

## COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



# Get Involved at CVEA

### **Board of Directors Candidates Wanted**

Join a dedicated group of community members who work on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all CVEA members.

Three director seats will be up for election in 2022. Two seats in the Copper Basin and one in Valdez will hold three-year terms.

As a CVEA director, you can help make decisions that impact your neighbors and friends, the folks up and down the transmission line, and all cooperative members.

The Board meets once a month, normally on the third Thursday, for regular board meetings, and on occasion for special meetings. Directors may also travel to participate in statewide and national meetings.

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continuous months, are a member in good standing, and are not an employee or close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete

list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications, found at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org).

In order for a member to become a candidate, they must be nominated by petition. Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members, whose signatures must match the signatures on file, and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by 5 p.m., Thursday, February 10, 2022.

For more information or to have a nomination packet sent to you, contact your local office.

### **The CVEA Community Foundation Scholarship Selection and Contributions Committees Need You**

The CVEA Community Foundation is doing great things in our communities. The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes providing scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific



Opposite, CVEA Board and Staff during a strategic planning workshop in 2021  
Left, CVEA 2021 Scholarship Selection Committee: Mark Somerville, Michelle Eastty, and Ramona Henspeter

and charitable organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue Code.

If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, the Foundation committees are for you.

The Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct interviews, and select who will be awarded scholarships. These committees will meet during the months of March and April in 2022.

The Foundation Contributions Committee reviews contribution requests from all local nonprofit organizations, scores them, and makes funding recommendations to the Foundation Board of Directors. If you are interested, plan on participation in September and October.

Each of these committees requires attendance at three or four meetings, and are estimated to take up to a total of 15 hours. Feedback from committee members is that these committees are fun and rewarding.

#### **Help Wanted for Credentials and Election Committees**

A very important part of the annual meeting election process is the Credentials and Election Committees.

The people who serve are responsible for validating the signatures on the back of the envelopes and counting the ballots for director elections and bylaws amendments.

In each district, the Committee is comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates or relatives of these persons.

The Board will appoint committee members for each district in February. Service on the Credentials and Election Committees takes place during March and April, with most of the work performed the week prior to the annual meeting.

In 2022, the annual meeting is scheduled for May 3 in the Valdez District and May 5 in the Copper Basin District.

If you have questions or would like more information on director elections, or you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 255-1425 or email [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org). ■



## COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



# 2022 Community Foundation Scholarship Opportunities

The Foundation will award roughly \$8,000 in scholarships in 2022. CVEA will offer two \$500 and one \$1,000 General Scholarships, and one Youth Rally Leadership Camp Scholarship in each district.

The General Scholarships will be awarded to well rounded high school seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education through a vocational or technical school, an apprenticeship training or a college degree program.

This scholarship continues to be merit based, with scores equally weighted among four categories: education, community involvement, future education/career goals, and need.

The Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship provides an opportunity for sophomores and juniors attending high schools in CVEA's service area to attend a week-long electric industry leadership camp in Caldwell, Idaho in July, where students practice leadership, communication skills, and teamwork while learning about electric utility practices and issues. While at the camp, students have an opportunity to earn educational scholarships that will be available to use for their education when they graduate.



In 2020 and 2021, the Youth Rally was cancelled due to COVID-19, but planning is currently underway for 2022. If it is determined the event can be held safely, it is expected CVEA students will have an opportunity to participate.

The Foundation scholarship programs are funded with unclaimed escheated capital credits, fundraisers, and voluntary donations from CVEA members, like you.

Scholarship recipients will be decided in April and announced at CVEA's Annual Meeting, and at 2022 high school scholarship and graduation ceremonies.

Scholarship information and applications are available online at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) under Community Support in the Scholarship section.

The deadline for submitting completed scholarship application packets is 6 p.m., Thursday, February 17, 2022.

If you have questions about the Community Foundation scholarship programs or need assistance, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 255-1425, or send an email to [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org). ■



# Space Heaters

## Best Friend or Worst Enemy?

CVEA encourages members to be cautious of companies offering expensive space heater models promising energy efficiency and cost savings. These savings are not typically realized, and worse, member bills most often increase due to higher kWh usage from the heaters.

According to the US Department of Energy using space heaters in your home or business as a way to replace your central heating system is much less efficient and can lead to paying more on your monthly electric bill. In fact, they estimate that, on average, using your home heating system costs less than half of what it would take to heat a home or business using portable heaters.

Controlling energy savings depends on how well your house retains heat. The less heat you need to maintain your desired temperature, the more efficiently your system will function. If you're having trouble keeping your home or office warm, consider looking into a more permanent fix to conserve heat before using space heaters.

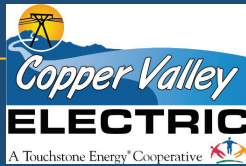
One quick and inexpensive tip is to look for areas where warm air may be escaping; around windows, doors, corners, and vents,

and plug the leaks with weather stripping or other appropriate sealing products. This can help you save money and stay warmer.

### Space heater energy tips

In certain situations, space heaters can be a good option for staying warm in small rooms, or colder than normal parts of your home or office. If you do use a space heater, keep these steps in mind to get the most savings:

- Don't use a space heater to heat large areas; buy a space heater that is made to heat a room about the size of the one where you plan to use it to avoid using more energy than you need
- Compare wattages between similar models to see which one is more efficient
- Look for a thermostat or timer setting that can save energy while keeping the room from becoming overheated
- If you are using the space heater, turn down the thermostat on the central unit to avoid doubling up on your heating costs
- Follow all safety instructions associated with your space heater and never leave your heater unattended



## Strategic Planning Summary

### MISSION STATEMENT

Exceptional service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service and programs.

	Financial	Operational Excellence and Safety (Operational)	Member	Innovation/Talent (HR)
<b>Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build Financial Strength</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and Improve system reliability</li> <li>Reduce our dependency on diesel fuel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be an advocate for our members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be the Employer of Choice</li> </ul>

# Strategic Planning at CVEA

**“Plans are nothing. Planning is everything.”** Dwight D. Eisenhower

It was with this in mind that Copper Valley Electric went through its first formal strategic planning effort since 1996 this year. While planning has always been a major component of the Cooperative’s annual program of work, Travis Million, who took over as CEO in 2020, recognized there was a need to not only build a forward-looking plan based on strategy, but to get buy-in from the leadership team and Board of Directors. He believes, “it is important to have a plan that sets goals and objectives thus ensuring greater alignment, easier decision making, and a document that is easy to communicate to employees and members.”

For two days in June, the CVEA Board of Directors and Management team met at the Totem Hotel in Valdez to think strategically about the Cooperative’s future. The session was facilitated by Cooperative Finance Corporation’s (CFC’s) Russell Green and Robert Carr. The goals of the session were to achieve consensus on the strategic goals the Cooperative will focus on during the next three to five years and develop an implementation

plan for meeting these goals.

Prior to the session, participants and all CVEA employees were surveyed to identify strategic issues facing CVEA and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats currently impacting the Cooperative. During the session the team received an industry update, reviewed CVEA’s mission and vision statements, performed a SWOT analysis, discussed the strategic issues identified in the preliminary survey, built consensus on goals, and developed a timeline and action plan for the Board’s review and approval. Consensus was achieved on five strategic goals and their supporting objectives:

- Build Financial Strength - review 10-year financial forecast, review equity management plan and related metrics, refresh rate study with a plan to keep rates equitable in all rate classes
- Maintain and Improve System Reliability – keep members informed on the frequency and cause of outages, develop a robust outage tracking system, provide the Board with a reliability report



- Reduce Dependence on Diesel Fuel – develop a plan to reduce the use of fossil fuels, work with strategic partners to advocate for power supply and transmission resources
- Be an Advocate for Our Members – pursue legislative and regulatory remedies, review and update the strategic plan, pursue board training and education, work with state and national industry groups on advocacy efforts
- Be the Employer of Choice – ensure effective use of technology, maintain and continue developing a cooperative culture, perform annual review of organizational structure, attract and retain quality employees

Once the strategic goals and objectives were established and approved, senior staff identified strategies and measurable tactics that will be included in the annual work plan to help achieve the goals and objectives outlined by the Board.

Some of the established tactics were presented as priority projects in the 2022 Budget that was approved by the Board in November. Two key projects the Cooperative will focus on in 2022 include the Solomon Substation replacement and relocation and Valdez Diesel Plant building improvements. Both meet the goal of maintaining and improving system reliability.

The Solomon Substation replacement and relocation will be the largest project over the next two years. It entails moving the substation that currently sits on top of the roof of the hydroelectric power plant and replacing necessary components. As CVEA's largest source of generation, the Solomon Substation presents a huge operational and financial risk. The equipment is over 40 years old and annual inspections have made it clear that it needs to be addressed. Additionally, insurance inspections have pointed out that if left in its current state, it could become uninsurable in the not too distant future. Over the next two years this project is estimated to cost \$4 million.

Another large project will be major improvements to the Valdez Diesel Plant building. The facility dates back over 50 years and suffers from new leaks in the roof, around the windows, and walls each year. This building is critical as it houses five generating units and associated switchgear, controls for Valdez feeders, and the fleet maintenance shop. The project is estimated to cost \$490,000.

On average, \$6 million annually is needed for capital projects to accomplish strategic goals.

According to CEO Million, "I am proud of the work the entire team has given to the strategic planning process this year and confident the plan will provide improved guidance and consistency over the next several years. The plan will help us achieve our goals more effectively and efficiently, which will be a great benefit to the Cooperative and the members."

If you have questions, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 907-835-7005 or email [info@cvea.org](mailto:info@cvea.org). ■

*The strategic plan represents a consensus of the CVEA Board and Management at a snapshot in time. It is considered fluid and will be revisited when strategic changes in the cooperative environment occur.*



**Opposite, approved CVEA strategic goals**  
**Top, President Lon Rake, CEO Travis Million, and Director Mark Shorten discussing topics during the strategic planning session in June**  
**Above, Secretary Dan Stowe, Wayne McKinzey, Director of Power Supply, and Director Jeff Saxe**



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

##### January

##### **CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition**

**Deadline:** Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted by petition no later than 6 p.m., Thursday, January 6, 2022

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2022, in Valdez

##### **February**

**Director Nomination Deadline:** 5 p.m. Thursday, February 10, 2022

**Scholarship Application Deadline:** 6 p.m. Thursday, February 17, 2022

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The February meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, February 17, 2022, in Glennallen

##### **CVEA Offices Closed:**

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, February 21, 2022, for President's Day

AK-34



## Want Your Vote to Count? Update Your Signature Card!

When you vote on CVEA business, such as Board of Director elections and Bylaws amendments, you are required to sign the ballot envelope. If the signature does not match the signature on the membership card on file with CVEA, the vote cannot be counted.

For residential customers, if you have changed marital status, or names, please contact CVEA to ensure those changes are reflected on your signature card. If you receive a card in the mail, please complete and bring to your local CVEA office or mail it in.

Organizations, businesses, and associations usually have board members who are authorized to transact business. The person who signs the election envelope must be an authorized signer on the account. If your Board of Directors or executive officer has changed in the past year, then it is time to update your CVEA membership card.

If you have questions or are unsure what is on your residential or business signature card, please contact your local office at 907-822-3211 in Glennallen or 907-835-4301 in Valdez.