

# CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD VACANCY FOR MARCH 2017 ELECTION

Grassroots democracy is one of the hallmarks of belonging to an electric cooperative. Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) is owned by its members and guided by directors elected from the membership.

CVEC members who reside in Districts 3 and 5 have an opportunity to serve on the co-op board of directors by running for a position in the March

**On March 25, 2017, two directors will be elected during the annual meeting of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative.**

2017 co-op election. Two positions will be up for election; current incumbents are Clyde Shipman of New Auburn representing District 3, and Deone Goettl from Cornell representing District 5.

## Director Qualifications

The main qualifications to serve as a representative on the CVEC Board of Directors are as follows:

1. Be a member and primary resident of the district from which elected.
2. Not be employed by or have a financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative.
3. Not be employed by the cooperative.
4. Be in compliance with the cooperative's nepotism policy.

Please contact the cooperative for more detailed information on director qualifications.

## Director Duties

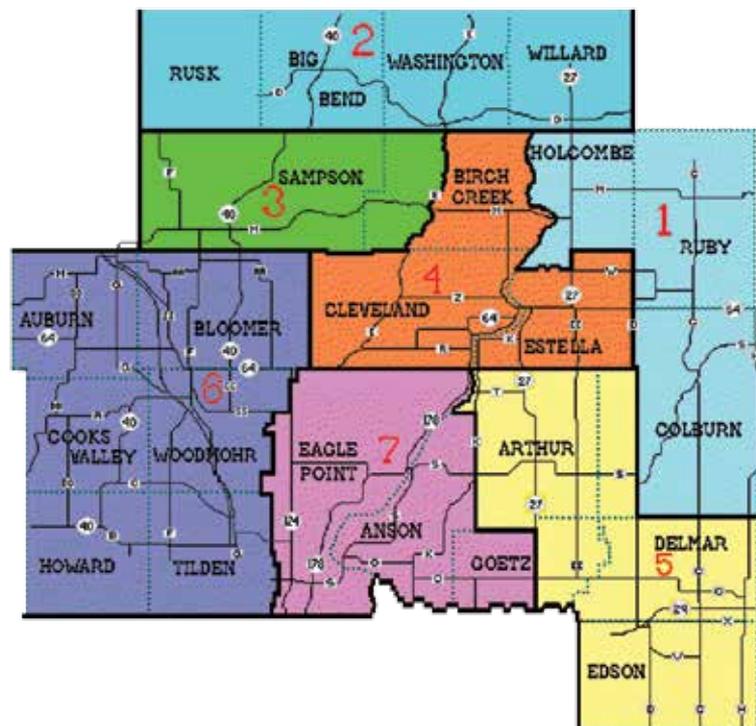
Board directors serve a three-year term and represent co-op members at monthly meetings. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meeting, other special meetings, and educational seminars that are designed to keep directors informed on various aspects of CVEC and the electric utility industry. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative, and they represent the entire membership.

On March 25, 2017, at the Cornell High School, two directors will be

elected during the annual meeting of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative. Cooperative members who reside in voting districts will vote for directors in Districts 3 and 5.

Are you interested in serving as a board member for Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative? Do you reside in one of the two districts listed above? Consider becoming a part of your electric cooperative by submitting your name as a director candidate for the upcoming election. If you are unsure of the district in which you reside please contact our office.

For applications or more details about board elections contact Nicole at [nwsime@cve.coop](mailto:nwsime@cve.coop) or call 715.239.6800.





# Illuminate Your Holidays with *Safety*

**D**on't let the bright and colorful sparkle of the season distract you from taking the precautions that you need to stay safe when decorating. Safe Electricity offers the following tips:

If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire resistance protection. With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy with a trunk that is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated. Keep your tree stand filled with water so that the tree does not become overly dry and present a fire hazard.

Never place your tree near heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters or radiators, which can become fire hazards.

Any lights that are hung either inside or outside of the home should have a label indicating that they have been certified by an accredited independent testing laboratory.

Also make sure the lights are rated for the location in which they will be used—whether indoors or outside. Before hanging your lights, check the strands for broken bulbs as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards. Always replace damaged products.

Typically, one extension cord should only have three strands of lights connected to it at most, but you should also check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use. Never run extension cords under carpets, through doorways, or where they could be damaged by furniture.

When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are a minimum 10 feet away from overhead power lines. When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place, as this could damage the product.

Outdoor lights and decorations should be plugged into an outlet with ground fault circuit interrupter protection. GFCIs are inexpensive electrical devices that can be installed in a home's electrical system or built into a power cord to protect against electrical shock. A GFCI constantly monitors the flow of electricity through a circuit and will shut the circuit down if it senses a ground fault.

Be sure to turn off all lights before leaving the home or going to sleep. A timer can help you do this.

Safe Electricity hopes your season will be merry, bright, and safe. For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# WINTER IS HERE

## BE ALERT FOR PEAK ALERTS

Winter is now upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost.

The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Chippewa Valley Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting, moving some household tasks like laundry to off-peak hours, and waiting until late evening or

early morning to run your dishwasher, you can help us save a substantial amount.

On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcasted on the following stations:

WAXX	104.5 FM
WAYY	790 AM
WECL	92.9 FM
WIAL	94.1 FM

In addition you may visit us online at [www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com) and go to the Load Management page to find the up-to-date information regarding the status of the load control.

Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use during these winter evenings between 4 and 9 p.m.

## ARE YOUR WINTER ENERGY BILLS HIGHER?

### Here's why...

The next energy bill you receive may be higher than your recent autumn bills were because of the following:

**You used more energy** – Because of the holidays, you may have had guests or your children were home. This would have caused you to use more energy for electronics, cooking, cleaning, and lighting.

You can help control these costs by using energy-efficient CFL or LED lights, and keeping your water heater temperature at the warm setting (120 degrees F).

If you decorate your home for the holidays, you likely use more electricity than usual to keep the lights twinkling. Switching to the energy-efficient LED holiday lights will help you save on your holiday lighting costs. Putting your outdoor displays on timers will also help.

**The weather is colder** – With normal weather conditions, December typically is 10 percent colder than November. Colder weather means you likely turn the furnace up, adding to your heating costs.

You can help control your heating costs by turning back your thermostat 10 to 15 degrees while you're asleep or away from home. A programmable thermostat makes this easy to do.

**The days are shorter** – Since it's dark already by the time you leave work, you're probably spending more time indoors, with the lights on, perhaps spending a little more time watching TV or movies or playing electronic games.

You can help reduce the energy these electronic devices use by unplugging them or turning them on and off with a power strip to keep them from drawing power when they're not in use.



*Have a safe and happy holiday season!*

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative will be closed  
Friday, December 23;  
Monday, December 26;  
and Monday, January 2.



# We have expanded our Med-A-Lert offerings to better meet the needs of our clients!

Give a loved one the gift of safety this Christmas with a Med-A-Lert system!

Today we are introducing three new offerings to our Med-A-Lert service.



## Med-A-Lert *in case of emergency*

We still have our **Basic** package, with Linear equipment, tried and true, and only **\$25/month**.



We have added an option with **Fall Detection**. We still use the Linear system, but have added a pendant that has a Fall Detection feature. The Linear system with Fall Detection is only **\$27/month**. This pendant is water resistant (not waterproof as with the Basic package), and has a replaceable battery.



Two-way voice is now an option with our **Enhanced** system.

This system has all the features of our Basic package, but in addition allows you to communicate with the Response Center directly via the pendant. This is a great option for those who are frequently outside of the home, gardening, doing yardwork, or even going to the mailbox. A spare rechargeable battery for the pendant is kept charged in the base unit. The Enhanced system is only **\$30/month**.



*All of the above systems have the basic requirements: Working landline phone jack & power receptacle*

Complete mobility is available for the active individual with the **mobile mySHIELD** option. The mySHIELD is a cellular device, about 2 inches square. Pressing the alert button on the unit immediately puts you in direct contact with the Response Center. Your location is sent along with the call. Alerts can be sent as a text message to a number you choose to notify of an event, low battery, or power on/off. The cellular service provider is Verizon. The mySHIELD is an option wherever there is reliable Verizon cellular coverage. The mobile system is **\$35/month**.



Installation is available with all of our systems for a one-time fee of \$38.50. During the installation we will review all of the features of the system, place a test call, and verify the list of responders.

**CALL TODAY - 715.239.6800 or 800.300.6800**

### Todd Howard, President/CEO

317 S. 8th St., P.O. Box 575, Cornell, WI 54732  
715.239.6800 • 1.800.300.6800  
www.cvecoop.com

**Nicole Whipp Sime, Editor**



**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**

*CVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*