



Farewell Message from Chuck Pinson

It is with mixed emotions that I write this farewell message to the Central Valley Electric Cooperative membership. As you may know, I will be retiring at the end of January. While I am excited for the next part of my journey, I also feel sad about leaving the cooperative and the employees I dearly love.

It seems like just yesterday I began my career at CVE. In 1985, I graduated from New Mexico State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and at the time, there wasn't a high demand for engineers. So, needing to pay the bills, I went to work for John Joiner, a small dirt contractor in Artesia. I often said that I was the most educated ditch digger and dump truck operator in New Mexico. But, as luck would have it, we were working on a parking lot project for a senior living facility, and Frank Devine with CVE was also working on the project to install power. I asked if the co-op needed an engineer and was told they were looking for a surveyor. I applied for the position and was fortunate that my General Manager predecessor, Howard Price, offered me a position in the engineering department. I began my career at CVE on February 16, 1986. In my nearly 39-year career with CVE, I have held multiple positions, including Surveyor, Staking Engineer, Chief Engineer, and Director of Operations and Engineering, and in September 2001, I was promoted to General Manager.

Over this period, I have seen sweeping changes at CVE. Back in the Frank Devine and Howard Price days, every meter was read monthly by our servicemen or contract meter readers. Service trucks were provided with very large books of maps of the co-op system. The load switching on the distribution system was done by strategically locating personnel at substations and switching points and systematically directing them by two-way radio to open or close devices. Every powerline was surveyed with the use of a transit and metal tape measure called a chain. Today, CVE uses an automated metering infrastructure platform to read electric meters remotely. This is coupled with an outage management system that alerts our personnel of outages and predicts what

device caused the outage. Servicemen are equipped with iPads that show the location of powerlines and outages. All of CVE's substations are included in our SCADA system, which allows the co-op to operate the various devices right from the office. This has helped reduce the number of personnel necessary to switch loads. Today powerlines are surveyed using global positioning systems. The days of the transit and chain are gone.

CVE has become very technologically advanced for a small utility. Members should know that the co-op's electric rates are low, and the employees focus on serving the members' needs. **I have focused on two goals over my 23 years as the General Manager. 1) protect the members and 2) protect the employees. I felt that if these goals were achieved, the cooperative would be successful.**

In July 2024, the CVE Board of Trustees searched extensively for the co-op's next General Manager, with many potential applicants. I am pleased to announce that the Board has chosen Mr. Wade Nelson as CVE's new General Manager. Wade has been with CVE for over 26 years and is currently the Manager of Distribution Engineering. Wade is extremely devoted and loyal to CVE, and I have no doubt the cooperative will continue to succeed with him at the helm.



I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given at Central Valley Electric Cooperative and the tremendous support I have received from the Board, the employees, and from many of you. I will miss these relationships and the gratifying sense of always fighting the good fight the most.

It has been my pleasure to serve you.

Thank you,
Chuck Pinson

New General Manager Announced



The Central Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees would like to announce Chuck Pinson's retirement from the co-op after more than 38 years. Chuck started at CVE in 1986 in the engineering department and, in 2001, took over as the General Manager. After many years of dedicated leadership, Chuck will step down and retire effective January 31, 2025.

At the same time, CVE is excited to introduce Wade Nelson as the incoming General Manager of Central Valley Electric Cooperative. Wade has worked in CVE's engineering department for more than 25 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from New Mexico State University and is currently the co-op's Manager of Distribution Engineering. Wade will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position.

"We are incredibly grateful for Chuck Pinson's leadership and commitment to the growth and success of CVE over the years," said Chuck Wagner, CVE Board President. "Under Chuck's [Pinson] guidance, we have achieved significant milestones and built a strong foundation for continued success. We wish him the very best in this next chapter."

"We are also excited to welcome Wade Nelson as the co-op's new General Manager. Wade has a proven track record, and we are confident that he will drive the co-op forward into the next phase of innovation and growth."

Wade expressed excitement about taking on the leadership role: "Over the years, I have seen CVE grow into an exemplary cooperative thanks to the vision and leadership of Chuck Pinson. I am honored to continue building on that foundation. I am grateful to the Board for entrusting me with this opportunity. There are new challenges ahead, but I am fortunate to have the support of CVE's exceptional employees. Together, we will work to uphold and advance the cooperative's mission of providing reliable and affordable service to our members."

CVE ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE



CVE will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 15, at the Estelle Yates Auditorium.
Look for more information coming soon.

Welcome New Employee



Hector Tarin
Groundman

Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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