



Noteworthy Accomplishments

- 2020 Pamela Klatt Award-Northwest Hydro Association award recognizing outstanding industry professionals
- 2019 Mason LaZelle Achievement Award-the highest honor conferred by the Alaska Power Association (APA)
- 2019 Honor Award-American Council of Engineering Companies recognizing engineering excellence for Allison Creek
- Leader in APA Environmental Regulations Committee, Board of Directors, and Managers Association, and Chair of Hydro Working Group

CEO Duhamel Retires An Honor to Serve

By John Duhamel

In 1995, the Air Force assigned me to Eielson Air Force Base south of North Pole, Alaska. My family and I arrived on July 4 after a very long drive through Canada. It was not long for us to decide that Alaska was the place we had been looking for. When our Eielson assignment was completed, we made the decision to stay for good, and our search for the perfect retirement location led us to the Copper Basin and Valdez.

We knew very quickly that this somewhat rural area was

where we wanted to plant our retirement roots. We bought land in Valdez and started a very slow construction plan to build our retirement home. Things were starting to come together but we were still a long way off, living in North Pole.

I started looking for job opportunities in the area, and to our great pleasure, in 2010, I was hired by CVEA for a job in Glennallen. I would soon learn that it would be the best job I had ever had.

CVEA is made up of

extremely professional and dedicated people. I was truly impressed that such a talented group was assembled in an area of the state so far from the large population centers. It was not an accident; the organization is run by a clear thinking Board of Directors and top notch managers.

My decision to join CVEA was one of my best work decisions. My job was to oversee the regulatory requirements of CVEA and to manage large scale projects that overlapped departments.

It is almost inconceivable the volumes of regulations that affect such a small organization, but they exist and I was hired to manage them. It was a challenge, but very rewarding

when government regulators visited the Co-op and positively commented on CVEA's regulatory procedures.

I was also tasked with planning, managing, and construction of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project. I took over the project at the very beginning stages; an environmental impact statement was not completed and a license application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had not yet been written. This meant I was able to see it develop from an idea to a functioning hydroelectric power plant. Overseeing the construction in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was a proud time that I will never forget.

The project has significantly extended the summer generation season, saving members money on their power bill, eliminated millions of dollars of diesel fuel used for power production, and prevented emissions associated with that production each year. Ten years before the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project was built, the average annual hydro production was 45 million kilowatt hours. In 2019, CVEA produced 72 million kilowatt hours of hydroelectricity; that is

74 percent of total annual production. The Allison Creek project has gone on to win multiple national awards for outstanding design and construction.

“To use a phrase that we often stated in the military: It has been an honor to serve you.”

JOHN DUHAMEL, CVEA CEO

In 2015, I was privileged to become CVEA's CEO, supporting our fine organization with even more responsibility. It has been a pleasure and I have enjoyed coming to work every day.

Your Co-op is filled with hard working employees, dedicated to serving the members. Words cannot begin to describe the real value of the people working hard for you.

I am retiring, but have handed the reins to someone smarter, stronger, faster, more ingenious, steadfast, and is a visionary. I can't think of a more qualified individual than the person selected by the Board, Travis Million. Travis is an extremely talented leader who has already dedicated himself to CVEA for the past nine years. I congratulate Travis on his accomplishments thus far and wish him continued success down the road. I am confident Travis will accomplish amazing things in his new role as CEO. Travis and CVEA will continue to do great things for their members and their communities.

To use a phrase that we often stated in the military: It has been an honor to serve you. ■

Travis Million Takes The Reins



Following a review of internal candidates and focused deliberation, CVEA's Board of Directors named Travis Million as the organization's next Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Travis came to CVEA in 2008 as a board director before joining staff as the Manager of Power Generation in 2011. He is currently Chief Operating Officer overseeing operations, production, engineering, environmental and regulatory compliance, and safety divisions.

During his time with the Co-op, Travis has completed many significant projects; two that stand out the most are the technical oversight of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project, and rebuilding the CVEA Safety Program and culture. He has gained the respect of every member of the Employee Team and Board of Directors, Industry Colleagues, Agency Personnel as well as Legislators and the Congressional Delegation.

Travis is a leader and

engineer with over 20 years of experience in the power system and electric utility industry. Prior to working for CVEA, Travis worked for Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and was the power engineer at the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Project, or HAARP. He has education in Electrical Engineering, Business Management, and Finance. He is the current Chairperson of the Alaska Power Association Safety Committee, serves on the ARECA Training Council Board, is the Vice Chairperson on the Copper River Local Emergency Planning Committee, Secretary of the Glennallen Community Chapel Board, and served one term on the Board for Copper Valley Telecom. Most notably, Travis is a past recipient of the Alaska Journal of Commerce "Top Forty Under 40" award.

Travis says he thinks CVEA's biggest challenge is "finding a solution for reliable, affordable winter energy. Many steps have been taken to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel, but continued work is needed to eliminate the volatility of costs associated with diesel generation. Overall system reliability also remains a high priority."

Travis and his wife Emily have two daughters, Sophia and Reese. Their family has called the Copper Basin home for 15 years. Travis enjoys spending time with his family, coaching youth basketball, camping, hunting and fishing, woodworking, and running. ■



Net Metering Program Reopened

CVEA implemented the Net Metering Program (Program) in 2012 when member interest in renewable energy alternatives, like wind and solar, had increased in popularity.

Net metering allows an eligible consumer to connect an approved renewable energy generation system to the CVEA grid in order to offset their normal usage and potentially sell back excess energy to the Cooperative. To be eligible to participate in the Program, a consumer's generation system must produce electric energy derived from one or more renewable resources to include the following: solar photovoltaic or thermal energy, wind energy, biomass energy, hydroelectric energy, geothermal energy, hydrokinetic energy, and ocean thermal energy.

The system must be operated, and either owned or leased, by a consumer that purchases retail electric utility service from CVEA. It must also be located on the consumer's premises, be used primarily to offset part or all of the consumer requirements for energy, be compatible with the Cooperative's system,

and have a total nameplate capacity of no more than 25 kW.

There exist specific and overall system limitations that can limit the number of consumers that can participate in the Program. Specifically, the total nameplate capacity of all participants in the Program may not exceed 1.5 percent of CVEA's average retail demand. At inception this was 210 kW; once that limit was reached, applications were no longer accepted.

In 2020, due to an increase in peak loads, the maximum allowable kW for this program, as dictated by CVEA's Tariff, has also increased. This provides for additional nameplate capacity, and an opportunity for members to once again apply for participation in the Program.

As of February 10, 2020, CVEA reopened the application period and new applications are being accepted. If you are interested in the Net Metering Program, have questions, or would like to get started on the application process, please visit the net metering page, under the member services section at cvea.org. For additional help, please contact Darin Sauls at sauls@cvea.org. ■

SCHOLARSHIPS

Get help paying for an education to launch your career in the utility industry

By Michael Rovito

One of the most essential ingredients in producing and distributing the electric power most consumers take for granted is the people behind the machinery. Highly trained individuals work at each electric utility, making sure consumers have safe and reliable electricity.

But those people must start somewhere, and for many that beginning is at a college or technical school. That's where the initial training takes place for future electric utility employees to gain the knowledge necessary to excel in their profession.

Paying for that education is a challenge. Projections indicate it's not going to get any cheaper. Students face financial hurdles on their way to achieving their educational goals, but it's imperative to the future that—as retirees move on—replacements are ready to take over.

Alaska Power Association offers two scholarships.

Hank Nikkels Scholarship

The Hank Nikkels Scholarship for Engineers is APA's memorial scholarship for Hank Nikkels, a 25-year management employee at Anchorage's Municipal Light & Power who died in 2002.

Hank's long and eventful career was the catalyst for his namesake scholarship because of the legacy he left.

The scholarship offers up to \$3,000 to Alaska residents attending college full time or part time and working toward a doctoral, master or bachelor of science degree in engineering. New this year, the APA Scholarship Committee has decided to open eligibility for the Nikkels Scholarship to Alaskans attending a university outside of the state.

Students applying for the scholarship must be at least a sophomore and have a minimum GPA of 3.25. They must provide a letter of recommendation from an instructor or department chairman, community member,

How to Apply

For more information on the Hank Nikkels Scholarship for Engineers and the APA-IBEW Local 1547 Scholarship, visit APA's website at www.alaskapower.org, or call APA Deputy Director Michael Rovito at 907-771-5711.

industry member, or employer, and a personal reference. A 500-word essay is also required.

Power generation doesn't mean much if the electricity can't make it to consumers. Most often, maintaining that distribution is left to linemen and other technical employees at an electric utility.

IBEW Scholarship

In 2014, APA and IBEW Local 1547 teamed up to help with the cost of education.

The APA-IBEW Local 1547 Scholarship offers up to \$2,000 for Alaska residents who intend to work in the electric industry and who are enrolled in an accredited Alaska vocational school, such as the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Trust, the Alaska Institute of Technology, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Community & Technical College and the University of Alaska Anchorage Technical Vocational Educational Program.

Scholarship candidates must provide an official transcript and three letters of

recommendation—two from instructors—and one from a personal reference. The funds for scholarship winners go directly to the recipients, allowing for the purchase of tools or other necessities or to help pay tuition as they continue their training.

Encouraging young people to work toward a career in the electric utility profession benefits everyone, especially those who use electricity every day.

The baby boomer generation is beginning to look toward retirement, and, for the sake of keeping the lights on, it is extremely important to have a workforce that can step in and keep it all running. With a little financial help, that next generation is in the classrooms and out in field training, preparing to carry the banner of reliable electricity into the future. ■



Meet the Candidates

2020 Board Election

The CVEA Board of Director elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by April 2, 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 28, 2020.

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?



Tod Hand
Copper Basin District

Question 1

I feel that my years of troubleshooting and problem solving will be an asset. I generally work well with others in a team situation and like to engage people.

Question 2

Our biggest challenge is to continue to bring down the Co-op's long term debt while keeping member costs as low as possible. People need to see more local workers when the opportunity is there.

Question 3

How my knowledge and experience will contribute is unknown until I am up to speed with the Board.

Question 1

I was raised and have lived in the Copper Valley and Prince William Sound areas for 45 years. I understand the unique challenges of working and doing business here. I have worked over 20 years in the utility industry as a telephone lineman and in supervisory roles. I am a self-employed business owner.

Question 2

Some of the challenges are:

- Continued development of renewable and alternative power sources
- Working with state and federal agencies to bring more reliable and sustainable low-cost energy

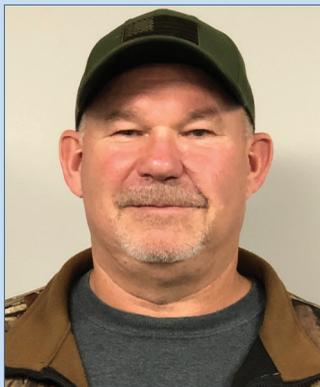
- Enhancing hydroelectric production, managing regulations and the economic impact on the power industry, and providing critical infrastructure for growth and higher power demands

Question 3

I served as an appointed board director for the past year and underwent board certification training. I have learned Co-op policies and procedures, and how to think outside the box to find creative solutions to the challenges before us. I have listened, allowing me to come to reasonable decisions and weigh the pros and cons of given situations.



Mark Shorten
Copper Basin District



Jeff Saxe
Valdez District

Question 1

As an owner and operator of Eagle's Rest RV Park for the past 29 years, I bring business knowledge to the Board. I've served on the CVEA Board since 2005 and have watched the Co-op grow to new heights with the construction of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project.

Question 2

The biggest challenges I see for the future of our Co-op are federal regulatory changes impacting the members' bills and fuel prices.

Question 3

I will strive to stay current on new regulations as we are coming up on the relicensing of the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project. Having past knowledge of how this process works, I will be able to help our Co-op, through the Board of Directors, make the decisions necessary and allow no major changes take effect that will negatively impact our members.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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.

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 19, 2020, in Valdez

April

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

Voting Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2020
*don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

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Save the Date

2020 Annual Meeting

Valdez: Tuesday, May 5

Copper Basin: Thursday, May 7

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members. The CVEA Annual Meeting is your chance, as a member-owner, to find out what is going on at your electric cooperative.

This year's meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center, and Thursday, May 7, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus 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, every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win a ton of cool prizes, including a \$1,000 cash grand prize, and will receive a \$10 credit on their power bill! Don't be late!

In April all cooperative members will receive the official notice of the annual meeting in the mail, along with the 2019 Annual Report, and the 2020 Director Election materials. Director candidate profiles, a ballot, and a stamped return envelope will be included. Co-op members in each district will select one candidate. 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 28, 2020. 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 an update, please stop by either office or give us a call at 822-3211 or 835-4301 prior to March 24, 2020.

This year, 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!