

Governing - The Cooperative Way

This time of year, Copper Valley Electric Association is preparing for its annual meeting of the Membership. Why is this important? Because this is when members have the opportunity to hear about projects their co-op is working on, learn the financial condition of their cooperative, and elect their representatives to the Board of Directors.

CVEA members will receive their Annual Meeting information and ballot near the end of March and election ballots will need to be returned no later than Tuesday, April 8, 2008. This year, members will elect one Board representative from the Copper Basin district and two representatives from the Valdez district.

Having a member-elected Board of Directors is one example of how cooperatives are different than other electric utilities. You elect them. They represent you. Their work must be unbiased. Their decisions must have your best interests at heart, be fair and equitable and protect the assets of the Cooperative.

A board member governs or guides the cooperative on your behalf. That's an important job. The Board of Directors sets policies and direction for the Cooperative. Then, they provide careful oversight; making sure your interests are considered, the assets of your Cooperative protected, the organization remains financially sound and you are adequately prepared for the future.

It takes hard work and commitment. Their service goes far beyond a monthly board meeting and involves keeping abreast of emerging issues through industry publications and an in-depth review of the materials prepared for regularly scheduled board meetings.

To be a part of the decision-making body means board members must understand issues that affect the electric utility industry, CVEA,

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CVEA Board President, Jim Manning presides over the monthly Board meeting

and the members they serve. They must stay involved in state, regional and national organizations because working together on important issues with people who have similar interests not only saves money and resources; it gives us a stronger, more influential voice for the electrical industry.

CVEA works with many organizations, including the Four Dam Pool Power Agency, Alaska Power Association, Alaska Energy Authority, Northwest Public Power Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to name a few.

CVEA board members often serve

on the boards or committees of these statewide and national organizations and participate in regular or annual meetings.

By pooling our resources and working together, we are able to be more effective in making changes or fighting legislation or policy ideas that would negatively impact your Cooperative.

Board members also are typically involved in committee work, participate in strategic planning sessions, hold special meetings to address critical issues, and attend various training classes.

CVEA board members are encouraged to become credentialed board members. The Credentialed Cooperative Director program, offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, provides the training necessary to arm committed board members with the education and knowledge they need to make informed decisions. Currently, six out of eight CVEA directors have gone through the CCD program.

Courses are usually scheduled in conjunction with other regional or national meetings to minimize travel expenses. Topics can include duties and responsibilities of a director, financial planning, strategic planning, the electric business and Board of Director relations.

It takes hard work and commitment to be a board member, to understand the complexities, to deal with the uncertainties and to represent the interests of the Membership.

If you are interested in running for the CVEA Board of Directors in the upcoming election, you must return your application and petition by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 15, 2008.

Remember, ballots will hit your mailbox at the end of March. Don't forget to cast your vote by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

If you have any questions regarding the Board of Directors or the upcoming election, contact Sharon Crisp at 835-7005 or crisp@cvea.org.

CVEA Board of Directors

CVEA members are fortunate to have a dedicated group of individuals serving on the Board of Directors that are committed to doing the best job possible for you, the Membership.



*James Manning
President*



*Lyle Von Barga
Vice President*



*Tom Kuckertz
Secretary*



*Fred Williams
Treasurer*



Carl Crosman



Jane Brown



Jeff Saxe



Joe Freitag