

GRAND VALLEY POWER'S POWER SUPPLY FUTURE

A Statewide Viewpoint

BY TOM WALCH CEO

There's no denying it — the future of energy is changing. It's a topic that has been widely talked about for years. As electric utilities across the United States shift to options that include more renewable energy sources and make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity uses less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced. This idea of "clean energy" means that innovations in energy technology are creating new ways to use electricity with less impact to our environment.

60% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

Taking care of the environment has always been important to Grand Valley Power. The farmers who formed our cooperative eight decades ago made their living on the land, so they were always good stewards. That's an area where we try to be leaders. The percentage of clean and renewable energy in Grand Valley Power's energy supply mix has expanded since 2008. The cooperative met Colorado's statutory Renewable Energy Standard — 10 percent renewable energy by 2020 — a decade ahead of the requirement. Grand Valley Power currently has over 30 percent renewable energy in

its power supply mix. You might wonder why we're targeting a 60 percent clean target when we've already met state mandates. As a locally-owned cooperative, we continually strive to deliver value to our members. We seek to find new and better ways to serve our members — all while providing safe, reliable and affordable energy. As technology advances, these clean resources become more cost effective. We'll be able to meet this target while maintaining rate stability and our excellent reliability record. The 60% Clean Energy Target is one of the most aggressive goals of all rural electric cooperatives across the nation. We can make this commitment to our consumers because of the commitments we have from our wholesale power providers, including Xcel Energy and the Western Area Power Administration.

A BALANCED APPROACH

Although Grand Valley Power's energy mix is continuing to increase in renewable resources over the course of a decade, we want to stress the importance of a balanced and diverse energy mix. That includes 24/7 energy sources like natural gas and coal. Cooperatives, including Grand Valley



TOM WALCH, CEO

Power, will continue to explore ways to make renewables more predictable and reliable. We're planning for a bright — and cleaner — future for years to come.

COMMENTS TO THE CEO

You are a member of a cooperative and your opinion does count. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please let me know by writing to Ask the CEO, P.O. Box 190, Grand Junction, CO 81502, or send an email to me at twalch@gvp.org. Check out our website at gvp.org.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to the members, consumers and public. Regularly scheduled board meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website. If anyone desires to address the board of directors, please let us know in advance and you will be placed on the agenda.

Director Petitions Available in May

The election process for the Grand Valley Power Board of Directors is approaching. The nominating procedure begins in May with the election in August. There are three director positions up for election every year.

Board seats up for election this year include positions presently held by Sylvia

Spangler, Rod Martinez and Carolyn Sandeen-Hall.

Nominating petitions will be available to be picked up beginning May 14, 2019, at the Grand Valley Power office. Petitions must be signed and returned no later than by the close of business on June 24, 2019.

The Annual Meeting of Grand Valley

Power and the election of directors will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2019, at Colorado Mesa University's Meyer Ballroom. Mark your calendar.

More details on the election process will be published in the May issue of this magazine and can also be found at gvp.org/bylaws.

Safety for All Ages

February 22 Mesa County Safety Fair

BY CHRISTMAS WHARTON



▲ GVP linemen Nick Jones and Preston Dillingham teach a group of students electrical safety at the annual Mesa County Safety Fair on February 22.



▲ GVP Operations Supervisor Bill Barlow shows a group of students on a recent field trip some of the flame-resistant and arc-flash clothing that's required for a lineman to wear.

Each year, Grand Valley Power steps up to the task of providing electrical safety demonstrations to approximately 1,700 people. One of the larger events GVP employees attend is the annual Mesa County Safety Fair at the Mesa Mall. Other events include school functions, county events and local business events. Safety applies to all ages and electrical safety is an important topic that everyone should know.

Since we're a community-focused organization, we are committed to the safety of our workforce and the general public — and we take that seriously. Recently, I was told a story about an unfortunate accident to a member's close friend that involved an electrical contact. This prompted a phone call to Grand Valley Power to request an electrical safety demonstration — something that our member believed was much needed. Although the incident did not

occur locally, it hit home hard for this person's organization.

That's why it's an important message for us to share, and we do this year-round. You can find safety information 24/7 on our website at gvp.org/safety-resources or on one of our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



**LOOKING
FOR MEMBERS
WITH
UNCLAIMED
CASH**

One of the many benefits of being a member of a cooperative is the way that members participate in our business. Members contribute to the capital of our cooperative. They also contribute to the co-op's economic success, and any excess margins are paid back over time to those members.

Grand Valley Power strives to ensure it has your updated address to mail you credit checks (even if you move off GVP lines).

Despite these efforts, GVP receives checks back that are unclaimed.

We've updated our list and encourage you to check the website gvp.org/capital-credits to see if you know any of the individuals or businesses that have unclaimed cash. If you have any information as to the location or address of any of the individuals or businesses on the list, please have them contact us at 970-242-0040.

Can You Dig It? Not before you call 811

April showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard or easement.

Before you use that posthole digger or other digging tools, STOP and call 811 to request that the electric, gas, cable and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, "What's the worst that could happen?" **YOU COULD DIE OR BECOME SERIOUSLY INJURED.**

"People think they don't have the time to call or they think hitting an underground line won't happen to them, but it can happen — and it does — every year," says Bill Barlow, Grand Valley Power's operation supervisor. "It only takes a day or two advance notice when you call to have your yard marked. The wait is well worth it. The consequences of hitting a line can range from interrupting your favorite cable television show to a gas leak to electrocution."

Other consequences of blindly digging? You could cause a power outage; you could hit a gas line and get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood; or you could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone,



Shallow Digging is Still Digging

One in eight survey respondents have decided to dig without calling 811 because they thought their project was too shallow to interfere with buried facilities.

2018 CGA Public Awareness Research



cable television or internet service. Worse yet, it could interfere with your neighborhood's emergency assistance technology.

Although it all seems like "your" yard, utilities have the right of way and live lines are lurking under the ground. Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans and call 811 before you dig. Each state has its own call center to help you

get digging safely, but 811 is the one-calls-all in the United States. Once you call the digging hotline or your own state's digging call center directly, utilities or the companies they contract with will come to your home and mark your yard before you dig.

For more information, visit gvp.org/safe-outdoors or Call811.com.



Member Spotlight PLUGGED & N



BY CHRISTMAS WHARTON

A cool summer breeze, the smell of hot dogs and fresh peanuts, the crack of a bat. It's the start of another baseball season for the Orchard Mesa Little League. It is one of Grand Valley Power's members and we're shining those stadium lights on OMLL this month.

CHRISTMAS (GVP): *Thanks for taking the time today to tell us a bit more about Orchard Mesa Little League. Can you tell us a bit more about your role and how you got involved?*

KAYLEEN (OMLL): Thank you. What a great opportunity to tell our story. My name is Kayleen Balsiger and I am the president of the OMLL. I also handle all the registrations. In 2013 my son was playing Little League at Orchard Mesa. Throughout the season there were a few things that I was not happy with and thought needed improvement, so I went to a board meeting. I decided to join the board to hopefully help the league improve what I was seeing wrong as a parent and to give the players and families a good experience. I started off as the secretary and eventually my duties grew. Little League in our community allows for a safe, fun environment that kids can enjoy their time outside and with friends loving the sport of baseball or softball. OMLL has a scholarship program available to those in need, allowing for any child who wishes to play Little League the opportunity.

CHRISTMAS: *What a great opportunity for kids and our community. I'm big on history of our valley — how did the OMLL get started?*

KAYLEEN: The basic plans to start an organized baseball program in Orchard Mesa were started around 1960 from the parents who had children in the Cub Scout pack located on Orchard Mesa. Wayne Goswick along with Jim Leigh and Lillian Pickering started the ball rolling in the proper direction for starting a program in the summer of 1961. The George Humphries family helped initiate plans to develop Orchard Mesa Little League. Mike Kanderis, the first OMLL president, helped obtain the current field location. When the league was organized, there were minor, major and senior divisions for baseball. In 1963 Orchard Mesa Little League filed incorporation papers with the county recorder. There were many additions over the years to get the property to where it is at now. In 1975 girls were adopted into the Little League program; however, it took until 1978 before girls' softball was organized at OMLL.

CHRISTMAS: *That's fantastic. I love the spirit of the founders. Do you have employees or volunteers?*



KAYLEEN: Currently coming into the 2019 spring season we only have about 12 board members. During the season we will have roughly 100 volunteers between board members, coaches and parent volunteers.

CHRISTMAS: *Does OMLL have any big plans or changes for the upcoming year?*

KAYLEEN: This year we have not only me as a new president, but we have a few new board members. That being said, we have a lot of changes in the works. Currently, we are building batting cages at the back of our facility — this alone is a huge cost to us. We also are having our scoreboards get a face-lift, new paint, logo and LED bulbs. There are plans for a total repair and paint to our five score towers and dugouts. We have already repaired some batter's boxes and bases. Since OMLL is a nonprofit organization, we rely solely on the collection of registration fees, concession stand [profits], fundraising and our sponsors and donors. We do not turn away any child whose family is unable to pay the fees. Our cost to run a Little League includes electricity, domestic water, uniforms, equipment, supplies to maintain our fields to be playable, office supplies for our treasurer, registrations and fundraisers. Usually at the end of a season, the league has very minimal funds to start the next season, and that's not even including funds wanted for upgrading and projects around the ballpark that we were not able to complete due to lack of funding.

CHRISTMAS: *There's a lot that goes into coordinating the OMLL. If I wanted to find out more information on the game schedules, sponsorships, open volunteer positions or how to sign up my kids, where is the best place to find this information?*

KAYLEEN: You can find all of this information on our website at orchardmesalittleleague.com. You can also reach out to us by calling 440-537-2836. We also can be found on Facebook — search for Orchard Mesa Little League.

CHRISTMAS: *I look forward to OMLL's 2019 season, Kayleen. Let's play ball!*