

## COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC



# 2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting was live and in-person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began two years ago. Member numbers were low, with 113 registered in the Copper Basin District and 103 in Valdez, but excitement was high as everyone was happy to be back together.

In addition to regular reports, CEO Travis Million highlighted 2021 accomplishments, explained how high fuel costs and cold weather caused the increase to member bills this winter and provided insight into what the Co-op is doing as we look towards the future. His presentation included information regarding the approved Strategic Plan, upcoming rate study, and the potential of a future MMR project.

Other meeting highlights included the announcement of the Board of Directors election, introduction of the 2022 Community Foundation scholarship award recipients, viewing of *A Lineman Story*, the second video in the *People Behind the Switch* video series, and recognition of employee service awards.

In Board of Director elections Andy Hess was elected and Yvette Delaquito was re-elected in the Copper Basin, and Dan Stowe was re-elected in Valdez, each to a three-year term.

The CVEA Community Foundation awarded Carly Daniels

and Ambrosia Woodgate each a \$1,000 educational scholarship. Keegan Delaquito, Christian Finau, Tim Schantz, and Liliana Alfaro each received \$500 scholarships, and Isabella Smelcer was awarded the opportunity to attend the 2022 Idaho Youth Rally Leadership camp.

CVEA employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative. Holly Auble, Nathanael Bengtson, and Jason Shiell celebrated 5 years, Darin Sauls and Jim Ehret 10 years, Walt Lynch, Toni Daniels, Toa Finau, and Sharon Scheidt 15 years, Erik Brenden 25 years, and Terry DeLay celebrated 30 years of service.

Every registered member received a \$10 credit applied to their May bill. Roughly 85 door prizes were given out in each district, including a \$1,000 cash grand prize. Andrew Carlson, in the Copper Basin, and Dan O'Connor, of Valdez, were the lucky winners!

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

If you have questions on this or any CVEA topic, please email Sharon Scheidt at [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org). ■



# And the Winners Are...

CVEA had lots of Annual Meeting winners this year including \$1,000 grand prize winners Andrew Carlson and Dan O'Connor, Pelican kayak (donated by C&T Fire) winners Al Sanders and Cindy Unger, and Customer Service drawing winners Mike Leeper, Crystal Kinzer, Ashley James, and Johnathan Millican (not pictured).





# 2022 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 2022 Foundation scholarship award winners.

The Foundation is grateful to committee members Sarah Dolge (Chair), Ramona Henspeter, and Daisy Grandlinard in the Copper Basin District and Emily Goss (Chair), Stephanie Morgan, and Alice MacDonald in Valdez. We would also like to thank the students, volunteers, and staff who helped with this year's Community Foundation Split the Pot raffle as well as those who purchased tickets. Together we raised \$462 for future Foundation programs.

## Copper Basin



**Carly Daniels**  
\$1,000



**Keegan Delaquito**  
\$500

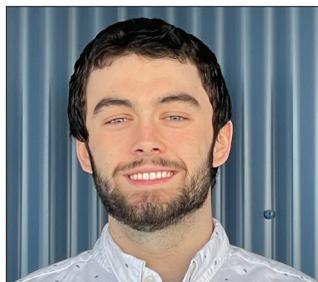


**Christian Finau**  
\$500

## Valdez



**Ambrosia Woodgate**  
\$1,000



**Tim Schantz**  
\$500



**Liliana Alfaro**  
\$500



**Isabella Smelcer**  
Youth Rally

Use Energy Wisely

# Keep Your Refrigerator Humming

Look for ways to maximize its energy efficiency

The refrigerator is one of the home's biggest energy hogs. You can help it run more efficiently by:

- **Keeping it level.** A fridge on an uneven floor can lean forward just enough to prevent the door gasket from sealing tightly.
- **Checking gaskets.** Even on a level floor, a refrigerator's door gasket can wear out. If your door isn't closing tightly, replace the gasket.
- **Cooling food before refrigerating it.** Putting hot food into a refrigerator or freezer forces the unit to adjust its temperature to compensate for the heat.
- **Covering food before storing it in the fridge.** Uncovered food and liquids release moisture and can force the compressor to work harder.
- **Filling it up.** A full refrigerator and freezer work more efficiently than a

half-empty one. If you don't have enough food and beverages in the refrigerator, fill it with jugs of water until about two-thirds of the empty space is taken. The same goes for the freezer. Pack bags full of ice and scatter them around the freezer so it is at least three-quarters full.

- **Giving it some breathing room.** For proper ventilation, a refrigerator needs clearance between its top and the cabinets above it and between its sides and the walls. Likewise, don't use the top of a refrigerator for storage. Cartons and other items can restrict airflow.
- **Moving the unit out of the sunlight and away from the oven.** The refrigerator has to work harder to keep everything cool when the outside of it is exposed to heat.
- **Cleaning it.** Regularly wipe dust, dirt and cobwebs from the top of the fridge and from the coils behind it. ■



For maximum energy efficiency, keep your refrigerator and freezer well stocked.

## Need a New Fridge? Upgrade to an Energy Star Model to Increase Savings

Got an old, energy-wasting refrigerator? Replace it with a new Energy Star-certified model.



Not only will you enjoy a state-of-the-art fridge, according to the Energy Star website, you can save more than \$270 during the next five years and do something good for the environment.

Thanks to recent improvements in insulation and compressors, today's refrigerators use much less energy than older models. With an Energy Star-certified refrigerator, you can maximize your energy and dollar savings without sacrificing features.

When shopping for a new fridge:

- ▶ Look for the Energy Star label to ensure it is energy efficient.
- ▶ Check the yellow EnergyGuide label to determine the model's energy use. The label allows you to compare it to similar models and estimate annual operating costs.
- ▶ Buy a refrigerator with a top-mounted freezer. They use 10% to 25% less energy than bottom-mount or side-by-side models.
- ▶ Buy an appropriately sized refrigerator. Generally, the larger the fridge, the greater the energy use. The most energy-efficient models are 16 to 20 cubic feet.
- ▶ Skip the automatic ice maker and through-the-door dispenser. They increase energy use 14% to 20% and raise the price \$75 to \$250.

Don't forget to recycle your old refrigerator. If you have a second refrigerator in your basement or garage, you should recycle that one, too. Refrigerators more than 10 years old could be costing you \$110 a year. ■

# The Cost of Convenience

Always-on devices are ready at a moment's notice, but at what price?

By Brandon Pomrenke

It has fear-inspiring names—vampire power, vampire draw, ghost load, phantom power and phantom load—and it affects many common household electrical devices.

Standby power, often referred to as phantom load, is just that: power standing by to make life a bit easier. It is caused by devices plugged into an outlet that use electricity even when turned off.

“It’s energy used by electronics when they are not being actively used,” says Mark Gosvenor, chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group. “In other words, when a TV is on but not being watched, it’s the energy it uses to run everything in the background. It’s how you get that instant-on with instant brightness.”

The U.S. Department of Energy says on average, between 5% and 8% of the average home’s total electric use comes from phantom loads.

Consumers must answer the question: Is the convenience worth the cost?

Most homes have at least a few devices that continuously draw electricity. These include electronics that use a remote control, such as TVs, stereos and game consoles; programmable thermostats; motion and light sensors; computers, monitors, printers, modems and surge protectors; and electric devices with timers, such as coffee makers.

Those cellphone chargers plugged in by the nightstand or the charging station in the living room? Absolutely.

For everyday convenience and to protect your devices, modems and surge protectors may need to remain plugged in. It is up to consumers to determine what other devices need constant power.

Mark says you can eliminate instant-on features by plugging the TV into a power strip that allows you to turn off items plugged in. The TV still works, but you may need to wait a few extra seconds while it warms up.

Options are available to consumers that include more than unplugging.

Power strips allow you to turn off multiple outlets simultaneously, saving the inconvenience of reaching for several hard-to-reach outlets. A smart power strip can sense how long a device has been on without being used.

“When you turn off electronics, the smart power strip senses the reduction in current and shuts off power to the socket, which eliminates any power drawn by that device when it’s off,” Mark explains.

Smart power strips have outlets for items that must always be on, such as clocks and cable boxes. The controlled plugs sense the increase or decrease in current and act accordingly.

Tier 2 advanced smart strips have an infrared sensor that monitors remote control activity.

“In addition to eliminating phantom power, it reduces the amount of active energy being used by sensing when a TV is running, but not being watched,” Mark says. “The Tier 2 power strips will reduce the total energy used by a TV by about 50%.”

He says taking advantage of the always-on features is a value proposition for consumers, and it is up to them to make an educated decision.

Advanced smart power strips are available at most electronic retailers. ■



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO  
BY TOMISPIN



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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 Will Stark, Vice President  
 Dan Stowe, Secretary  
 Yvette Delaquito, Treasurer  
 Andy Hess, Director  
 Paul Kildal, Director  
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### Important Dates

#### June

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, June 16, 2022, in Glennallen

**CVEA Community Foundation Contribution Season:** The 2022 Contribution Season begins Monday, June 27, 2022. Visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) for details.

#### July

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, July 4, 2022, for Independence Day

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

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## Copper Valley Electric Association 2022 Election Results

At the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members, Board of Director election results were announced. The Copper Basin District elected Andy Hess and re-elected Yvette Delaquito, and the Valdez District re-elected Dan Stowe, each to a three-year term.



The Credentials and Election Committees in both districts reported voting results for the director election as follows:

<u>Copper Basin</u>		<u>Valdez</u>	
Ballots Received	344	Ballots Received	256
Ballots Counted	330	Ballots Counted	239
Yvette Delaquito	218	Dan Stowe	239
Andy Hess	211		
Jan Maslen	196		

CVEA welcomes new and returning directors and appreciates the participation of everyone involved in the election.

Winners of the 2022 ballot drawing for a \$50 energy credit were: Kendra Harder in the Copper Basin and Dalon Gage in Valdez. Thanks to all who submitted valid ballots.