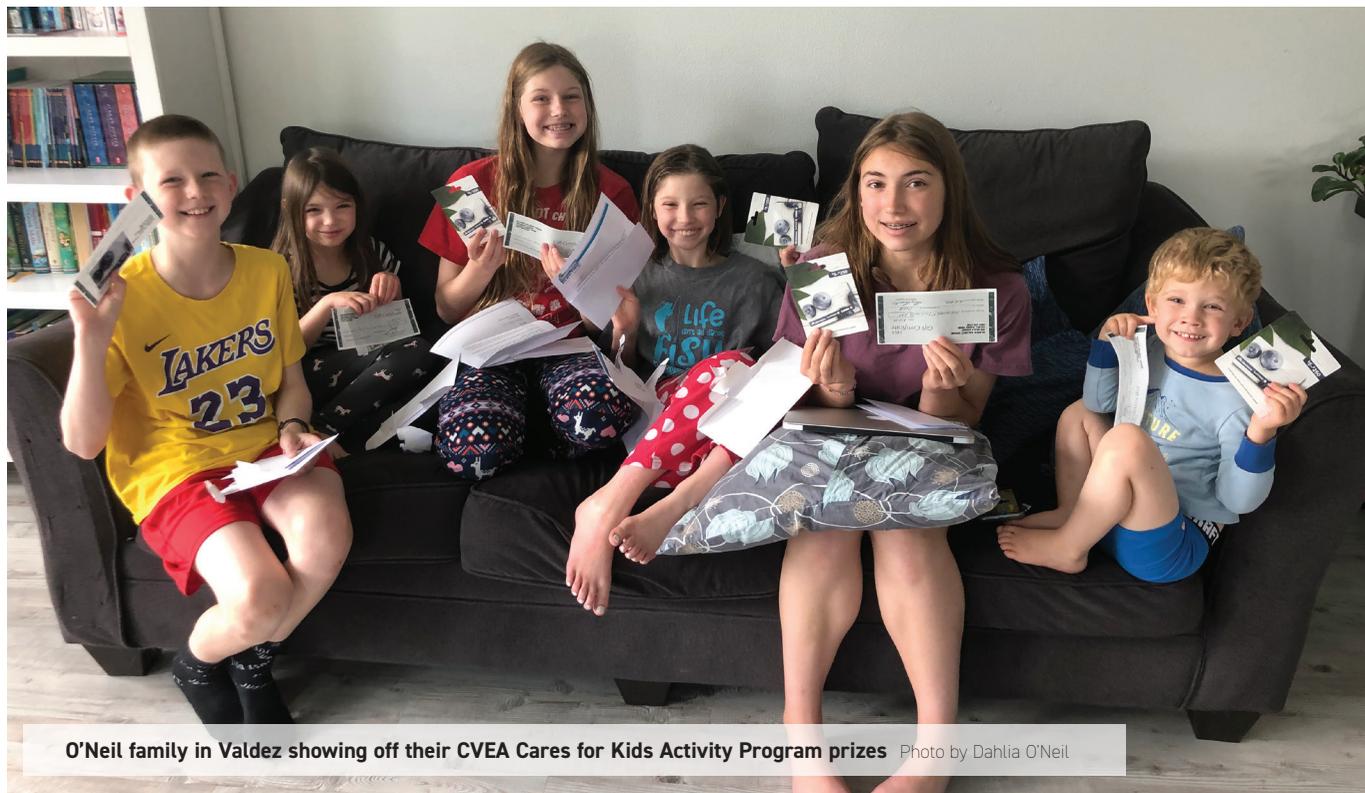


COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



O'Neil family in Valdez showing off their CVEA Cares for Kids Activity Program prizes Photo by Dahlia O'Neil

CVEA is Committed to Community

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.

Community Support Programs

Each year your Cooperative supports a wide variety of community groups and events. Although 2020 was quite different and many community events and activities did not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, CVEA still found a way to provide support and service to our community when and where it was needed most.

CVEA developed the COVID Co-op Cares Community Support Program to provide direct benefit and support to CVEA members most impacted during this difficult time.

Through the program, the Cooperative sent out \$100 grocery gift cards to individuals immediately faced with negative financial impacts related to Covid-19. Meals were provided to over 200 essential workers thanking them for continuing to work hard and keep CVEA communities going strong. Struggling local restaurants were supported when multiple meals were purchased weekly, for two months, for essential workers.

The Co-op issued a \$25 Community Cares Gift Certificate, which could be spent at most local businesses throughout the summer, to every CVEA residential member. Over \$27,000 in gift certificates were redeemed, providing a small amount of financial support for members and businesses.

Additionally, the Co-op donated roughly \$21,000 to provide additional support to local nonprofit organizations in Valdez and the Copper Basin. According to CEO Travis Million, "our Board and employees really wanted to get support directly into the hands of those who needed it most. We believed that the best

way to accomplish that goal was to provide additional assistance to organizations who were already in place providing the help that people needed.” CVEA was able to provide additional financial assistance to the Valdez Senior Center to support an additional food delivery day or Meals on Wheels, the Valdez Pharmacy to support those having difficulty paying for much needed medicines, the Copper Basin Seniors to support local seniors needing a little extra assistance, Connecting Ties Supportive Employment Program, Advocates for Victims of Violence to support their grocery and gas gift card support program, the Valdez Co-op Preschool scholarship support program, Stepping Stones Learning Center to support struggling families and provide water bottles and masks for all of the children, and to the Copper Basin Pregnancy Center, Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center, and CRNA Food Bank to provide general support for increased need.

Finally, CVEA held a summer activity program with financial rewards and prizes for kids age 2-18 to support their physical, social, and mental well-being. Roughly 200 kids participated throughout the summer. So much fun was had, and close to \$6,000 in prizes were given away.

In all, CVEA provided hundreds of hours and over \$70,000 to come to the aid of our communities and demonstrate to our members that we are all in this fight together.

In addition to the Covid support program, the Co-op was able to provide gifts, door prizes, donations, and auction items to reduced capacity or virtual variations of some very important meetings and events throughout the year. Organizations included the Valdez Museum, Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Relay for Life, Valdez Adventure Alliance, the Valdez and Copper Basin Seniors, and the Valdez Consortium Book Basket auction, to name a few.

CVEA typically supports many educational and youth programs including participation in career and health fairs, classroom presentations, and tours to students and youth groups. Most of these events were cancelled this year, but the Cooperative stands at the ready to safely participate in these events in 2021. Additionally, employees have stepped up their participation on many community work groups, task forces, and committees; providing much needed community support and leadership.



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 2020 the Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$17,575, funding 100 percent of the amount requested by 12 local nonprofit organizations serving CVEA communities. Congratulations to Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, Copper River Watershed Project, Copper Valley Community Library, Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center, Copper River Hockey Club, Valdez Co-op Preschool, Valdez Adventure Alliance, Valdez Museum, Valdez 6th Grade Science, Valdez 6-8th Grade Skills, Stepping Stones Learning Center, and Valdez Torpedos Swim Club.

The Foundation Contribution Season begins in July, applications are due in August, contributions are announced in November, and checks are typically distributed in December. Local organizations whose missions support educational, scientific, or charitable purposes are encouraged to apply.

The Foundation's Board just approved \$19,254 to fund the 2021 contribution season, which will be the largest amount of available funds to date.

For additional information on the Community Foundation or any CVEA community support activity, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5006, 835-7005, or email sscheidt@cvea.org. ■

2020 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest Winners

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 14th Annual Ruralite Magazine Cover Photo Contest.

Congratulations to Rich Loftin, Keith Boruff, Arlene Rosenkrans, Lori Geib, Madeline Hamby, and Pamela Ehret. Three of Rich Loftin's photos were chosen by CVEA employees this year; *Big Pippin*, *Morning Surprise*, and *Duck Flats View*. Keith Boruff won for *Mineral Creek Sunrise*, Arlene Rosenkrans won for *Solomon Reflections*, Lori Geib for *Sunrise Over Willow Lake*, Madeline Hamby for *Backroads*, and Pamela Ehret won for *Shadows*.

There were 30 photos submitted by 9 member photographers. After being narrowed to 24 finalists, a volunteer team of 9 CVEA employees were given the photos, without the photographers being identified, and were asked to vote. These votes were tallied to determine our winners.

Eight winners will receive \$100 and be featured on the cover of *Ruralite Magazine* one month during 2021. They will also be featured on Facebook and cvea.org.

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



Mineral Creek Sunrise



Big Pippin



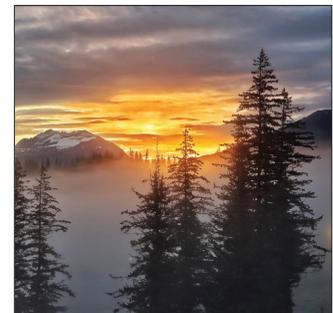
Sunrise Over Willow Lake



Duck Flats View



Shadows



Morning Surprise



Solomon Reflections



Backroads

Congrats, APA Award Recipients

By Michael Rovito

Electric consumers may not think about what goes on before, during and after they flip the switch in their home and businesses, and that's just the way Alaska's electric utility employees want it to be.

But once a year, the Alaska Power Association—the statewide trade association for electric utilities—honors a few outstanding Alaskans for their contributions to the industry and, by extension, every Alaskan electric consumer.

This year, APA honored four individuals inside and outside the electric utility industry for their contributions to making it all work. Recipients were recognized during the Alaska Power Association and ARECA Insurance Exchange Virtual Annual Meeting on November 4.

The David P. Hutchens Public Service Award was created as a memorial to Dave Hutchens, who served as APA's executive director from 1979 to 1996. Award recipients are individuals outside the utility industry who have provided exceptional service in the interest of electric consumers in Alaska.

This year's Hutchens Award recipient, Jeff Williams, Power Cost Equalization program manager at Alaska Energy Authority, helms a program vitally important to thousands of Alaskans.

Jeff has benefitted Alaskan electric consumers through his steady guidance and program advice. Service, helpfulness and advocacy sum up Jeff's character. He's helped hundreds of rural communities through the equalization program.

The Alaska Power Association Hatcher-Williams-Turkington Employee Award recognizes electric utility industry employees and commitments to the industry and their communities. This year's award recipient is Julie Estey, senior director of external affairs and strategic initiatives at Matanuska Electric Association. Julie is a key part of her co-op's executive team and was nominated based on her professional attributes that serve both the utility and the community.

Julie was honored for her ability to bring diverse groups together to solve issues, which greatly benefits her co-op and every consumer who receives power. Julie also maintains a level of excellence in communicating Railbelt views on legislative and regulatory matters, calling on her ability to build relationships and clearly communicate in an arena that requires sharp tactics and forethought on what comes next.

The APA President's Award is not bestowed every year. It waits for a special moment and a special person. Winners of the award don't typically fit into any of the usual award categories.

This year's APA President's Award recipient is Sen. John Coghill, R-North Pole. He has been consistently interested and involved in issues ranging from PCE to Railbelt legislation. His deep knowledge of the legislative process and the electric utility industry has benefited APA and its members in numerous instances throughout the years. Sen. Coghill received the APA



Jeff Williams



Julie Estey



Sen. John Coghill



Henry Strub

Hutchens Public Service Award in 2016.

The highest honor APA gives its own in the industry is the Mason LaZelle Achievement Award. This award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the electrification effort in Alaska.

This year's LaZelle Award winner is Henry Strub, Nushagak Cooperative Board of Directors president. He has served his cooperative on its board of directors since 1985. Throughout his term, he has been an effective advocate for the cooperative members, the very people who consistently put him back on the board for 35 years.

Henry has been lauded by both his cooperative and his community for using his vast life experience to help guide his cooperative amid changes throughout the decades.

From consolidating with another cooperative to facing the many challenges of providing power in a rural, off-road system community, Henry has championed reliable and affordable services for his community.

Many in the electric utility industry know Henry as the friendly person gently reminding them to contribute to APA's political action committee. His stewardship of the Alaska Committee for the Advancement of Rural Electrification Committee has helped ensure APA can stay engaged with candidates during the important early stages of their potential time in office. ■

COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



2020 Co-op Month

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 14th 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 30 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 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 which helps organizations 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 \$150 CVEA energy credit. Ramona Henspeter and Cedric Dogget were the lucky winners.

The Co-op Connections member savings program was relaunched and celebrated with savings and prizes all month long. Each week new program members were entered into a drawing for prizes and just under 250 members signed up in October. Members shopped and saved at local businesses as part of a shopping contest, and roughly 30 people participated in the 'Get Connected' Scavenger Hunt that showcased various program components on the mobile app and website.

Rob Unger won the shopping contest and received a \$250 energy credit, and Rob Unger, Kathryn Peltier, Sarah Valentine, and Bill Linnell each won a \$150 energy credit from the scavenger hunt drawing.

There were 89 kids, ages 2-18, who participated in the 'Fall Into Fun' Kids Activity Program where they completed fun activities for prizes and to be entered to win \$250. Kids enjoyed walking in the leaves, warming their toes by the fire, drinking hot cocoa, bobbing for apples, biking, board games, and so much more. Winners in the 2-6 year old category were:



Genevieve Honerlaw, Thurmond Carlson, Tyson Love, and Ezra Goold. Winners in the 7-13 year old group include: Jason Carty, Tim Lorenz, Katie Van Sky, and Madison Sauls. The 14-18 year old winners were: Jake Stockhausen, Michaela Blair, Carlie Van Buskirk, and Hailey Major. According to one participant's mom, "All four of our kids have had a blast doing these. Thank you again for putting this amazing program together!"; and another said, "It was a month of fun. Thank you for doing this for our kids."

When CVEA employees weren't awarding prizes or passing out candy, they spent their time volunteering their lunch hours each week throughout Co-op Month processing recyclables at the Recycling Our Areas Resources Recycling Center in downtown Glennallen.

Co-op Month wrapped up with socially distanced Halloween business trick or treating. Roughly 150 kids stopped by in Glennallen and 350 in Valdez. Thanks to Jaime Matthews, Mary Ellen Bedrick, Kathryn Peltier, and Cindy Unger who made up this year's candy crew.

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 or comments regarding Co-op Month or any other CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email sscheidt@cvea.org. ■



and the winners are...



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

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

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org
Copper Basin District
907-822-3211
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.
Valdez District
907-835-4301
367 Fairbanks Dr.

Important Dates

December

CVEA Board Meeting: The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, December 17, 2020, in Glennallen

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Wednesday, December 23 and Thursday, December 24, 2020, for the Christmas Holiday, and Wednesday, December 30 and Thursday, December 31, 2020, for New Year's

January

CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition Deadline: Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted by petition no later than 6 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 2021

CVEA Bylaws Amendment Public Meeting: There will be a virtual public meeting to discuss Bylaws amendments recommended for the 2021 ballot at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2021

CVEA Board Meeting: The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 21, 2021, in Valdez

AK-34



CVEA Bylaws Amendments

In 2020, CVEA leadership completed a detailed review of the corporate Bylaws to ensure they are consistent with updated industry standards, and accurately represent the way the Cooperative conducts business.

Recommended changes were presented to the Board of Directors at the Regular Board Meeting in June and a public meeting was held in August. Final staff recommendations will be presented to the Board in December and member recommendations will be provided for approval in January.

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2021 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 7, 2021. Petitions may be emailed to sscheidt@cvea.org or submitted to the Glennallen or Valdez office. Please contact your local office to schedule an appointment to drop off submissions.

In an effort to receive additional member input on proposed Bylaws changes, a second public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. At the meeting, recommended changes will be provided, questions answered, and public comments accepted. Members will have an opportunity to attend virtually via Zoom, and registration will be required. To register, please contact Nancy Heidelberg at 822-8342 or email nheidelberg@cvea.org. Specific details will be provided at that time.

The Board will approve amendments for the ballot at their regular meeting on January 21, 2021. Amendments voted on by the Membership will go into affect after the election results are provided at the 2021 Annual Meeting on May 4, in Valdez, and May 6, in the Copper Basin.

A copy of current CVEA Bylaws and a detailed outline of recommended changes is available at cvea.org, or you may contact Nancy Heidelberg. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email sscheidt@cvea.org. ■