

CVEA employs over 40 Alaskans, all of whom live and work in the communities we serve. We are proud of our employees and the work each one does to help fulfill CVEA's mission to provide exceptional service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service and programs.

Each year, CVEA recognizes employees with extended years of loyal and dedicated service to the Cooperative. We invite you to join us in congratulating them on their accomplishment.

# Look Who's Working Hard For You

## 2022 Employee Service Awards



**Terry DeLay  
Plant Operator  
Valdez  
30 Years**

Terry DeLay is celebrating 30 years as a Power Plant Operator in the Valdez District. Prior to CVEA he was an operator and in the Army National Guard. Originally from Sitka, Terry has lived in Valdez since 1987. He lives with his wife, Valencia Hiebert, and their Pugs, Coco and Grace. Their son, Christian, is currently attending college.

In Terry's spare time he enjoys traveling, working on cars and boats, and attending car shows. He likes investing in real estate, home remodeling projects, walking the dogs, and spending time with his family.

Terry said there have been many changes in the last five years, including changes in management and greater opportunity to mentor new plant operators.

When asked what one thing he wished people knew about CVEA, he said, "I wish people knew how few power plant operators there are at CVEA and the huge variety of things plant operators do every day." Terry says his favorite things about working for CVEA are his schedule and the differ-

ent duties operators perform.

Terry says he loves his job and is proud that he has been a positive, productive, dependable employee of CVEA for 30 years.

Wayne McKinzey has this to say about Terry, "It's hard to believe Terry is retiring. He's been our most senior Power Plant Operator for the past 7 years, providing insight and guidance from his 30 years of experience. Yes, 30 years. Terry has been running the power plants, dispatching, and responding to system outages day and night, rain or shine or snow, for 30 years. He is one of the most reliable and responsible people you could ever know. Terry will be missed."



**Erik Brenden**  
**Information Systems**  
**Technician**  
**Copper Basin**  
**25 Years**

This year marks 25 years of service for Erik Brenden, who serves as CVEA's Information Systems Technician. Erik is originally from Glennallen, where he currently lives with his wife, Stephanie, sons, Joseph and Matthew, two dogs, and three cats.

In his spare time, Erik is learning to play the guitar, thanks to the power of the internet.

When asked what has changed in his position in the last five years, Erik said, "CVEA IT security posture has moved to the forefront in recent years. We are migrating our in-house data technology to a cloud-based platform, leveraging security and data management services to a much higher level, while gaining mobile access.

Erik's favorite thing about working at CVEA is that no two days are the same. He says, "It creates its own challenges, but it's always exciting and new." One thing he

wishes people knew about CVEA is that CVEA employees are dedicated people that share the ideology of putting the community first.

When asked to tell a funny story about work in the last five years, he said, "Stephanie and I had a fantastic time on the CVEA employee cruise. Prior to the trip, we were actually evaluating some recreational boats. However, the trip reaffirmed to us just how much Stephanie actually does not like being on the water! So moving on..."

Jaime Matthews, CVEA CFO, was asked to provide a few words about Erik. She commented, "In an ever changing technology role, Erik has adapted to many challenges over the years. He is very dedicated to the cooperative and is a pleasure to work with."



**Toni Daniels**  
**Operations**  
**Coordinator**  
**Copper Basin**  
**15 Years**

This year Toni Daniels celebrates 15 years with the cooperative. Toni came to CVEA as the Customer Service Representative in the Glennallen office, and now serves the members as the Operations Coordinator. She is originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and previously worked as a bartender and landscaper.

Toni has lived in the Copper Basin for 15 years with Dennis, her partner in crime, and Molly, their lab-airedale mix. In Toni's spare time, she enjoys doing home improvement projects and gardening.

When asked what has changed in her position in the last five years, she says that technology continues to change. "Technology advancements allow us to improve and streamline our day-to-day operations."

When asked her favorite thing about CVEA, she responded, "we are always trying to improve our current processes to

become a more efficient and cost effective organization. Every day is filled with new challenges and always busy." When asked what one thing she wishes people knew about CVEA, she added, "we are an extremely small team and all wear a lot of hats to keep the lights on."

Toni also commented on what makes her most proud to work at CVEA, "I am most proud of our recent culture shift. We are truly becoming a stronger team and it is enjoyable to come to work and know that your personal contributions are recognized, appreciated, and actually make a difference."

Todd Stahley, CVEA Manager of Operations, said "Toni is a hard working, dedicated employee that tries to help everyone with a smile. She is a pleasure to have on the team."

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## COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC

### Employee Service Awards

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**Toa Finau  
Custodian  
Copper Basin  
15 Years**

Toa has worked as the custodian in the Copper Basin District for 15 years. Prior to the Cooperative she worked at Copper Valley Learning Center and the Glennallen School.

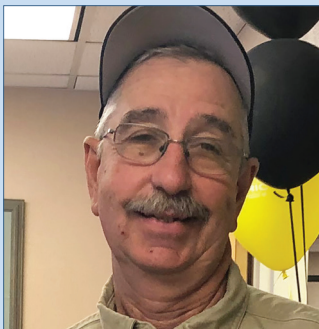
Toa, originally from Tonga, has lived in Glennallen for 23 years with her husband and 10 children. Militoni, Samisoni, Solomone, Maata, Samiuela, Mele, Siosiuua, Aisake, Ruth, and Christian all grew up in the Copper Basin, and are now spread throughout communities in Alaska and California.

She rarely has spare time, but really enjoys cooking when she finds some. In addition, Toa opens her home to the community, including many CVEA employees, to provide child care.

When asked what one thing she wishes people knew about CVEA, she said “everyone who works here is very professional and organized”. Her favorite things about working at CVEA is her flexible schedule and the turkey she gets annually for Thanksgiving.

When asked what she is most proud of, Toa responds by saying she is proud that CVEA recognizes every employee equally.

According to Toni Daniels, CVEA Operations Coordinator, “Toa is always working hard behind the scenes to keep our Glennallen office clean and up to speed. She does this with an amazing attitude and is always a pleasure to work with”.



**Walt Lynch  
Line Foreman  
Copper Basin  
15 Years**

Walt Lynch, Copper Basin Line Foreman, has been a Lineman for CVEA for 15 years. While now in the Copper Basin, Walt started his career with the Cooperative in Valdez in 2007. Walt originally came from Turlock, California, but worked as a lineman for Central Rural Electric Cooperative for 13 years and Stillwater Power for 9 years. Walt’s wife Lisa works for the Copper Basin School District and son Jeremy and daughter Amy live in Maryland and Alaska, respectively.

In Walt’s spare time he enjoys the great outdoors; hunting, fishing, and cutting wood for winter.

Walt says a lot has changed in the last five years, including becoming a Line Foreman. Additionally, he notes the increase in right-of-way clearing is really helping to reduce outages.

When asked what he wishes the members knew about the Co-op, Walt said, “I really like working with the other linemen, we can have a really fun time at work. These guys put everything on the line for the Membership.”

Walt’s favorite thing is helping members with power outages or providing advice, and when asked what he’s most proud of, he said, “I am proud doing Power Town demonstrations and talking to the youth about my trade and encouraging them.” When asked for comments, Todd Stahley said, “Walt is a dedicated Line Foreman that always puts the members’ interests first. The members are lucky to have him working for them.”

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## Employee Service Awards

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**Sharon Scheidt**  
**Director of**  
**Communications**  
**Valdez**  
**15 Years**

Sharon Scheidt is celebrating 15 years at CVEA as the Director of Communications. Prior to CVEA, she worked as the Executive Director of the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Sharon was born and raised in Valdez, where she now lives with her husband Eric and their kitty. Her daughter Jordan lives in Valdez and son Jacob lives in Idaho with wife Jory and new baby Oaklee.

Sharon enjoys living a healthy, active lifestyle, working out and getting outside for hiking and snowshoeing, biking, and kayaking. She likes interior decorating, planning events, and traveling to new places. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family, watching movies and true crime documentaries, and shopping.

Sharon's favorite thing about working at CVEA is how everyone pulls together as a team. She organizes several very big events throughout the year that take everyone to make them successful.

When asked what one thing Sharon wished people knew about CVEA, she

responded, "I wish people realized how much CVEA employees, staff, and board care about them and make changes with them in mind. Times are tough, but everyone here truly works hard every day to make things better for our members."

What is Sharon the most proud of? She says, "Transparency. CVEA makes every effort to communicate issues and decisions as well as the reasons behind them. We strive to be proactive, open, and willing to answer the difficult questions."

When CEO Travis Million was asked to comment, he said, "It is hard to believe that Sharon has worked for CVEA for 15 years already. It goes without saying that the Cooperative is blessed to have Sharon as our Director of Communications. She is the mastermind of all award winning videos and programs at CVEA. I have no idea how Sharon gets so much accomplished at CVEA, while also serving as the Mayor of Valdez, and still finds time to sleep. I enjoy working with Sharon every day and look forward to what the future has in store."



**James Ehret**  
**Chief Plant Operator**  
**Valdez**  
**10 Years**

Originally from Phoenix and raised in the Alutian Island of Alaska, Jim came to CVEA 10 years ago as the Chief Plant Operator in the Valdez District. Prior to CVEA, Jim was a Journeyman Wireman. He has lived in Valdez for 18 years, where he resides with his wife Pam and their three dogs. In his spare time Jim enjoys motorcycles, working around the yard, taking pictures of beautiful scenery, and shooting archery.

Over the last five years, Jim has seen many changes including system upgrades, development of a new-hire training manual, and work on the OMS mapping system.

When asked one thing he wishes all members knew, he said that, "CVEA employees are all members of the same community that the Cooperative serves, and employees pay the same amount for our

electric usage as the rest of the members."

When asked what his favorite thing about CVEA is, he said, "my favorite things are the other employees that work for CVEA and how good it feels providing the members with safe, reliable power."

According to Wayne McKinze, Ehret's supervisor, "Jim is a such great asset for CVEA. As the Valdez Chief Plant Operator, he oversees our two hydroelectric plants, our cogeneration plant, and our system dispatchers. He is multi-skilled and technically savvy - on one day he could be running 2" rigid conduit for a plant project (he's a Journeyman Wireman), the next day he could be updating an Excel formula or plowing snow with one of our tracked rigs. He is passionate about keeping the lights on for our members."

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## COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC

### Employee Service Awards

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**Darin Sauls**  
**Manager of Engineering**  
**Valdez**  
**10 Years**

Darin is currently the Manager of Engineering for CVEA. He came to CVEA from Florida where he worked as an Engineer for Seminole Electric Cooperative in Tampa Florida. Darin, his wife, Katie, their two girls, Madison and Hailey, Buddy, their Labrador, Romeo the cat, and several fish live in Valdez. In Darin's spare time he enjoys family activities and woodworking.

Darin wishes more members realized the level of care and commitment the CVEA employees have for the cooperative. "Everything we do is looked at through the lens of responsibility to the Membership. I also wish the Membership would feel more comfortable reaching out to me or our team with questions and concerns they have about their electric cooperative. If we can learn a little bit about their situation, we could help them. We could also explain the challenges and complexities of running their electric grid and that outages never will be completely eliminated."

When asked what his favorite part about

working for CVEA was, he shared, "I receive a lot of satisfaction when I'm part of a team that solves technical problems. With larger utilities, a lot of the projects I have enjoyed at CVEA would be with other groups of the organization, and I would not have had an opportunity to work on them. Due to the system we have and the size of our cooperative, when any new service or system comes online I am heavily involved in its implementation and integration. I love that I have been able to learn so much more about the electric power industry in my time at CVEA."

Travis Million, CVEA CEO, had this to say about Darin, "Darin has served the members of CVEA the last 10 years. He is a critical part of the CVEA team and is involved with nearly every technical aspect of the cooperative. Every decision he is presented with he takes into account the cost and benefit of the Membership each and every time. I look forward to working with Darin the next 10 years."



**Holly Auble**  
**Revenue Accountant**  
**Copper Basin**  
**5 Years**

Holly began her career at CVEA as a Customer Service Representative five years ago. She has served as the Accountant, and is now the Revenue Accountant. Prior to CVEA, Holly worked as an Admissions Assistant for a small for-profit college. Holly lived in Valdez for 22 years, and has been in the Copper Basin for 5 years. She currently lives in Gakona with her husband Michael, daughter Piper, and dogs Porsche and River.

When not working, Holly likes to spend time with her self-described wild animal of a daughter, boat with her husband on the many rivers in the area, bonfires with friends, and enjoying the peace and quiet the Copper Basin has to offer.

When asked her favorite thing about working for CVEA, she said, "the work environment is so positive and friendly, and everyone really cares for the communities we serve. There is also always room to

grow and learn."

Jaime Matthews, CVEA CFO, had this to say about Holly, "Holly is an exceptional employee. She has helped customer service and the accounting department gain efficiencies and become paperless. She recently received her second promotion in five years; we look forward to seeing her accomplishments in the Revenue Accountant position."



**Nathanael Bengtson**  
**Fleet Mechanic**  
**Valdez**  
**5 Years**

Nate became the Fleet Mechanic at CVEA five years ago. Prior to CVEA, he worked as a heavy equipment mechanic. Nate is a self-proclaimed military brat, born in Maine, but has lived all over. He has lived in Alaska the longest, living in Glennallen on and off since 1997.

Nate lives with his wife Kristal and two of his three daughters; Trinity, River, and Blayze. He enjoys family fun, outdoor activities, hunting, fishing, riding his Harley, and going on vacation.

When asked his favorite thing about working for CVEA, he said, “helping the

team and the members by maintaining the fleet.” He went on to say, “CVEA is a great place to work.”

According to Todd Stahley, “Nathanael always comes to work with a fantastic disposition and is always willing to pitch in to complete whatever tasks needs to be accomplished.”



**Jason Shiell**  
**Plant Operator**  
**Valdez**  
**5 Years**

Jason has been a plant operator in the Valdez District since 2017. Prior to CVEA, he was an equipment mechanic for the Petro Star Refinery.

Jason grew up in Valdez and lives there today with his wife Jennifer and children Taiya and Danner.

In his spare time he enjoys recreating outdoors with his family.

When asked his favorite thing about working for CVEA, he said, “my favorite thing about my job is the variety of work I do. We have a lot of responsibilities and every day is different.” He goes on to say

that “I also enjoy working for the community and helping provide a critical service.”

According to Wayne McKinzey, “Jason is a highly productive member of our team. He’s a skilled mechanic and excellent plant operator. He’s known for being a self-starter and is always ready to help out.”



Each year, at the annual meeting, CVEA recognizes employees with extended years of loyal and dedicated service to the cooperative and the members.

Join us and celebrate these individuals in Valdez on Tuesday, May 3, and in Glennallen on Thursday, May 5. Registration begins at 5:30, and the business meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

Until then, if you see them, we encourage you to congratulate them on their accomplishments!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

#### Board of Directors

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

P.O. Box 45  
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

#### April

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022, in Glennallen

**Voting Deadline:** Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2022

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

#### May

**CVEA Annual Meeting:** The 2022 Annual Meeting is Tuesday, May 3, in the Valdez District, and Thursday, May 5, in the Copper Basin District. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, May 19, 2022, in Valdez

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# Save the Date

## 2022 CVEA

## Annual Meeting

### Valdez: Tuesday, May 3

### Copper Basin: Thursday, May 5

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2022 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 3, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center, and Thursday, May 5, in the Copper Basin District at the Glennallen Community Center (formerly Murdock Center). Registration begins 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 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!

### Vote in the Director Election

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 running per seat, we still need you to VOTE!

Don't forget to sign your ballot envelope and ensure it is received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

**This year, all valid ballots received by the April 26 deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!**

If you have questions regarding the annual meeting or the election, contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org).

