



# WHO, ME? VOTE? WHY BOTHER?


**Guest Editorial By Eric Stratton, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association**



**H**ow many times have you heard, or even made the statement, “Who, me? Vote? Why bother? I’m only one person, and it doesn’t make a difference anyway.” Imagine if your state and federal representatives had this attitude when it came time for them to cast a vote on a critical piece of legislation. In all likelihood, they wouldn’t remain in office for very long. This is because most Americans feel that their elected officials have the responsibility to vote and represent them on issues of public policy—it’s in the representatives’ job description. However, as a citizen of the United States, it is just as much YOUR responsibility and YOUR job to elect the people who will determine the laws and policies that govern your life and your livelihood as it is for them to cast their votes on legislation.



**T**uesday, November 5, is your day—your day to vote, and your date to make your voice heard on the issues important to you and your family, your community, and the country. This year, all states and U.S. territories will hold elections for the U.S. Congress. All 435 House of Representatives seats and 33 Senate



seats will be up for grabs. In addition, many states will also hold elections for governor, state legislature, and local offices. In other words, there is a lot at stake this time around.

If you have never voted or become involved in the electoral process, now is a perfect time. Start by registering to vote. These days, you have several ways to do this. You can contact your local voter registration office, stop at your state department of motor vehicles office and fill out a form, or you can even register online at [www.beavoter.org](http://www.beavoter.org). If you have moved, changed names, or not voted in recent elections, you should check to make

sure you are on the polling lists and your information is accurate. To do this, call the city or county clerk’s office to verify your status. And remember that there are registration deadlines, so make sure you register early.

It is also critically important to be an informed voter. Empower yourself with knowledge about the candidates and issues before making the trip to the polls. Obtain literature about the candidates who are running in your area, attend events where they will be speaking, or visit their campaign headquarters to learn more about them. If you have an opportunity, introduce yourself to the candidates and get to know them. And just as important, when they knock on your door, take a minute to let them know about the issues that are important to you. Your elected officials can

only represent you if they are aware of your concerns.

You should also become an active voter. The more that you know about the issues and candidates, the more influential you can be to other voters. Therefore, volunteer to work on voter registration drives, candidate forums, or even the campaign of a specific candidate. Make phone calls from your home, knock on doors in your neighborhood, or pass out

literature at work. Volunteers are an important element to every successful campaign.

The bottom line is that the single greatest equalizing factor in American politics is the ballot box. No amount of money in the world matters to a campaign if the candidate does not get the votes to win. And this is exactly why your opinion—and your vote—makes a difference. So exercise your right to vote on November 5. And if you don’t vote, don’t complain. ■

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## Important Elections

**Governor ?**

**Assembly ?**

**Senate ?**

**Congressional ?**

**Local Offices ?**

**Referendums ?**

**Are these elections important to you?  
Make sure you exercise your right to  
vote on November 5, 2002**

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**GO VOTE !**



# **GREAT FOOD, GREAT TIME**

## **Co-op Luncheon Was Well Attended by the Members**

**B**lessed with a beautiful day, hundreds of co-op members attended the annual luncheon celebrating Cooperative Month. Held at the Greenwood American Legion Hall in Greenwood, the day started off at 11 a.m., and we continued serving food until 2 p.m. Hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, beans, and ice cream was just some of the good food available. Many members received prizes that were donated by Clark Electric Cooperative and the other local cooperatives that serve its members.

Each year, Clark Electric Cooperative celebrates cooperative month with some of our other local cooperatives, such as Land O' Lakes, North Hendren Dairy Cooperative, Heartland Cooperative, and Dairy Farmers of America. All of their members and ours help make this month special by remembering what your cooperative does for you. ■

*Some members enjoy their lunch while helping to celebrate Cooperative Month.*



## **BIDS FOR CAR**

**B**ids will be accepted for a 1993 Pontiac bright white Bonneville. It has 139,000 + miles, AM-FM, cassette, with AC and cruise. V-6, 3800. Bid deadline is noon of December 4, 2002. Clark Electric reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Send bids to the attention of Dick Adler, Clark Electric Cooperative, 124 N. Main St., P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437. ■

## **Cooperative Car to be Offered**





## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ELECTRICITY

This fall the Greenwood eighth-grade science class took its annual trip to one of our substations. This field trip allows the students to learn and ask questions about electricity and its applications.

Mr. Post, the eighth-grade teacher, explains that this practical exercise is great for his students, as they get to apply what they are learning about and see the distribution system up close. The kids enjoy the morning out of the classroom, but they don't get out of the work. There are worksheets



Above, Inside the substation, Jim Schemensky, lineman, explains to students how electricity gets to their homes. Left, Lineman Mike Ruff and Apprentice lineman Chad Stephen talk to students about equipment used to find and fix problems that might be happening with the electricity.



to be completed and questions to be answered about the field day.

If your group or school would like representatives of Clark Electric Cooperative to come out and talk to them about electricity and its various

applications, please contact our office. Besides offering this type of training, the cooperative also has a hot-line demonstration that shows the dangers of electricity and how to be safe around powerlines. ■

## Special Notice

**Our offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of Thanksgiving. Our offices will be open again for regular business hours on Saturday, November 30. If you have an outage or emergency, please call our after-hours number to get service, 1-800-927-5707**



# FALL LOAD MANAGEMENT TEST

## Making Sure Everyone Is Ready for Winter

Each year around this time, Dairyland Power Cooperative tests the load management system, which controls the electric heat at times of peak use. This test helps to determine that the system is operational and ready to work.

This test is also a reminder to members who utilize the dual fuel portion of our heating rate that their system must be up and ready to take over the heating load if we interrupt the load. For those who have automatic backup such as an ETS system, they can make sure the backup system is also working properly. ■



**The Test Date Is:**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2002**

**Alert Notices: 4:50 p.m.**

**Control Starts: 5:00 p.m.**

**Restoral Starts: 8:05 p.m., all loads by 11:15 p.m.**



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WWW.CECCOP.COM

# \$1,000.00

## REWARD FOR

### VANDALISM • THEFT • FRAUD

For information leading to the conviction of anyone for damaging the property of Clark Electric Cooperative, or damaging property resulting in interruption of service to members of Clark Electric Cooperative. Further information concerning the defrauding or unauthorized use of the cooperative's electricity (stealing of power, where no metering is occurring).

Please call the cooperative's office at  
800-272-6188 • 715-267-6188

or your local Sheriff's Department with information.

This is your cooperative. By informing us,  
you're protecting your investment—your cooperative.