2008 Annual Meeting Recap

CVEA experienced near record turnouts, with over 400 people attending the 2008 Annual Meeting of members held in Valdez on April 15 and Glennallen on April 17.

Members were given up-to-date information on issues that are affecting their Cooperative. CEO Robert Wilkinson discussed the Allison Lake hydroelectric project outlining the next steps, the timeline for completion, and the benefits it promises to bring CVEA members.

The message also outlined current Legislative issues, including HB152, the Renewable Energy Bill, and other issues of interest that are affecting the electric industry.

Also discussed was the ongoing rate study. As the work on the rate study progresses, the Board's goals are to ensure that the Cooperative maintains sound financial health while minimizing the impact to customers. Members heard a new plan for billing the Fuel and Purchased Power Costs as they are incurred and a program to help residential customers deal with the high cost of power.

The Residential Fuel Credit, proposed to begin in the fall of 2008, will use cogen heat revenue to credit against residential consumers' power bills during the winter. The amount is unknown as of yet, but is conservatively estimated to be 5-6 cents per kWh.

In addition to reports, CVEA members were encouraged to ask questions about issues that were important to them and Mr. Wilkinson was on hand to respond. CVEA members in both districts had lengthy question and answer sessions.

Other highlights included the announcement of the Board of Director election results (see pg. 32), the introduction of the 2008 scholarship award recipients, and the launch of the newly updated cvea.org.

Every person in attendance was given a goody bag containing energy efficient gifts and information intended to encourage members to take a hard look at conservation. These items helped carry an overriding message of the meeting, that one way members can control their power costs is to control their energy usage.

Members also received a ticket making them eligible for door prizes, one of the favorite parts of the annual meeting each year. This year a whopping 67 prizes were given to members in each district.

Prizes included household items, gift certificates, electronics and $1,525 in cash! The grand prize was a CVEA beater! Marlynn Bell won the Ford F250 4X4 in the Valdez district, and Elbert Thompson won a Ford Explorer in the Copper Basin District.

CVEA would like to congratulate our winners and thank everyone who took the time to attend the meeting.