



## 2015 CVEA Meet the Director Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by March 20, along with candidate biographies and your official annual meeting notice.

To be counted, return ballots must be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

There is one seat up for election in the Copper Basin District and two seats in the Valdez District.

Three candidates have been nominated to fill these seats 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 ten percent of the District Membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election.

To help you learn about the candidates, they were asked to respond to three important questions.

The questions are listed here and the candidate responses follow.

Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 75 words per question.

### Question 1

What knowledge, skills, and experi-

ence will you bring to CVEA's Board of Directors?

### Question 2

It is the vision of CVEA to reduce or eliminate our dependence on fossil fuel and stabilize the Cooperative's cost of generation with regional, sustainable resources. What ideas do you have to help the Cooperative reach this goal?

### Question 3

Keeping energy rates affordable is a primary concern for CVEA, yet it is a difficult task as the majority of the power bill is the cost of fuel. What ideas do you have to lower the cost of energy?



**Valdez District**  
**Will Stark \*Incumbent**

Will is a resident of Valdez and is Vice President of First National Bank Alaska. He has been a member of CVEA for 16 years.

### Question 1

I have 21 years in commercial banking, as well as experience in property management and commercial fishing. This experience has given me a strong grasp of not only financial management but also the importance of managing physical assets to ensure their continued viability.

### Question 2

I do not believe CVEA will be able to entirely eliminate its use of fossil fuels in the near future. That being said, CVEA has several opportunities to lower its

dependence on diesel fuel:

- The Allison Creek Hydro Project
- Efficiency upgrades to Solomon Gulch Hydro Plant

### Question 3

In 2016 Allison Creek will begin to provide power. This will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and help to stabilize electric costs.

Additionally, Allison Creek will provide CVEA with surplus summer capacity. The surplus capacity will allow CVEA to use less water from Solomon Gulch and allow for greater water storage in Solomon Lake.

I will encourage CVEA to study the merit of raising the Solomon Lake Dam allowing for more winter power.



**Valdez District  
Lon Rake \*Incumbent**

**Question 1**

I currently have the privilege of serving on the CVEA Board. I have worked hard with fellow board members and CVEA employees to make sure the reliability and cost of power is as efficient as it can possibly be.

It takes time to be a productive Director on the Board. I have attended various conferences and also obtained my Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification, a fairly rigorous course, to make Directors highly capable to perform their duties and responsibilities.

Additionally, I have worked all throughout Alaska in the electrical and telecommunication industries since 1993. I face a lot of these same challenges as the Plant Superintendent of Copper Valley Telecom.

**Question 2**

CVEA Board and Staff have collectively been working at this goal. Bringing Allison Creek online will get us to the 64 percent hydroelectricity generation level; this is a major undertaking that will benefit the Membership for decades. Getting CVEA on a railbelt electrical grid could potentially be a huge step in the right direction as well. Wind and solar generation capabilities continue to advance as technology improves. Additionally, maintenance and new generation equipment overhauls continue to improve reliability and reduce fossil fuel consumption. This is a topic of discussion at every board meeting and we evaluate all possibilities.

**Question 3**

Obviously, 100 percent hydro generation is the goal, but that comes with a price tag as well. In a perfect world, the gas pipeline would make it to Eastern Alaska and we could use LNG (cheaper and more efficient) instead of diesel to generate electricity in the winter season. Thankfully, the price of diesel has dropped significantly and that will be reflected accordingly. If we were tied to a grid, and there is some talk of this, we could utilize that energy in the winter season as well. Preventive maintenance, staying within budgets, and continuing to improve efficiencies are rules that we need to live by. Affordable energy rates are paramount for CVEA's members.



**Copper Basin District  
Paul Kildal \*Incumbent**

**Question 1**

I have served as a member of the CVEA Board of Directors for over 12 years. I have attended meetings, trainings, and workshops, and received my Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification.

**Question 2**

I believe the Cooperative needs to continue to explore alternatives to fossil fuels including increased hydroelectricity.

**Question 3**

I believe CVEA needs to provide the Members information on how to reduce energy costs. The Co-op must also continue to look at ways to make the organization more efficient and cost effective.

---

## Want Your Vote to Count?

When you vote on CVEA business, such as the Board of Directors election coming up in April, 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 make sure 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 for the group. 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.

Please update your information as soon as possible. If you have questions or are unsure what is on your residential or business signature card, please stop by either office or call 822-3211 in Glennallen or 835-4301 in Valdez. ■