



GOVERNANCE. DOES IT MATTER?

BY JANIE VANWINKLE BOARD PRESIDENT

The group of respected farmers and ranchers who came together 88 years ago and began the process of bringing electricity to the outer reaches of rural Mesa County believed, with all their might, they had the power to change the world. They knew their urban counterparts were seeing the benefits of electrification and knew they needed to bring power to their farms and ranches, to their businesses and small communities, and to their families. They also knew if they didn't do it, no one else was going to.

It was too expensive for the utility companies to go the “last mile” to reach down the long lanes of the farm and ranch homes speckled across the area. These utility companies were focused on the cities and towns where it would be most beneficial to their profits, not the dotted landscapes of the far flung reaches of western Colorado agriculture.

Knowing how these resolute folks operate, I am sure they started putting poles in the ground and stringing wire. That is how things get done.

Somewhere in that process, I am assuming, they determined the makeup of

the cooperative and how they would govern themselves. They, and their neighbors, were invested in the success of this new cooperative venture. They knew they would need a system of governance. At some point in time, a set of rules was designed to ensure the longevity of this endeavor. Over the years, this has been modified to what we currently use as an operating system known as the Grand Valley Power Bylaws.

The GVP bylaws state: “Each member of the cooperative ... shall be entitled to vote in the election of directors on the Board of Directors ...”. You will have the opportunity to exercise this right next month, same as every year. It is a right and privilege. It is also an enormous responsibility. We all

lead busy and exhausting lives. We lay aside that ballot and think, “I will do it tomorrow” ... and tomorrow never comes.

In the past, I have shirked my responsibility in several co-ops in which our family holds memberships: the farm

supply cooperative, the farm financial cooperative, and even a credit union that is managed under a cooperative system run by the members. Typically, we receive a service from these organizations, as well

“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”
— Thomas Jefferson



JANIE VANWINKLE

as a dividend or patronage capital at some point in the year.

And then, when things change in a manner inconsistent with my thinking and beliefs, I begin to complain about how the business of the cooperative is being done. Suddenly, I am not happy with the impacts on me and my family from that cooperative. Who is responsible for management of that organization? The members. But many of

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to members, consumers, and the public. Due to schedule conflicts, the July meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, July 25 at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building ten 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.

GOVERNANCE. DOES IT MATTER?

us failed to vote for directors on the board. In the past several years, I have begun to see even more clearly why my vote matters.

The Grand Valley Power board has a responsibility to ensure safe, affordable, and reliable power to our membership.

The list of values that hangs on the wall in the GVP boardroom reminds us:

- 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.

The last line states “delivering value to all we serve.” If you believe this is true, as I do, you will participate and vote to ensure that all views are represented. As members

of the cooperative, we need directors willing to look at the interests of all members, not a director beholden to a special interest group only focusing on a certain segment of the membership.

All voices need to be represented and heard. This happens only if votes are cast by all the membership. You are a member. You choose to live in a rural area served by a rural electric cooperative. Take advantage of all the perks of membership ... vote!

RSVP

Members who RSVP online for the 2024 Annual Meeting will be entered into an exclusive drawing for a \$150 bill credit. *Scan the QR code below or visit gvp.org/art*

RSVP BY JULY 30

Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 | 5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Colorado Mesa University - Meyer Ballroom
1100 North Avenue | Grand Junction, CO 81501

FREE DINNER & GIFT | BUSINESS UPDATE | \$2,000 IN DOOR PRIZES!

GRAND VALLEY POWER
Empowering Lives with Hometown Service
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Vote by August 8 in the GVP Director Election

As a cooperative member, each eligible Grand Valley Power account holder or spouse has the right to vote for up to three directors. Members have only one ballot per election, regardless of the number of accounts or meters with GVP.

Director ballots will be mailed to eligible account holders this month. Members can return their ballot by mail or drop the ballot in our secure ballot box in the lobby.

The lobby is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction. The deadline to return ballots is Thursday, August 8 at 4 p.m.

Members may also vote in person at the annual membership meeting. The meeting will be held in person at Colorado Mesa University on Thursday, August 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Meyer Ballroom. RSVP online to attend the meeting at gvp.org/art.

CO-OP CALENDAR

- Independence Day (Office Closed) - Thursday, July 4
- Christmas in July at Glade Park Movies Under the Stars, featuring “The Santa Clause” - Friday, July 19 at 6 p.m.
- July Board Meeting - Thursday, July 25
- Director Election Ballots Due - Thursday, August 8 by 4 p.m.



Spread Cheer at Movies Under the Stars: Christmas in July Event

DONATE A NEW TOY, WATCH "THE SANTA CLAUSE"

While your summer shades might block any visions of sugar plums this time of year, you can still spread holiday cheer by joining us on Friday, July 19 for Glade Park Movies Under the Stars: Christmas in July. Grand Valley Power and U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots will collect new, unwrapped toys to distribute during the holiday season to kids ages 0-15 living in low-income households. The first 100 families that donate a new, unwrapped toy at the Christmas in July event will receive a cozy, GVP-branded throw blanket.

"The Santa Clause" will be shown. Admission is free. No outside food and drinks are permitted, but food will be available for purchase from the concessions stand with proceeds to benefit the Glade Park Volunteer Fire Department. The gates and concession stand open at 5:30 p.m. The grill opens at 6 p.m. at the Glade Park Fire Station, 16400 DS Road. The movie begins at dusk.

Glade Park
MOVIES UNDER THE STARS
FRIDAY, JULY 19
GLADE PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
 16400 DS Road
 Grill opens at 6 p.m.
 Movie at dusk
FREE ADMISSION!
 The first 100 families to bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots will receive a cozy, GVP-branded blanket!

Logos for Grand Valley Power and Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots are also present.

NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH WORD SEARCH

July is National Grilling Month! Can you find all the words associated with grilling in the puzzle below? Use the word bank as a guide.

B H C D F T N U Z R B J R Q G
 O A U F O N H R K Q S H E F V
 M A R N X U J O R W Z N M B L
 W M G B F B X L F P O K M V Z
 X S J A E Z K M O R F S U B T
 E S R P N Q I V P H P R S H V
 X C D L L F U A L A C B K P J
 V K J N A E B E T M E V K V X
 J X O Y E K D U T B C H N I J
 W N P T B I L C P U T Y T Y F
 N C C N J A R O C R C G C D A
 Y T W V C Z A F W G M E W B M
 O D G R I L L A R E O U X W I
 U L T K U S Q N V R S Q U B L
 L E T K S O Q R G O D T O H Y



WORD BANK

- Hamburger
- Spatula
- Hot Dog
- Friends
- Summer
- Apron
- Grill
- Barbeque
- Family
- Tongs

WIRED WISDOM

Knowledge for Powering Your Life

Programmable Thermostats

- **Convenience:** Set a schedule that adapts to your routine - reducing energy use while not at home.
- **Precision:** Adjust temperatures more efficiently. Manual thermostats have up to a five-degree variance; programmable thermostats vary between one-half to one degree.
- **Energy and money saving:** Programmable thermostats allow you to manage your energy resources more effectively, which maintains longevity of systems and appliances.

Questions? Call GVP to learn more: (970) 242-0040

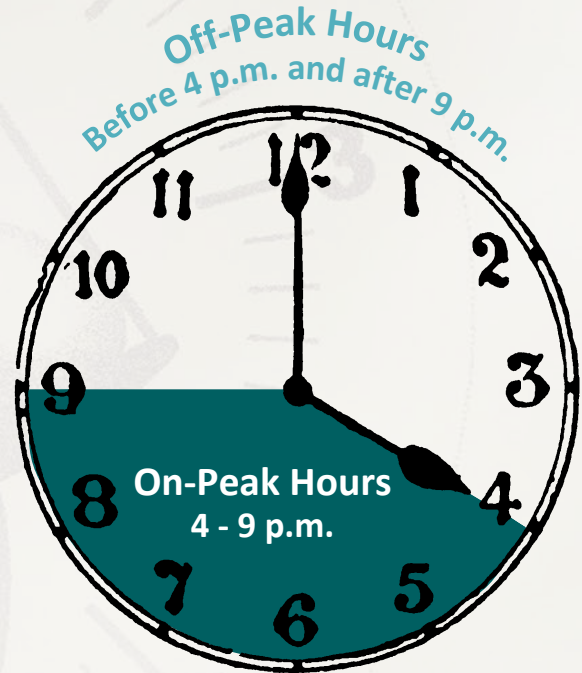
Understanding Time-of-Use

When members use energy is just as important as **how much** they use!

By shifting your energy use to off-peak hours, you can save on your electricity bill.

Electricity rates are lower during “**off-peak**” hours (before 4 p.m. and after 9 p.m.) when energy demand is lower.

Electricity rates are higher during “**on-peak**” hours (between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.) when members arrive home from work and use home appliances, creating a higher energy demand.



SHIFT YOUR ENERGY USE

Summer Savings Tips



Thermostat: If you have a smart thermostat, program it to a higher temperature while you are away. Pre-cool your home during the off-peak hours for additional savings.



Appliances: Wash full loads of laundry or dishes. Wash and dry loads of laundry prior to 4 p.m. and set your dishwasher to run after 9 p.m.



HVAC System: Clean your HVAC or evaporative cooling system. Clean the coils, change filters, and rinse or wipe down vent covers. This will help your system run more efficiently.



Power strips: Reduce power drawn by appliances and electronics even in standby mode by using power strips. Turn power strips off before you leave home.

