

CVEA Celebrated Co-op Month In a Big Way This October



In October, Copper Valley Electric Association joined cooperatives in Alaska and across America to celebrate National Cooperative Month. Every October cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique; the Seven Cooperative Principles: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

"Cooperatives are special," says Sharon Crisp, CVEA Manager of Member Services. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and be involved in and enhance our communities."

CVEA celebrated this year's Cooperative Month with events throughout October that brought the cooperative and community together.

Co-op Month kicked off with an Open House and Community Foundation Fundraiser on Thursday and Friday, October 1 and 2, in Glennallen and Valdez, respectively. Those who stopped by enjoyed a free hotdog lunch, free gifts, door prizes, and a chance to win a \$50 and \$350 CVEA energy credit. They also got the inside scoop on Allison Creek and were able to join the team in support of the Community Foundation. Dave Winney won the \$350 credit in Valdez and Shannon Saavedra won in the Copper Basin. Renee Ernster, of Valdez,

and Coreen Palacios, of Glennallen, both won a \$50 credit.

The Co-op raised \$390 in direct donations and another \$552 was committed each year. Additionally, 31 people began rounding up their bill. All the money raised helps support the CVEA Community Foundation, whose mission is to provide scholarships to students and contributions to local non-profit organizations in our communities.

In true cooperative spirit, CVEA and CV Telecom partnered on a successful week-long food drive, October 12-16. Thanks to members' donations, your local Cooperatives were able to bring a large amount of non-perishable food items to the Food Bank in Valdez and the Pregnancy Center in Glennallen; giving both organizations the ability to provide extra assistance to their clients as we head into winter.

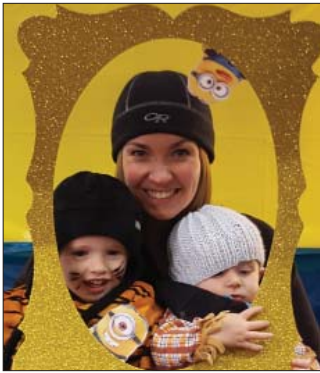
People who brought food were rewarded with an entry into a drawing for a \$100 CVEA or CVT credit. Valdez winners were Sheila Jordan and Linda Tousignant, and Copper Basin winners were Ethel Johnson and Roy Becker!

The 2015 Downtown Glennallen Halloween Spooktacular was a HUGE success on Friday, October 30. Approximately 130 kids, joined by their adult friends and family, hit the highway in search of candy and fun; and they found it, at close to 30 businesses who participated in CVEA's event.

This year CVEA stepped it up decking the halls and dressing up as Minions. Both offices offered up five candy stops, gave away a free gift, and had a Minion photo booth complete with a printed photo to take home. CVEA wasn't alone as several businesses went beyond candy and had fun decorations and activities. In Glennallen, Crossroads Medical Center, along with local church groups, held a 'trunk or treat' and even had hotdogs.

The CVEA Valdez office saw approximately 500 kids on Thursday, October 29, as part of the downtown trick-or-treat event. Fun was had by all and CVEA was pleased to be a part of community businesses in creating a fun, safe, and easy to access trick or treating experience for kids young and old.

When CVEA employees weren't handing out hotdogs or dressing up as Minions, they spent their lunch hour each week throughout the month of October processing recyclables at the Recycling Our Areas Resources Recycling Center in downtown Glennallen. Copper Basin employees generously donate their time to this cause each October during Co-op Month. Finally, CVEA held its annual Ruralite Cover Photo Contest. Winners



Opposite page, employees in the Glennallen office get into the Halloween Spooktacular spirit in the Minion themed photo booth

Top left, Erin, Liam, and Noah Stark enjoying Halloween fun at CVEA and Zak and Gray Odencrans enjoy the hotdog lunch during the Valdez Open House

Middle left, Copper Basin employees volunteer every week each October recycling goods at the ROAR recycling center in Glennallen

Bottom left, some of the non-perishable items collected in Valdez during the Co-op Month Food Drive

Left, Lindsay Malone and family pose for a photo at the CVEA Halloween event in Glennallen

Top right, the CVEA Valdez Minion crew

Middle right, Misty Rude drops off food from the Co-op Month food drive with Betty at the Copper Basin Pregnancy Center and CEO Duhamel talks to Copper Basin members about the Allison Creek Hydroelectric project at the Open House

Above, CVEA CEO John Duhamel and Nancy Heidelberg pose for a photo with Valdez member, Carol Crisp, at the Valdez Open House & Fundraiser

are announced on page 32 of this issue!!

Congratulations to all CVEA winners and a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the CVEA Co-op Month events this year. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding Co-op Month or any other CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Crisp, Manager of Member Services, at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. ■