

October is National Cooperative Month



October is National Cooperative Month and CVEA would like you to help us celebrate the Cooperative difference! Cooperatives are different because they are democratically governed businesses, organized under the Seven Cooperative Principles, which anchor them firmly in the communities they serve and ensuring that they are closely regulated by their members.

Seven Cooperative Principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Commitment to Community

During Cooperative Month each year, CVEA focuses on two Cooperative Principles, 'education, training, and information' and 'commitment to community'.

Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education, information, and training for members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

CVEA works hard to keep members informed of important things going on in their cooperative. Each year in April, CVEA holds an Annual Membership Meeting to announce Director

election results and update members on the accomplishments of the past year.

Throughout the year, CVEA includes current information on projects and issues important to the membership on the official CVEA website, cvea.org, on the CVEA Facebook page, and in *Ruralite*, the CVEA monthly magazine. CVEA also utilizes the local newspapers and radio stations, when necessary, to keep members informed.

Each year, CVEA takes this principle one step further with the Copper Valley Electric Connections Program. CVEA invites members, who have been identified as large stakeholders, opinion leaders, members who are willing to work with the cooperative for mutual benefit, and members who have shown interest in the cooperative, to become more closely connected to their cooperative.

This program keeps participants up to date on important projects and industry and legislative issues as well as provides members an opportunity to ask questions, share their opinions, and get involved. It gives interested members the chance to stay connected and make a difference.

As part of the program, CVEA distributes a *Co-op Connections Newsletter* to program members throughout the year and hosts a Connections Luncheon during Co-op Month each October.

Anyone interested in staying more connected to their Cooperative can be a part of this program, simply contact your local office and let them know you would like to 'get connected'.

Commitment to Community

CVEA has a strong commitment to the communities where our members work and live. Demonstrating this commitment is a business principle that CVEA practices year round, contributing to the community in countless ways.

To further CVEA's commitment to the community, CVEA created the CVEA Community Foundation (CVEACF) to provide scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations within the community. The CVEACF is funded by capital credits that have escheated back to CVEA, generous donations from CVEA members and vendors, and fundraisers.

Each year the CVEACF awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to graduating high school seniors, adults attending Prince William Sound Community College (PWSCC), high school sophomores and juniors attending the Idaho Youth Rally Leadership Camp, and to students selected to attend the National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

In 2011, the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment



(WISE) and the CVEACF, along with Copper Valley Telecom, launched the *Junior Scientist Program*, a program that brings hands-on science projects and education to our schools in the Copper Basin. This program has met with great success and will hopefully be extended to the Valdez District in the future. The Foundation is also a sponsor of the new Valdez Middle School LEGO Robotics Club. This program was a huge success in the elementary school and CVEA looks forward to the success of the new club as well.

Your Cooperative supports other education and youth programs including the Kenny Lake Library Summer Literacy Camp, the Valdez Science Fair, the Glennallen PTO, the Wrangell Mountain Center's cultural education programs, the Valdez Cooperative Preschool, and the Youth Environmental Summit hosted by the Native Village of Gakona.

CVEA also supports community groups and events such as the Kenny Lake Community League Fun Run/Walk, ROAR, the Copper Basin Senior Citizens, the Valdez Relay for Life, the Copper River Emergency Medical Services, the Valdez Museum, the Copper River Basin Chamber of Commerce, KCAM, and the AHTNA Heritage Foundation to name a few.

This cooperative month, CVEA would like to show appreciation for their members by hosting an open house in each district. CVEA employees welcome members to visit the office, grab a hotdog, and check out the Cooperative's new alternative energy displays. A FREE CFL lightbulb will be given to the first 200 adults in each district. Anyone making a donation of \$10 or more to the Community Foundation will be entered to win a \$150 CVEA Energy Credit.

Join us at the Valdez office on Tuesday, October 16 and at the Glennallen office on Wednesday, October 17. Both will take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

For additional information on these or any other CVEA or CVEA Community Foundation programs, contact Sharon Crisp, Manager of Member Services, at 822-5006, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. ■



Top Left, Kenny Lake Library Literacy Camp participants enjoying Stellaluna Readers' Theatre. Photo courtesy Kenny Lake Library

Top, CVEACF President Jim Manning with the 2012 Valdez Scholarship Award Winners.

Middle, CVEA representative Chris Botulinski presents Shawn Stewart with the Best Electrical prize at the 2012 Valdez Science Fair.

Above, Bruce James of WISE working with Jacob Gottschalk to demonstrate the effects of static electricity on balloons while Mary Marie Wallace and other classmates watch closely.