

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting was held virtually this year to accommodate ongoing concerns related to COVID-19. Although not in person, CVEA members still 'showed up' with 208 registered in the Copper Basin District and 216 in Valdez.

In front of cameras and lights instead of consumers, CEO Travis Million reached through the screen to provide members information on the 2020 COVID Community Support Program, the relaunch of the Co-op Connections member program, and successful completion of several maintenance and improvement projects. He also announced the restart of the Member Tour Program and launch of a member satisfaction survey, both happening this Fall.

Other meeting highlights included a memorial video for past Director Fred Williams, who served the Co-op for 49 years, the announcement of the Board of Directors election and Bylaws amendment results, introduction of the 2021 Community Foundation scholarship award recipients, viewing of *An Operator Story*, the first video in the new *People Behind the Switch* video series, and recognition of employee service awards.

In Board of Director elections Paul Kildal was re-elected to a three-year term and Jan Maslen was elected to a one-year term in the Copper Basin, and Lon Rake and Will Stark were re-elected in Valdez, each to a three-year term.

The CVEA Community Foundation awarded Kelsie

Friendshuh, Jessica Hale, Reese King, and Anna Price each a \$1,000 educational scholarship. Taylor Dolge, William Matthews, Cherubim Palomar, and Hayden Howard each received \$500 scholarships, and Mathias Chmielowski and Sophia Hodgkins were each awarded a \$500 Future Education scholarship and the opportunity to attend the 2022 Idaho Youth Rally Leadership camp.

Five CVEA employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative. Toby Wahl celebrated 5 years, CEO Million 10 years, Zena Disney 15 years, Cindy Butherus 20 years, and Mary Ellen Bedrick celebrated 30 years of service.

The first 75 members registered in each district received a fun early registration gift and everyone logged in to the meeting received a \$10 credit applied to their May bill. Roughly 60 door prizes were given out in each district, including a CVEA Beater. Faye Ewan, in the Copper Basin, and Melissa and Woody Woodgate, of Valdez, were the lucky Ford F-150 winners!

CVEA thanks everyone who attended and those that helped make this year's virtual annual meeting successful.

If you have questions on this or any CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 907-255-1425 or email sscheidt@cvea.org. ■

Door prize winner images on page 8

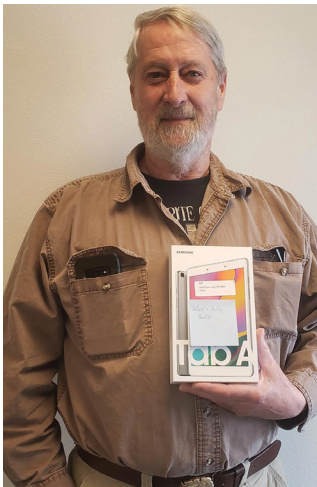
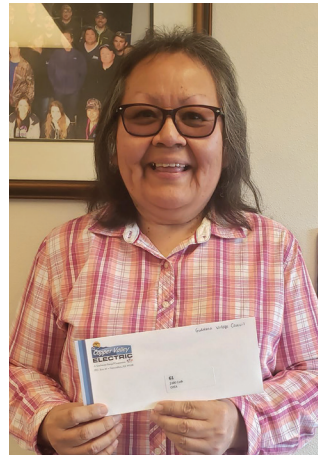


Fred Williams
1927-2021
We are grateful for his
49 years of service.
He will be
forever missed.



And the Winners Are...

A complete list of door prize winners can be found at cvea.org.





2021 Community Foundation Scholarship Awards

Through the CVEA Community Foundation, CVEA is making an investment in our youth and in our future. Please join us in congratulating the 2021 Foundation scholarship award winners.

The Foundation is grateful to committee members Mark Somerville (Chair), Michelle Eastty, and Ramona Henspeter in the Copper Basin District and Angela Reese (Chair), Anne Branshaw, and Stephanie Morgan in Valdez.

Copper Basin



Kelsie Friendshuh
\$1,000



Jessica Hale
\$1,000



Taylor Dolge
\$500



William Matthews
\$500



Mathias Chmielowski
\$500 Youth Rally

Valdez



Reese King
\$1,000



Anna Price
\$1,000



Hayden Howard
\$500



Cherubim Palomar
\$500



Sophia Hodgkins
\$500 Youth Rally



Safe Camp Fires Help Prevent Wildfires

By Tim Mowry

With the winter snowpack finally melting off and warmer temperatures, it won't be long before Alaskans take to the woods and waterways to go camping.

Alaskans, especially those of us who live in the Interior, love to take advantage of our long, summer daylight hours and proximity to the wilderness. There is something about sleeping in a tent, sitting around a campfire and enjoying the beauty and solitude of Alaska that appeals to our primitive nature. And as we all know, camping isn't really camping if you don't have a campfire.

Whether you're cooking smores, singing songs, telling stories or just relaxing around a crackling fire enjoying a quiet moment in the company of friends and family a campfire provides comfort and security.

But campfires can also lead to wildfires if they are not handled with care. Each year in Alaska, dozens of wildfires are started by

abandoned or unattended campfires. Most of these fires are small and burn out or are extinguished before they are discovered or pose a threat. However, all it takes is one spark from one campfire to ignite a devastating wildfire.

Here are some tips on how to have a safe campfire.

Check to make sure campfires are allowed where you are.

Some state and national parks, wildlife refuges and municipalities prohibit campfires in specific areas or during times of high wildfire danger. Always check to make sure campfires are allowed where you are camping or recreating and check with land managers to make sure fires are permitted.

Consider using a fire pan for your fire.

A fire pan is a metal container with tall enough sides to contain

ash and debris, which greatly reduces the chance the fire will spread or ignite a wildfire. You can purchase a fire pan, build one yourself by cutting the bottom of a metal barrel off 6-8 inches from the bottom or improvise by using a large gold pan or rimmed baking sheet.

Situate your fire in a safe spot.

Use already existing campfire sites wherever possible, especially if the campground area provides metal rings or grates. A circle of stones around a fire will also help prevent it from spreading.

If you are backcountry camping or camping where there are no designated campsites, be sure to locate your fire on a gravel bar, dirt or sand away from any flammable vegetation. Use a shovel to clear the area under and around your fire down to mineral soil so there is no chance the fire can spread. Also, choose a spot where the fire won't ignite overhanging branches.

Don't use accelerants like gasoline.

Using gasoline or similar accelerants to start a fire is dangerous for the person starting the fire and can also result in a big flare-up that can ignite a fire. Gather tinder such as dried leaves, birch bark, spruce needles or other fine fuels for fire starter and cut small pieces of kindling to add to get the fire established.

Keep your fire small and manageable.

The Alaska Division of Forestry recommends campfires be no larger than 3 feet in diameter with flame lengths no higher than 2 feet. This helps prevent sparks from being carried by wind to nearby vegetation, where they could ignite a fire. The bigger fire you have, the more dangerous it is, both in terms of safety for campers and potential for starting a wildfire. Add fuel to your fire in small increments to keep it hot and manageable.

Have tools and water on hand.

All you need is a shovel, ax or similar tool that you can use to stir coals or dig vegetation down to mineral soil. Keep a 5-gallon bucket of water near the fire to use to douse any wayward sparks or embers.

Never leave a campfire unattended.

This applies to any kind of fire. Leaving a fire unattended is an invitation to a wildfire. All it takes is one wayward spark to ignite a wildfire.

Watch the wind.

A sudden gust of wind can cause a fire to spread instantly or carry embers and sparks to flammable vegetation, even if you have it situated in a safe spot. Be careful about burning on windy days.

Don't keep flammable objects close to a campfire.

Keep firewood and other flammable items such as tents and

clothing upwind and at least 15 feet away from the fire. As previously noted, a gust of wind could cause the fire to spread if there are flammable items close to the fire.

Make sure your fire is completely extinguished.

This means drowning the fire repeatedly with water and stirring it with a stick, shovel or some other tool. It's crucial to completely drown the fire to fully soak all of the coals. Feel for heat with your hand; if it's too hot to touch, it's too hot leave. Continue adding water and stirring until the coals are cold to the touch.

Do NOT bury a fire with dirt unless it is completely extinguished; it will not put the fire out and will allow it to smolder. Once the fire is out, bury it with dirt and disperse any rocks you placed around it to return the area to its natural state.

Remember, you are responsible for every fire you start and can be held accountable if that fire ignites a wildfire. If you follow these simple guidelines when building, maintaining and extinguishing your campfire, you can help keep Alaska green by preventing wildfires. ■

Tim Mowry is Public Information Officer, Alaska Division of Forestry Wildland Fire & Aviation Program



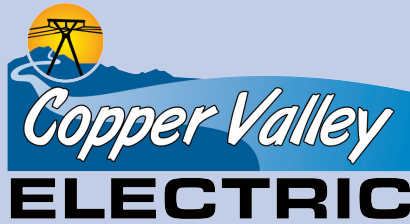
The poster features a green background with a central image of a campfire. The text is as follows:

Alaska Division of Forestry

Don't let your campfire turn into a wildfire.

You are responsible and accountable for any fire you start.

www.dnr.alaska.gov/burn



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Lon Rake, President
 Yvette Delaquito, Vice President
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 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District
 907-835-4301

367 Fairbanks Dr.
After hours outage line
 866-835-2832

Important Dates

June

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, June 17, 2021, in Glennallen

CVEA Community Foundation

Contribution Season: The 2021 Contribution Season begins Monday, June 28, 2021. Visit cvea.org for details.

July

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, July 5, 2021, for Independence Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The July meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, July 15, 2021, in Valdez

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Thank you to everyone who attended the 2021 CVEA 'Virtual' Annual Meeting

CVEA Director Elections and Bylaws Amendment 2021 Official Voting Results

In the 2021 election, four director positions, two in each district were up for election. The Copper Basin district re-elected Paul Kildal to a three-year term and elected Jan Maslen to a one-year term. The Valdez district re-elected Lon Rake and Will Stark, each to three-year terms. The voting results are as follows:

<u>Valdez</u>		<u>Copper Basin</u>	
Ballots Received	246	Ballots Received	300
Ballots Counted	225	Ballots Counted	290
Lon Rake	215	Paul Kildal	253
Will Stark	217	Jan Maslen	235

The Bylaws Amendment passed by a vote of the Cooperative membership. Results are as follows:

Yes	357
No	141



Paul Kildal



Jan Maslen



Lon Rake



Will Stark