



CVEA Recognizes Our Employees

Copper Valley Electric 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 customer service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service as well as CVEA's vision to reduce or completely eliminate our dependence on fossil fuel and stabilize the Cooperative's cost of generation with regional, sustainable resources. 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.



Ryan Compehos **Plant Operator-Valdez** **5 Years of Service**

Ryan Compehos is celebrating five years of service as a Valdez Plant Operator at CVEA. Ryan was born in Valdez and has lived there for 35 years. He's added his wife Jenna, son Kalen, daughters Rylee and Lola to the family,

and they are expecting another child in June of this year.

Prior to CVEA, Ryan worked as an electrician for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

About working at CVEA, Ryan says he likes the sense of accomplishment he feels after restoring power to our members after an outage.

According to Ryan's supervisor, Nick Springer, "Ryan has become an outstanding Plant Operator/Dispatcher in the short amount of time he has been with us. He has become one of the 'go-to' guys that we can depend on to get the job done right. Ryan's professionalism and sense of humor are a great balance that has made working with him an enjoyable experience. I look forward to a long working relationship with Ryan in the years to come."



Nick Springer **Plant Superintendent** **5 Years of Service**

Nick Springer is celebrating his fifth year at CVEA. He is currently the Plant Superintendent, but began his career at CVEA as a Chief Plant Operator. Prior to CVEA, he worked as a Water Treatment and Plant Operator at Barrow Utilities & Electric Co-Op for nearly 14 years. During that time they upgraded their system by installing two Taurus 70 turbine generator packages similar to the one at CVEA's Cogen facility.

Nick was a self-proclaimed 'military brat,' moving around a lot, but considers Arizona to be his home prior to moving from Barrow to Valdez in 2007.

Nick, his wife Beth, son Justin, and Princess (their Jack Russell Terrier) live in Valdez and his daughter Cassandra now lives in Kenai, Alaska.

Nick enjoys hunting, fishing, and shooting and spends a lot of time working on home upgrades.

When asked what Nick likes most about working at CVEA, he tells us, "I

enjoy working with all the talented individuals we have at CVEA. It is amazing that we all have the same focus...providing the best possible service we can provide for our community. I'm proud of that."

When asked for a quote, Nick provided, "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." A. Lincoln

Travis Million, CVEA Manager of Generation, had this to say, "Nick is a hard working and very dedicated employee. He had some big shoes to fill with his current position and has done an outstanding job in doing so. Working with Nick has been a pleasure each and every day."



Nancy Heidelberg Executive Assistant 20 Years of Service

Nancy celebrates 20 years with CVEA. She is originally from Decatur, Mississippi, but settled in Glennallen, in September of 1993. Nancy and her husband Gary have one daughter, Kendra, Clint and Katy, their son and daughter-in-law, and Joshua and Ella, their precious grandchildren.

Before moving to Alaska, Nancy was a stay at home Mom. She also worked in the school system, at a restaurant, for an insurance agent, and for a telecommunications company. Her first job in Glennallen, before CVEA, was

as a substitute teacher at the Glennallen Elementary School. In Nancy's spare time she enjoys gardening, reading, and spending time outdoors when the temperature is above 60 degrees.

When Nancy was asked what has changed in her position in the last five years, she said she could go on and on, but thought she'd mention that CVEA has rapidly advanced in the electronic age, affecting how we share information with members and board members. She also said that obtaining ownership of the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant and moving forward to build the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project has changed the way we do business.

What one thing Nancy wishes other people knew about CVEA is that employees take their jobs very seriously. She says most employees enjoy what they do and the people they work with, which leads to an environment that encourages employees to produce large quantities of work each year while continually striving to improve the quality of work performed.

Nancy's favorite thing about CVEA is her co-workers. According to Nancy, "the size of the organization allows for development of friendships that will outlast their time at CVEA." Nancy feels that working closely with the Board of Directors allows her the opportunity to experience their dedication and concern for the Members. She enjoys being involved in the solutions to the many challenges facing CVEA.

CVEA's CEO, Robert Wilkinson, says this about Nancy, "I have had the pleasure of working closely with Nancy Heidelberg for the past 20 years. Nancy is a dedicated, loyal and competent professional employee whom the Board of Directors and I rely on every day. Nancy hits major league pitching day in and day out, and does so with an undeniably positive attitude. I am proud to be her friend as well as her boss, and I congratulate her for 20 years of excellent and memorable service to CVEA."



Dan Dempsey Chief Plant Operator Diesel Plants 25 Years of Service

Dan Dempsey, CVEA's Chief Plant Operator of Diesel Plants, is celebrating 25 years with the Cooperative. Originally from Fallon, Nevada, Dan moved to Valdez in 1975 and then to Glennallen in 1988. While Dan is celebrating 25 years, he has actually had more time than that on the clock. Dan also worked for the Cooperative from 1978-1981, before coming back in 1988.

When asked about changes Dan has seen over the years, he mentioned the major upgrade to the Glennallen Diesel Plant and said that he has seen CVEA go from having no computers to being almost completely run with computers.

According to Nick Springer, Dan's supervisor, "Dan is an extremely hard working man with a fearless nature that has allowed him to overcome many of the obstacles encountered while working on the maintenance issues at CVEA. His never ending pursuit to maintain, protect, and upgrade equipment at CVEA is priceless. His tremendous amount of experience and knowledge will not easily be replaced. I wish we had him for another 25 years."