



# 2024 Director Election

# Meet the Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director election is fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by March 30, along with candidate biographies, and your official annual meeting notice.

To be counted, return ballot envelopes must have a valid signature and be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

Candidates have been nominated via the petition process. You, as a CVEA member, will soon have the opportunity to exercise your right to vote. Please exercise this right.

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 though there may be only one candidate for the open seats, the co-op still needs you to vote.

All valid ballots, with signed ballot envelopes, returned by the deadline will be entered to win a \$50 CVEA energy credit.

To learn about the candidates, they were asked to respond to three important questions. The questions are listed here and the candidate responses follow.

### Question 1

What knowledge, skills, and experience will you bring to CVEA's Board of Directors?

### Question 2

What do you feel are the co-op's biggest challenges in the next five years, and what will you contribute to overcoming these challenges?

### Question 3

If elected as a CVEA Director, how will you balance the desire to keep rates low with the need to complete expensive maintenance projects necessary to ensure system reliability?

\*denotes incumbent



**Catherine Vereline**  
Copper Basin District

### Question 1

I would like to help our community and its businesses work together. After listening to the citizens of Copper Valley and Valdez voice their opinions on different subjects affecting them, I feel I will have an inside advantage to bring to the Board's table on how to unite both sides. I enjoy new challenges and am budget conscious to help ensure CVEA stay on course and accomplish their goals.

### Question 2

I feel that my lifelong working career with finances will enhance the Board to make sound financial decisions. I would like to help reduce costs to the people of the Copper Valley and Valdez so we can grow stronger and keep our citizens here

instead of driving them away due to high living costs.

### Question 3

I think in the next five years CVEA will have to move forward in creating a system to less dependency of fossil fuels. They will also have to overcome the challenges of a more reliable system for continuous service to the community.

I will do my best to work with staff of CVEA to come up with systems to move forward with these goals by listening to the ideas and studying the projects already approved and future projects awaiting approval.



**\*Lon Rake  
Valdez District**

**Question 1**

If re-elected, I will continue to work hard fulfilling my duties to you, the Co-op members. CVEA employees are some of the most professional and hard-working people I have ever had the opportunity to work with. You should be very proud of them; all they do 'on duty' as well as 'off duty' in the community. I would like to be able to do my part to help them make a difference for all CVEA Co-op members.

In closing, please know I am approachable and I will continue to listen and take action on Co-op matters. Thank you.

**Question 2**

CVEA continues to explore renewable resources as well as new and emerging technologies, to help improve efficiencies in the system. (whether transmission, distribution, or generation). Preventative maintenance, right-of-way clearing, and maintaining a trained workforce are key items as well.

CVEA also continues to work with other utilities to formulate the Alaska Railbelt plan. This is a long-term plan and will require federal funding, but if it does happen, it will benefit the entire railbelt system. I will do everything I can to support this mission.

**Question 3**

One major task of any cooperative is to constantly strive to lower the cost of electricity for its members. Solomon Gulch and Allison Creek are helping to offset the need for diesel generation now and for decades to come, thereby reducing the need for fossil fuels.

Additionally, the VMT Intertie has great potential to further reduce the use of fossil fuel. This Intertie is scheduled to come online first quarter 2024.

Other projects contributing to lower rates are the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and soon the OMS (Outage Management System), both will be saving time, man hours, and equipment.



**\*Will Stark  
Valdez District**

**Question 1**

I have 30 years of financial management experience and a Masters of Administration from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Additionally, I have served on the CVEA Board for 11 years.

**Question 2**

CVEA's biggest challenge over the next five years will continue to be completing costly system upgrades and maintenance with low impact to member rates.

**Question 3**

In the long run, strong system maintenance will result in better reliability and lower, more predictable cost to members. I will continue to push for efficient maintenance and upgrades to the system. Additionally, adding the Valdez Marine Terminal to the CVEA system is expected to lower fuel purchased and may also create additional opportunities allowing for more hydropower.