



Celebrating the Cooperative Spirit

October is National Cooperative Month. Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) and Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative (CVTC) are joining forces to promote the cooperative difference.

Since 1930, Cooperative Month has celebrated the fact that cooperatives make a difference because they are different. Cooperatives are member-owned and democratically controlled. This means co-ops are accountable to their member-owners.

Working together is not new to your local utility providers as they operated as one unit for a decade just following the 1964 earthquake. In 1974, when demand was great for both utilities, the CVEA/CVTC Board of Directors voted to separate. CVEA established headquarters in Glennallen and CVTC in Valdez. Both continue to support offices in each district.

CVEA is owned by the people it serves and has gone from 38 member-owners at the first general meeting held in May of 1955 to over 3,600 today.

The year the switch was thrown in Glennallen in February 1959, 114 members purchased 916,000 kWhs distributed over 48 miles of line. Today CVEA sells 76 million kWhs annually over 500 miles of distribution and transmission lines.

CVEA keeps its commitment to you, the member-owners by meeting our communities' energy needs with a diverse energy supply mix, including renewables.



Diverse power generation capabilities result in lower costs and increased reliability for you, the consumer.

Hydropower has become an integral part of CVEA's power production. Solomon Gulch became the cooperative's primary power source in May 1982 and supplies approximately 60% of power today.

In 2000, CVEA added the cogeneration facility to its portfolio. The cogeneration plant began commercial operation on April 24, 2000, and today supplies 25% of CVEA's generation. Roughly 15% of annual system requirements are generated with diesel fuel.

CVTC has been your member-owned telephone cooperative for 47

years. Service started in Glennallen in 1961 and expanded to Valdez in 1964.

CVTC now has approximately 3,000 members and encompasses over 9,400 square service miles which includes the communities of Valdez, Glennallen, Chitina, Tatitlek, Mentasta and McCarthy.

CVTC is Alaska's 6th largest telephone company in terms of access lines.

CVTC has grown from a local telephone to a full communication provider offering telephone, business solutions, internet, wireless and digital phones, satellite television, and most recently long distance service.

Your local utility cooperatives generate close to 100 jobs and hundreds of thousands in income for the communities they serve while also supporting local causes ranging from education to the environment.

Not only do CVEA and CVTC work for their member-owners, but their member-owners work for them. CVTC and its subsidiaries employ 40 Valdez residents and 10 Copper River Valley residents.

CVEA has 39 employees, all of whom live and work within the CVEA service area. "It is a tremendous benefit to all of our members to have local, knowledgeable employees to support their needs", says Dave Dengel, CVTC CEO.

CVEA and CVTC have strong commitments to the communities where members live and work. Demonstrating this commitment doesn't just happen once a year. It's a business principle that CVEA and CVTC practice year round through economic development programs, charitable giving, educational activities, and other community involvement.

Combined, CVEA and CVTC donate over \$30,000 each year to support organizations and events.

Additionally, both organizations donate thousands of dollars each year in scholarships to high school graduates in the Valdez and Copper Basin Districts.

When asked what your local cooperatives think make them special, they say that they are



2007 Copper River EMS Auction, partially sponsored by CVEA and CVTC.

member-owned which allows customers to have a voice by voting for the Board of Directors and changes to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

Members are also offered unique opportunities to participate by running for a position on the Board of Directors or serving on the Scholarship or Election Committees.

Capital Credits are another unique aspect of the cooperative form of business. Excess revenues are allocated back to members as capital credits and these credits are periodically refunded to members.

Since 2002, CVEA and CVTC combined have refunded \$4,435,650.42 to member owners.

Join CVEA and CVTC this year in celebrating Cooperative Month. Listen to KVAK in Valdez and KCAM in the Copper Basin all month long for insight into the cooperative difference and to hear interesting facts regarding local utility cooperative history.

Call in to win CVEA energy certificates and CVTC service certificates. One grand prize will be announced at the end of the month long celebration. Listen for details.

For more information regarding either utility or to find out how you can take advantage of your cooperative benefits, please contact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, at 835-7005 or crisp@cvea.org, or Joanne Winney, CVTC Marketing and Public Relations Manager, at 835-2231 or jwinney@cvtc.org. ■



CVTC Project Santa Program.



2006 CVEA Capital Credit Check Presented to Valdez City Council.



2007 CVEA Copper Basin Scholarship Winners.



CVTC Angel Tree Program.