As we pin up a new calendar in January, many of us embark on self-improvement projects with ambitious New Year’s resolutions. Before we turn the calendar page to February, most of those resolutions have fallen by the wayside. Why is that? Maybe it’s because our resolutions tend to focus on our shortcomings. Maybe our success rate would improve if we concentrate on what we do best. Over the past few weeks, a group of Grand Valley Power employees and directors endeavored to put together a mission statement — a resolution of sorts — that will guide our organization next year and for years to come. This effort required us to examine our purpose, our reason for existing, and describe it with a few brief words. With a focus on what we do best, this is what we came up with: Empowering lives with hometown service.

These five words pack a punch. Yes, they capture our core function — providing power for the consumers we serve here in Mesa County — but they go further than that. They speak to the quality of life that affordable, reliable electricity makes possible. They address the importance we place on supporting our community. Grand Valley Power empowers lives with scholarships and assistance for local educational efforts, economic development and its first-of-a-kind, low-income community solar facility. We empower lives by being good stewards of the environment.

The focus on hometown service is central to our mission. It includes, of course, the servicemen and linemen who brave the elements to restore power when Mother Nature wreaks havoc.

There’s a good chance you may know them personally, from church or Little League. When you call us on the phone, you won’t be routed to a call center in another state hundreds of miles away; you will talk to someone working here on the Western Slope, who knows what’s going on in our service territory.

And don’t forget the hometown service that your locally-elected board of directors delivers. These are the folks from right here in Mesa County who provide direction and guidance for our organization. They face the same challenges and issues that all of our members have to deal with. If you have a question or concern, they are here to address it. Empowering lives with hometown service. This is a broad statement of purpose. It’s broad enough that we need a few guideposts to help us stay on track. Recognizing this, our team of directors and employees identified four foundational principles to guide us along the way:

- We are committed to the safety of our workforce and the general public.
- We strive to do the right thing, holding true to our values and principles.
- We seek to find new and better ways to serve our members and communities.
- We are dedicated to delivering value to all we serve.

While these words were composed just a few weeks ago, the ideas are not new for Grand Valley Power. I’ve only been here about five years, but as one of my senior staff members put it, “We’ve been doing this for decades.” Even so, I think it will be helpful to

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have the ideas distilled down to these guiding principles. Since we identified the track we are on, we will be held accountable if we stray.

Just as New Year’s resolutions are hard to keep, meaningful mission statements can be difficult to live up to. With Grand Valley Power’s 80-year tradition of service excellence here in Mesa County, I am confident in our ability to move forward with our mission successfully.

**Record Capital Credits Distributed**

At the November 2016 board meeting, the Grand Valley Power Board of Directors authorized the retirement of capital credits to members of record, based on their electric usage, and $1,603,014 in capital credits were paid in December to members. This was the largest retirement of capital credits in the cooperative’s 80-year history.

Grand Valley Power provides services at cost. Rates are set so that the cooperative can earn a modest margin necessary in order to satisfy lender requirements. These margins are allocated to each consumer in proportion to his or her contributions to revenue during the year. These margins are allocated as capital credits. The capital credits are eventually retired or paid to the consumer in the form of a check. GVP is currently maintaining a 20-year cycle in these capital credit retirements.

GVP personally presented capital credit retirement checks to five of its biggest consumers this year. School District 51, Whitewater Building Materials, Collbran Job Corps, Western Slope Ford and Westgate Inn were all presented checks by a member of the board of directors.

### Capital Credit Retirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$1,217,711.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>$1,603,014.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Year Total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT:** It is vitally important that you keep Grand Valley Power informed of your address if you move out of Grand Valley Power’s service territory and are no longer a consumer. In order for you to receive your capital credit retirements, GVP needs your current address. Call GVP at 970-242-0040 or email your address change to capitalcredits@gvp.org.
Grand Valley Power Scholarship
This year Grand Valley Power will award six $1,500 scholarships to students in the Grand Valley Power service territory. These scholarships are granted for use at accredited colleges, universities and vocational schools for undergraduate education.

Applications are due for the GVP scholarship on March 1, 2017.

Jack Broughton/CMU Scholarship
The Jack Broughton/CMU Scholarship awarded by Grand Valley Power was named to honor the former general manager of Grand Valley Power, Jack Broughton.

This $2,000 scholarship will not be limited to mechanical engineering majors as it was originally intended. However, if a mechanical engineering major applies, he or she will be given additional consideration during the selection process.

This scholarship is renewable up to four years if the student maintains a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Applications are due for the Jack Broughton/CMU Scholarship on March 1, 2017.

Western Colorado Community College Scholarship
Grand Valley Power awards a $1,500 scholarship for students attending Western Colorado Community College (WCCC). This scholarship is for use by any student who lives in GVP’s service territory and will be enrolled in any of WCCC’s program offerings.

Applications for this scholarship are due March 1, 2017.

Western Colorado Community College Electric Lineworker Scholarship
This is a $2,000 scholarship to Western Colorado Community College’s electric lineworker program. This is a one-year certificate program that allows graduates to enter apprenticeship programs at electric utilities, such as Grand Valley Power.

The electric utility industry is facing a shortage of lineworkers as the workforce ages. While this career can be dangerous due to the nature of the job, it is also one of high pay, good benefits and job stability. Grand Valley Power encourages high school graduates to look at this career path and is happy to visit with any potential electric lineworkers.

Applications are due for the WCCC electric lineworker scholarship on June 1, 2017.

Selection Process
After applications are received by March 1 for the GVP scholarships, the Jack Broughton and Colorado Mesa University scholarship, and the WCCC scholarship, a committee of educators appointed by Grand Valley Power’s board of directors will review the applications and determine the winners. Winners will be notified in writing by April 1, 2017.

The same process will take place for the electric lineworker scholarship applications after the June 1 deadline.

Scholarship applications can be picked up at high school counseling offices, at Grand Valley Power offices, or Grand Valley Power’s website at gvp.org.

For questions, contact Bill Byers at 970-623-8577.

When a power outage occurs, unplug appliances with electronic components, such as microwave ovens, televisions and DVD players. This will help eliminate damage to your appliances if voltage surges occur when the electricity is restored.
NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

The Grand Valley Power Board of Directors appointed a new board member at its November 16 board meeting. This position had been vacant since the annual meeting in August.

The Grand Valley Power Board of Directors interviewed six applicants for the vacant director position and selected Carolyn Sandeen-Hall to fill the position. She will serve in that position until the 2019 GVP Annual Meeting, when her term expires.

Carolyn moved to the Grand Valley in 1975. She taught at Fruitvale and Wingate elementary schools. She retired in 2010 after 35 years of teaching. She was also the bookkeeper for her husband, Geary Hall, and his plumbing business since 1982. Geary is a Grand Valley native. He has finally retired from that business, which will give them more free time together. They have a 24-year-old daughter, Stephanie.

Carolyn has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California Los Angeles, and a Master of Arts in special education from Northern Arizona University. She completed postgraduate work in school administration from Western State College.

She served on the board of directors and as vice president of a state organization, and did volunteer work for youth organizations. She currently works with an organization sponsoring international exchange experiences for educators.

“I believe the co-op principles serve us as well today as they have for over 80 years,” Carolyn said. “I am eager to work with the board of directors with the commitment to sustain those principles.”

ATTENTION PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Youth Tour and Leadership Camp Time Is Short
Applications Are due January 16!

In the last two issues of this newsletter, information was given regarding the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour and the Youth Leadership Camp. Grand Valley Power is awarding one all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and two all-expense-paid trips to the Youth Leadership Camp. These trips are for current high school juniors and seniors.

Applications and essay requirements are available at GVP’s website gvp.org. Applications and essays must be postmarked by or received at the GVP office by Monday, January 16, 2017, at 5 p.m. You may also contact the public relations department at 970-623-8577 for questions, applications and requirements. Don’t miss out on these once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Apply today.

GENERATE SAFE PRACTICES

If you have a generator, make sure you know how to operate it safely. Unsafe operation can threaten you, your family, neighbors and the linemen working to restore power. Unsafe installation or operation may also result in a lawsuit, and your insurance may not cover your liability.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Grand Valley Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax to 202-690-7442 or by email to program.intake@usda.gov.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

According to the Consumer Technology Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. Energy Star-certified audio and video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source: EnergyStar.gov