

## On Transparency and Member Engagement

Feb. 27, 2012

To the Golden Valley Electric Association Board of Directors,

For more than two decades, I have been advocating for increased transparency of our cooperative to the co-op members, who include more than 95% of residents in Interior Alaska from Denali to Haystack to Delta. I hope we can all agree that an active membership would be an asset to the cooperative, considering that many of you have decried the lack of membership involvement (except for the chance to win a big or little prize by registering and attending the annual meeting). By encouraging the members to be informed, I submit they will be more engaged. With the internet now available to members, this makes many solutions very feasible at little or no cost.

I can count some long-fought successes such as posting of Board meeting minutes to the website, but more opportunities remain. In many previous meetings, I have spoken to the remaining opportunities with concrete suggestions. Since I rarely see or hear a positive response, I'd like to offer these succinctly and in writing so each Board member can have their own copy to put on their wall, checking off as they go. I will be doing the same.

Most of these suggestions are at no cost or little cost to GVEA.

1. For members, a more complete meeting packet (with attachments) at the meeting and posted online for GVEA Board meetings. This packet should be kept online historically even when minutes from that meeting are posted. Note that this used to be the case until over a year ago. It would be an asset to members, staff, and Board alike if the packet was text indexed or indexable, thus searchable. Maybe you now receive documents this way, be assured the membership doesn't.
2. Post a list of GVEA committees on which Board members serve and the membership of those committees. Post notices of meetings and notes from those meetings to the extent contents not subject to executive session. See 3. below.
3. Post a list of external organizations to which Board members represent GVEA as a Board or organization and, if not too onerous, a calendar online when these organizations regularly schedule meetings or conferences.

GVEA Board Survey

Feb. 28, 2012

Would you be willing to work to create or enact any of the following suggestions for member engagement and GVEA transparency?

- I will work to accomplish all of the items below
- I will not work to accomplish any of the items below
- I will work to accomplish only those items checked below

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | 1. Post complete meeting packet and maintain historically |
|  | 2. Post list of GVEA committees and membership            |
|  | 3. Post a list of external committee membership           |
|  | 4. Notification system                                    |
|  | 5. 'Parsimonious' executive sessions                      |
|  | 6. Executive session notice                               |
|  | 7. Subsidiary transparency                                |
|  | 8. District based two way communication                   |
|  | 9. MAC transparency                                       |
|  | 10. Webcast Board meetings                                |
|  | 11. Post Board policies                                   |
|  | 12. Post Form 7   |

District you represent (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

I want my responses to be confidential

Thank you for participating and responding