



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



2021 Director Election

Meet the Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director election is fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by April 5, along with candidate biographies, information on Bylaws amendments, and your official virtual 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 27, 2021.

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 each open seat, 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, and what will you contribute to overcoming these challenges?

Question 3

If elected as a CVEA Director, how will you balance the desire to keep rates low with the need to complete expensive maintenance projects necessary to ensure system reliability?

*denotes incumbent



***Jan Maslen**
Copper Basin District

Question 1

I have lived in the Copper River Valley and have been a member of the CVEA cooperative for 12 years. My background in finance provides me with the ability to ensure that the cooperative will spend funds in a responsible manner. The experience I have gained from being on other boards, working with and getting to know people has lent itself to establishing good relationships, and I believe I can be a trusted spokesperson for CVEA members.

Question 2

Challenges include lapses in staff, keeping electric costs affordable, providing more reliable service and seeking alternative fund sources for expansion projects. As a board member, I will continue to

represent the Membership and keep them informed, supervise management, ensure fiscal responsibility, acquire and preserve assets and strengthen the Co-op through workforce development and advocacy campaigns.

Question 3

This balancing act requires transparency, education and communication with Co-op members, amplifying their voice and promoting the Cooperative business model and benefits of membership. It involves staff training and professional growth, ongoing budget review, working with elected officials, developing partnerships and seeking alternative funding from local, state, and federal governments.



***Paul Kildal**
Copper Basin District

Question 1

I have been on the Board for over 12 years. I have attended numerous trainings pertaining to the electric industry and have Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate credentials. I have lived in the Glennallen area and been a CVEA consumer for 45 years.

Question 2

The biggest challenge is increased federal regulations. I will remain ever vigilant and continue to stay in contact with our federal representatives in Congress and at the

statewide level.

Question 3

It is always a balancing act to keep rates affordable, yet ensure the system remains reliable. I will work with the Board and administration to pursue ways to keep costs down for the consumer and make sure the system works at peak efficiency.

Question 1

If re-elected, I will continue to fulfill my duties to you, the members. CVEA employees are some of the most professional and hard working people I have ever worked with. You should be proud of all they do on and off-duty in the community. I would like to do my part to help them make a difference for all CVEA Cooperative members.

Question 2

CVEA continues to explore renewable resources as well as new and emerging technologies, to help improve efficiencies in the system. Preventative maintenance, right-of-way clearing and maintaining a trained workforce are key items as well. I

will support this mission.

Question 3

A major priority is to constantly work to lower the cost of electricity. The Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project helps offset the need for diesel generation, therefore reducing the need for fossil fuel and saving money. Also contributing to lower rates is the recent placement of more efficient lightly used generators at the Valdez Diesel Plant and efficiency upgrades to the electrical grid system. Finally, the Board approved the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project which has provided numerous benefits already, with more to come by the end of 2021.



***Lon Rake**
Valdez District



***Will Stark**
Valdez District

Question 1

In addition to eight years of experience on the Board, I have 27 years of commercial banking experience. Additionally, I have a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Question 2

The Co-op's biggest challenge is to maintain reliability with minimal impact to the members. Many of CVEA's assets, especially the transmission line between districts, require substantial maintenance to maintain reliability. Another challenge is integrating new load to the system, including increased capacity on S. Harbor Drive in Valdez for fish processing and the new

boat harbor. My experience in financing and management can help the Co-op meet these challenges and serve our members.

Question 3

To keep rates low over time CVEA must maintain its equipment and facilities, this also results in better system reliability. This can be done through using newer technologies such as the automated metering system that has helped to lower cost, while reducing the time it takes to identify system problems. By using proactive maintenance such as line clearing, CVEA is working to stabilize cost while improving system reliability.



Bylaws Amendments

To ensure CVEA Bylaws are consistent with updated industry standards and accurately represent the way the Cooperative conducts business, CVEA leadership reviewed the Bylaws in 2020, in detail, and provided recommended changes to the Board of Directors.

The Cooperative held two public meetings, one in August 2020, and another in January 2021, to review and discuss the amendments.

At the Regular Board Meeting on January 21, the Board approved amendments, as presented, for placement on the ballot.

In April, all cooperative members will receive the official notice of the annual meeting in the mail, along with the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Director Election and Bylaws amendment materials. Members should expect to find only one

ballot in your materials where you will vote on both the director election and Bylaws amendments.

A summary document of proposed Bylaws amendments will be included. Additionally, a complete red-line version of the document, showing all changes, is available online at cvea.org, or will be provided to you upon request.

As you'll notice, many of the changes affect a variety of sections, making individual amendments hard to understand and difficult to manage procedurally. For this reason, and at the advice of Counsel, the decision was made to present the Bylaws amendment as a single 'yes or no' vote on the 2021 ballot.

As a member of your cooperative, the most important actions you can take is to vote for your Board representatives and other Cooperative business. Please exercise

your right to vote!

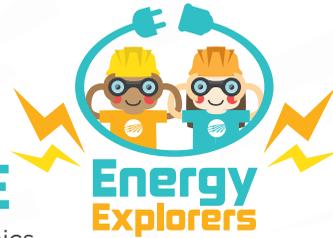
Ballots must be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 27, 2021. When voting, please remember the back of the ballot envelope must be signed by the member whose signature is on file. If you are unsure what is on your signature card, or need an update, please give us a call at 822-3211 or 835-4301 prior to March 18, 2021.

All valid ballots received by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!

If the Bylaws amendments are approved by the Membership, they will go into affect after the election results are provided at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions related to the recommended Bylaws amendments, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 835-7005 or email sscheidt@cvea.org. ■

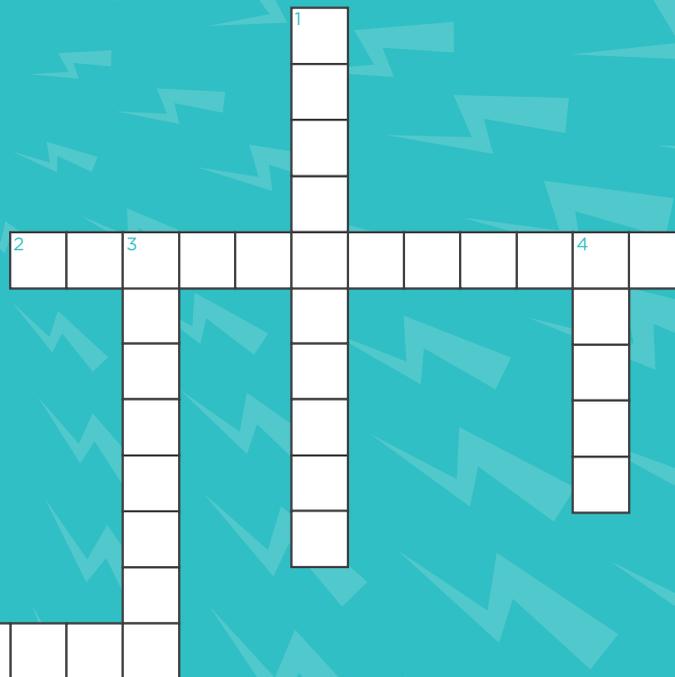
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about electronics efficiency.

WORD BANK:

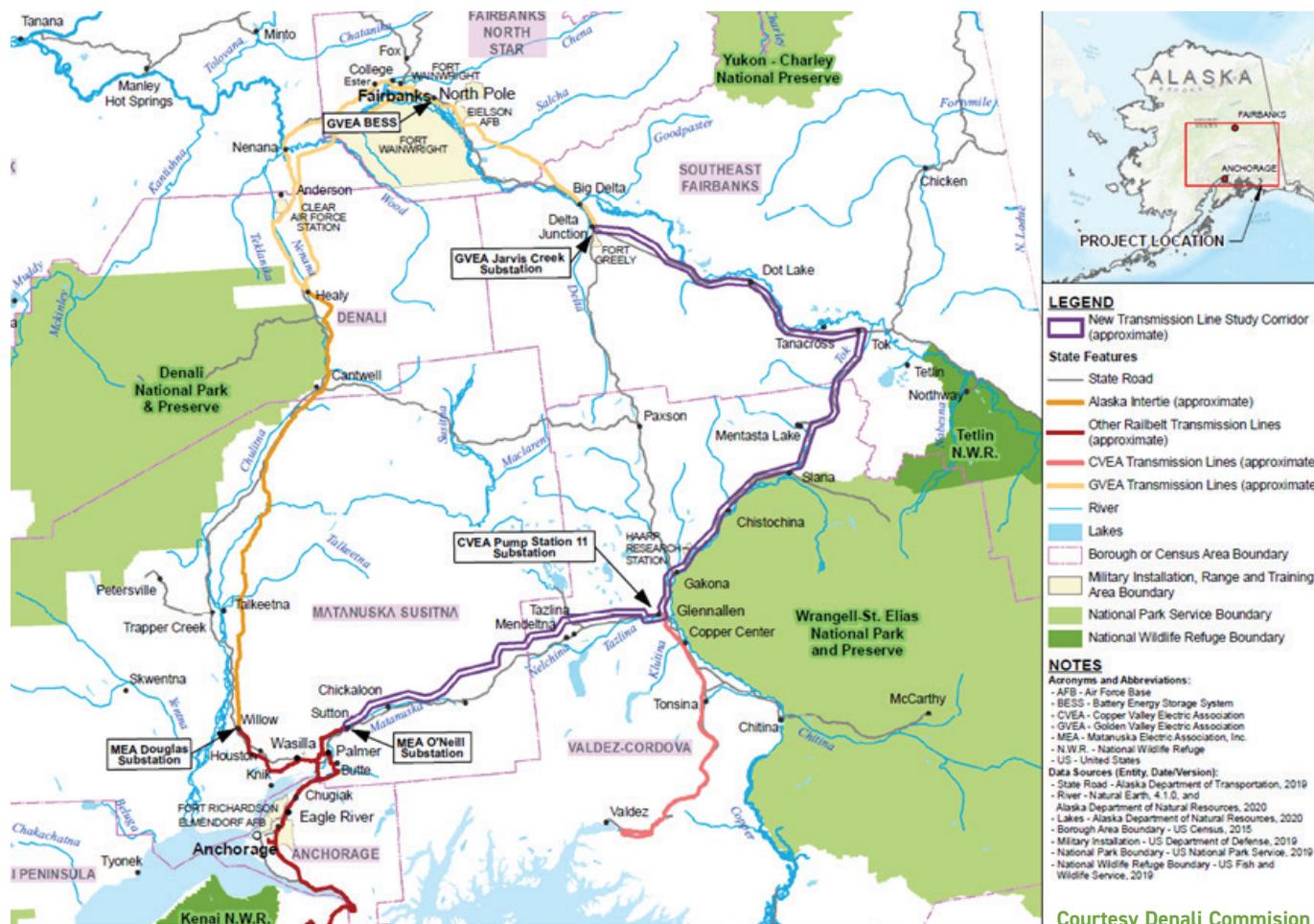
- label
- chargers
- computers
- rechargeable
- power strip



- 1 DOWN:** Use a _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- 2 ACROSS:** For devices that require batteries, use _____ ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- 3 DOWN:** Unplug electronic products, like _____, when you're not using them.
- 4 DOWN:** Electronics that include the ENERGY STAR® _____ are the most energy efficient.
- 5 ACROSS:** Many _____ come with a sleep mode or power management feature, which can save \$30 on annual energy costs.

ANSWER KEY 1. DOWN: POWER STRIP 2. ACROSS: RECHARGEABLE 3. DOWN: CHARGERS 4. DOWN: LABEL 5. ACROSS: COMPUTERS

COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



Roadbelt Intertie Update

The federal government provided funding and support for rural electrification in the 1930s and 1940s, bringing electricity to underserved areas of the country. Unfortunately for Alaska, it didn't become a state until after the rural electrification efforts were concluded, leaving Alaskans to figure it out on their own.

A majority of Alaskan electric utilities are isolated from each other and have had to be self-sufficient, relying

on local or regional resources and having to produce and distribute their own power to meet the needs of their communities.

The Roadbelt Intertie (RBIT) is a conceptual project to build out the existing electric transmission infrastructure in Alaska. Currently the Railbelt transmission infrastructure begins in Homer and routes through Anchorage and Palmer to Fairbanks. RBIT would likely connect in Sutton, route

through Glennallen to Tok, and continue into Delta. This would provide a loop of the existing transmission line and also provide CVEA members and communities along the Tok Cutoff and Alaska highways access to additional energy resources from utilities around the state.

An Intertie project is not a new concept. CVEA originally looked into an intertie from Sutton to Glennallen in the early 1990s. This project did

not move forward primarily due to land use issues and lack of funding. When the Susitna Watana Hydroelectric Project was looked at in 2012, the possibility of an intertie to Glennallen was considered again, but was put back on the shelf when the Susitna Watana project was put on hold.

The objective of the RBIT project was to determine the technical feasibility of and budgetary development costs for completion of a



transmission loop along the Alaska road system. The project was a high-level technical feasibility study and does not propose a specific route. This information will help determine the project's potential to reduce power costs for rural communities, support regional economic development opportunities, increase United States Department of Defense (DoD) facility resilience, and increase electric power reliability throughout the Alaska road system.

The RBIT could benefit CVEA members by providing an alternative to higher cost diesel generation in the winter months when there is not enough hydropower capacity to meet generation needs. With proposed infrastructure in place, CVEA could potentially purchase lower cost, cleaner electricity, generated by natural gas, from other utilities on the Railbelt. Another benefit could be CVEA's ability to sell excess hydro generation to other utilities during times when CVEA has sufficient hydroelectricity, but not

enough load to fully utilize capacity. Overall, there is a good chance this project would lower rates for CVEA members during the winter months, but a more definitive answer to this question will hopefully be answered in the next steps of this project.

CVEA is a supporter of this project and the Board has provided a letter of support. Additionally, CVEA assisted the Copper Valley Development Association with community outreach and education for communities along the Glenn Highway who would be impacted by this project. Some communities may have had issues with the conceptual project in the 1990s, so it was important these conversations took place, giving the communities an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. A majority of these communities have since provided their own letters of support for the project. Finally, CVEA provided technical and general information to the contractor that worked with the Denali Commission on the

reconnaissance study.

The Denali Commission completed the reconnaissance level study in November 2020. The study found the project is technically feasible in all areas, including project configuration, environmental considerations, and cost. The next step for the project, as provided in the Denali Commission report, include economic evaluation for all interconnected communities and DoD facilities, quantitative cost/benefit evaluation, study and selection of optimal utility interconnection configuration, transmission line routing option development, design and completion of environmental studies, transmission line route selection, and final detailed design. Each of these next steps will include community input.

As of now, there is not a timeline for the project. Next steps will be driven by funding. Since the cost of the project is over \$500 million, this would be far too costly for any utility to take on alone or even as a combined utility effort.

Funding will need to come

from state or federal levels if infrastructure funding were to become available. If the project advances to the next steps, public meetings will be noticed for those who want to get involved. In addition to attending public meetings or inquiring directly, demonstrating your support of this project to your state and federal government legislators will help to keep this project visible and moving forward.

For anyone interested in learning more about the project, the [Roadbelt Intertie Reconnaissance Engineering Report](#) can be found at [cvea.org](https://www.denali.gov/roadbelt), on the Project-Reports page.

Additionally, you can visit <https://www.denali.gov/Roadbelt/Intertie/Information> or email roadbeltquestions@denali.gov for more information or to have your questions answered.

If you have specific questions related to CVEA's involvement or level of support for this project, contact Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at 835-7005 or email sscheidt@cvea.org. ■



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

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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 18, 2021, in Valdez

April

Annual Meeting Registration:

Registration begins Thursday, April 1 and ends at 12 p.m., Tuesday, May 4 in Valdez, and Wednesday, May 5 in the Copper Basin.

The first 75 members in each district registered by April 20 will receive a fun early registration gift

*Registration instructions will be announced in March at cvea.org

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

Voting Deadline: Director election and Bylaws amendment ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 27, 2021

*don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

AK-34

Save the Date

2021 'Virtual' Annual Meeting

Valdez: Tuesday, May 4

Copper Basin: Wednesday, May 5

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2021 Virtual 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, so we encourage you to log in and participate.

This year's meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom, on Tuesday, May 4, for the Valdez District, and Wednesday, May 5, for the Copper Basin District. The business meeting in each district will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Registration will be a little different this year. Members are required to register in advance when they will be given all information needed to log into the meeting, as well as appropriate protocols for voting, asking questions, and door prize drawings during the meeting. The first 75 members in each district to register early will receive a special registration gift (one per membership), so you won't want to wait. Early registration will begin April 1, and end April 20. Regular registration will continue through 12 p.m., May 4 in Valdez and May 5 in the Copper Basin. Registration details will be announced prior to April 1 at cvea.org.

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, ask questions about your cooperative, accept director election and Bylaws amendment results, scholarship awards and employee service recognition, and to transact any other business that may come before the Membership. In addition to learning valuable information, every registered membership will be eligible to win a ton of cool door prizes. Members present online will receive a \$10 credit on their power bill in May and will be eligible to win the grand prize, a CVEA Beater!!

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Ballots must be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 27, 2021. 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 give us a call at 822-3211 or 835-4301 prior to March 18, 2021. All valid ballots received by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit! Please exercise your right to vote!