

ARK VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

the FLASH

Monthly Readership Drawing

RON LANGEL is the winner of our monthly \$25 readership drawing. Ron, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley Electric before January 31, and give us the account number from your bill.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Ass'n, Inc., is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Bob Hall, General Manager, of Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Ass'n, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Ark Valley Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular monthly meeting at the Cooperative's office in South Hutchinson on November 29, 2010.

The November Board Meeting proved to have an ambitious agenda. The Board began by considering whether it should support two zero-interest loan applications. Qualifying businesses are eligible to receive a loan up to \$740,000 at zero percent interest from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

To apply, however, they have to have the support of a rural electric cooperative, like Ark Valley. In this case, the Board approved to sponsor both projects, one being in Kingman County and the other in Rice County. Now the applications will be submit-

ted to the USDA for further review.

The Board of Trustees also adopted changes to the Cooperative employees' cafeteria plan. The changes were made in order to conform with recent changes to federal law passed in the Healthcare Act. Most notably is the requirement that children up to the age of 26 are allowed to stay on a parent's health insurance plan.

Lastly, an accountant from Schmidt and Company, an accounting firm specializing in rural electric cooperative audits, gave a presentation to the Board about the recent audit findings. The report did not find any discrepancies with the Cooperative's accounting practices and noted the Cooperative was in good financial standing.

Ark Valley Trustee & Manager Achieve Credentials

PAUL PENNER, Board President, and **BOB HALL**, General Manager, from Ark Valley Electric Co-op have received the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Penner and Hall were recognized at NRECA's Region VII meeting for their commitment to education and attainment of the Board Leadership Certificate before an audience of electric cooperative officials from four states—including Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative trustees, particu-

larly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills, and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Trustee. Trustees who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.



Bob Hall



Paul Penner

Nominating Committee Appointed

WALDO FROESE

1222 Buckskin Rd.
Inman, KS 67546

KEITH HESTER

2900 N. Jefferson
Hutchinson, KS 67502

MARLIN SITTNER

570 3rd Rd.
Ellinwood, KS 67526

RANDY GOERING

22806 S. Mohawk Rd.
Pretty Prairie, KS 67570

DUANE PANEK

15760 NW 20 St.
Cunningham, KS 67035

FLOYD WEBSTER

4717 E. Lake Cable Rd.
Haven, KS 67543

DEREK ZONGKER

1606 S. Avery Rd.
Plevna, KS 67568

The By-Laws the cooperative provide that the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Committee on Nominations.

The Board has appointed the members listed at left. The terms of Steve Goering, Keith McNickle, and John Steffen will expire at the Annual Meeting of Members on April 12, 2011.

The Committee on Nominations met on Tuesday, December 28, 2010, for the purpose of making nominations for a Trustee to fill this vacancy. The Committee will post a list of nominations in the cooperative's office. Additional information concerning each

candidate will be published in the Annual Report, which each member will receive prior to the Annual Meeting.

Other nominations may be made by a signed petition of 15 or more members, not less than 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations will be posted in the cooperative office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Trustees consists of seven members. The present Board members are: Paul Penner, Inman: President; John Steffen, Cunningham: Vice-President; Steve Goering, Inman: Secretary; Joseph Seiwert, Pretty Prairie: Treasurer; C. Budd Fountain, Langdon; Keith McNickle, Stafford; and Steve Schweizer, Plevna.

An Annual Meeting of Members shall be held each year in Hutchinson, usually between March 15 and April 15, unless the Board of Trustees shall designate by resolution some other city, place, date, and/or time.

The next Annual Meeting of Members will be held on April 12, at the North Sunflower Building on the State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Another Affordable Energy Efficiency Tool for You

BY DOUG RYE

I receive many, many calls about hot attics. Well, it may not be super hot in your attic now, but now is the best time to make energy improvements there. I actually had a fellow call me while writing this column to ask about installing a radiant barrier in his attic. It is a nice cool day today. I told him to do like most folks and wait until it was a hot summer day with the attic temperature at about 150 degrees. He laughed and I commended him for planning ahead.

I'm going to give you a short course on residential radiant barriers. But first let me explain why the attic gets so hot.

The rays of the sun hit the roof. The roof gets hot. Some rays are reflected back to the atmosphere, but others actually go right through the roofing materials. The attic air is heated and the attic insulation absorbs much of the heat, thereby creating a super hot attic.

A residential radiant barrier is any product that can stop the radiant heat. It usually consists of sheets of aluminum foil, although it can be an aluminum-type paint. Some folks say that it is okay to just place that foil on the top of the attic insulation. That may actually help some, but it does not prevent the attic from getting hot. And if you have ductwork in the attic, it will still get hot. It is also my opinion that the product will lose its efficiency as it gets dusty.

The best location for the radiant barrier is at the roof deck. For new construction it is best to use roof sheathing that has the radiant barrier actually laminated to the sheathing. It is simple and certainly feasible and is being installed on many new houses. Our testing shows that it performs magnificently.

If a radiant barrier is so helpful, then why don't more folks install it

in their existing house? The answer is because it is difficult to install it properly. To do it right, the radiant barrier should be fastened to the bottom of the roof rafters. If you think about it, this is not always a simple process and would probably take at least two people.

This past summer, I was introduced to a product that was much easier to install and could be done by one person and no tools are needed. It looked good to me, but just like the window tinting, I don't suggest a product to others until I have used it and have total confidence in it.

We found a house that really needed a radiant barrier. We installed the product early in the morning on a day when the temperature at noon was 100 degrees. We came back to the house two days later when the temperature was even hotter at 102 degrees. We were happy to find that the attic temperature was nearly 30 degrees cooler than before.

When the attic temperature and the ductwork are 30 degrees cooler, one should have better comfort and lower utility bills.

The product is called "Enerflex" foil" radiant barrier. The cost of the product is about 70 cents per square foot, which makes it feasible for many homes. For more details about this product go to www.enerflexfoil.com or call my office at 501-653-7931.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



Doug Rye

Use Caution When Using Back-Up Generators

During long-term power outages many rely on portable generators for emergency power. The growing popularity of portable electric generators has resulted in millions being placed in homes and small businesses across the nation. It's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly. Ark Valley Electric Cooperative urges members to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

A qualified vendor or electrical professional can help you select the best equipment for your situation or needs. A reliable vendor will know existing safety codes and your utility's safety requirements. Installed and operated correctly, use of a standby or portable electric generator poses little danger, but improper installation or use could be dangerous to you and threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore power.

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and repair crews from 'back feed.' Back feed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. It is your responsibility to take necessary steps to prevent the injury of anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

Safety for the operators and users of a generating system in the home and utility crews cannot be over-emphasized. A qualified electrician should be consulted to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding requirements,

circuit overload protections and local codes are met.

Some homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Ark Valley offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

- ▶ **Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator.** Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- ▶ **Maintain adequate ventilation.** Generators emit carbon monoxide. It is against fire code to operate a generator in your home, garage, or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.
- ▶ **Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.** This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical back feed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
- ▶ **Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling.** Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location away from the generator or other fuel-burning appliances, such as water heaters. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located nearby.
- ▶ **Protect your appliances.** Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and



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lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage, prioritize your needs.

- ▶ **Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.** Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.
- ▶ **Use proper extension cords.** Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.
- ▶ **Shut down generator properly.** Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- ▶ **Remember maintenance between uses.** It's important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.

Would You Like to Become a Lineman?



Application Deadline is March 15, 2011

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to any graduating senior, high school graduate, or recipient of an equivalent degree (GED, etc.) that plans to enroll in a Kansas line school.

Applicants must be a member or have parents who are members of Ark Valley Electric to qualify for the scholarship.

For more information, please call 620-662-6661 or pick up an application from your high school counselor.

Applications must be returned to Ark Valley Electric by March 15, 2011.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Clay Center:
524 Dexter, P.O. Box 513
Clay Center, KS 67432
785-632-3111

Wamego:
614 E Hwy-24, P.O. Box 5
Wamego, KS 66547
785-456-2212

www.bluestemelectric.com



Bluestem NEWS

Annual Meeting 2011

March 2011						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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The Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on March 14, 2011, at the United Methodist Family Life Center Fifth & Clark in Clay Center.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be mailed approximately 10 days prior to the meeting.

We hope that you will plan on attending the Annual Meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

Happy New Year

Bluestem wishes all of our members a happy and prosperous new year.

Use Caution When Using Back-Up Generators

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"A qualified vendor or electrical professional can help you select the best equipment for your situation or needs," said Member Services Director, Ron Dickey. "A reliable vendor will know existing safety codes and your utility's safety requirements. Installed and operated correctly, use of a standby or portable electric generator poses little danger, but improper installation or use could be dangerous to you and

threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore power."

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

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Continued on page 16-B ▶

Need a Ride?

Free Transportation to Annual Meeting

Do you need a ride to your Annual Meeting this year? Bluestem Electric Cooperative will be offering rides to the Bluestem Annual Meeting to be held at the United Methodist Family Life Center Fifth & Clark in Clay Center on March 14, 2011.

If you live in Bluestem Districts 3 or 4 and would like a ride to your annual meeting, please fill out the information sheet at right and return to our office by February 28, 2011.

The vehicles will leave at approximately 6 p.m. from the Bluestem office in Wamego and return immediately after the completion of the Annual Meeting.

Please complete and return by February 28

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Attention: Annual Meeting Planning Committee
P.O. Box 5, Wamego, Kansas 66547
P.O. Box 513, Clay Center, KS 67432

YES, I would like a ride to the Bluestem Annual Meeting! Number of seats needed: _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Bluestem 2011 Teller Committee Selected

Each year the Board of Trustees of the cooperative shall appoint a teller committee whose function is to count and verify the ballots for the election of Trustees.

2011 Committee

- ▶ Larry Sawin—Washington
- ▶ Marlon Walter—Linn
- ▶ Scott Bokelman—Washington
- ▶ Alan Heigele—Longford
- ▶ Nancy Bohnenblust—Riley
- ▶ Eldo Heller—Riley
- ▶ Irene Johnson—Olsburg
- ▶ Julian Siebert—Westmoreland
- ▶ Dwight Burgess—Wamego
- ▶ Clinton Harris—Soldier
- ▶ Seth Daly—Alma
- ▶ James Palenske—Wamego

The Bluestem Board of Trustees met on December 20, 2010, and appointed the members listed to the left to serve on the teller committee.

The teller committee will meet on January 5, 2011, at the Riley County High School at 7 p.m. to tabu-

late and certify the election results. The results of the election of trustees will be printed in the February edition of the *Bluestem NEWS* located in the *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

Do You Depend on Life Support Equipment?

Bluestem Electric Cooperative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of power outages. However, occasionally outages do occur. We need to know the name and location of any cooperative members who depend on life support equipment.

We keep a register of members on life support equipment and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life support systems. It is imperative that everyone on life support equipment considers the purchase of a standby emergency generator.

Weather conditions dictate how fast the electric power can be restored. If you or a relative are on life support equipment, please contact our office to be added to our life support list.

Use Caution When Using Back-Up Generators

Continued from page 16-A ▶

injury of anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

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- ▶ **Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling.** Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location away from the generator or other fuel-burning appliances, such as water heaters. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located nearby.
- ▶ **Protect your appliances.** Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operat-



Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use.

- ing the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage, prioritize your needs.
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- ▶ **Remember maintenance between uses.** It’s important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It’s also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Bluestem Electric Cooperative suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.

Is Your Water Too Hot?

A simple way to save home energy costs is to redefine hot water.

Most water heaters come with factory settings at 140 degrees. Some home owners will find lower temperatures get the job done. The goal is to find the lowest temperature at which the family is satisfied clothes and dishes are getting clean. Changing the thermostat settings to 120 degrees will do the job and create a tremendous savings.

Gas, propane and oil-fired water heaters typically have a single thermostat, located near the bottom of the tank outside the exterior shell. That thermostat may have warm, medium and hot settings, rather than choices

calibrated in degrees. In this instance one can check the temperature by holding a cooking thermometer under the hot water faucet.

Electric water heaters can have two thermostats, which are behind access plates on the water heater's shell. Setting them requires:

- ▶ Disconnecting the circuit breaker to the water heater
- ▶ Removing the access plates.
- ▶ Setting the thermostats.

Homeowners with excess capacity for family needs can set the upper thermostat at the temperature they want for household use and can turn the lower thermostat to 120 degrees or lower.

Downed Power Lines Mean Danger!

Mother nature isn't always kind to power lines. Winter winds, snow and ice often prove to be too much for utility poles and power lines.

If you see a downed power line or utility pole, contact Bluestem Electric Cooperative immediately. Do not go near the line or the pole. Just because it's on the ground doesn't mean it's safe to approach.

When your power goes out because of a storm, restoring electrical power is not as easy as throwing a switch. Damage caused by wind, ice or snow storms usually occurs at several points in the distribution system. The idea is to get the

power back on for everyone in the most efficient manner.

When a widespread outage occurs, the first location Bluestem repair crews check is the substation.

Crews then work their way out on the main distribution line, restoring service to the main feeder lines, then lines serving groups of homes and finally individual consumers.

Working from substation to homes results in faster repairs for the most people. Otherwise individual homes and farms would be "fixed," but there would be no electricity to flow to them.

Sign up Today for Auto Pay!

You can eliminate the hassles of check writing, finding a postage stamp and worrying if your payment reaches us on time by signing up for ACH Bank Draft.

Contact your Bluestem Office for more information and ask that an application be mailed to you, or you can access one from www.bluestemelectric.com.

We will need to know the following to sign up: your name, bank name, phone number, checking account number, routing number (ABA No.), address, city, state, zip code, home phone number, work number and Bluestem account number(s).

Winter Outage Survival Tips

- ▶ Don't connect an electric generator to house wiring. If you do, it could energize power lines where your cooperative linemen are working, possibly resulting in electrocution.
- ▶ Never use a charcoal grill indoors; it produces deadly fumes.
- ▶ Keep a fire extinguisher near portable heating and cooking sources.
- ▶ If you leave home during an outage, shut off all electricity at the main service panel.
- ▶ Don't open freezers. Food will remain frozen 48 hours in a full freezer that stays closed, especially one covered with blankets.
- ▶ When an outage is foreseeable, scrub up the bathtub and fill it with water for cooking, cleaning or flushing toilets.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United State on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondis-

crimination compliance efforts is Kenneth J. Maginley, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



MY APPLIANCES AREN'T THE ONLY ENERGY STARS IN MY HOUSE.

I am, too. Because now I know how to get the most out of them. By simply using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, I'm really helping the savings grow. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



Touchstone EnergySM
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Owned by the Members We Serve

P.O. Box 230, 1712 Central, Horton, KS 66439
Phone 785-486-2117 • After hours 785-486-3341
www.baelectric.com

**BROWN-ATCHISON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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Trustee

Wayne Pagel
Trustee

Daryl Sales
Trustee

Gary Schlaegel
Trustee

Joe Taliaferro
Trustee

FROM THE MANAGER

Our Economic Times

In a discussion with my wife recently, I mentioned that only a person like me would consider retirement in probably the second worst economic climate in the history of our country. But it's nothing that this country hasn't been through before, and it will almost certainly happen again.

Our nation has been through tough times before. The Civil War, Great Depression, two World Wars, the Cold War, Vietnam, and the Middle East conflicts. Add to that the failings and greed of some of our national corporations' officers and their boards, the manipulation of financial markets, the corruption of elected officials, and you can wonder if we can again find our way. Will we work our way out of it? Without a doubt, history says that we will.

Do you believe everything that you hear? Investors are nervous, the European debt is mounting, Congress is at a stalemate, China controls the world economy, etc. If you look at some of our national indicators, it appears as if job opportunity is slowly increasing, housing has sta-

“The economy—it's not as bad as it was and not as good as it will be.”



Rod Gerdes

bilized to some degree and manufacturers and consumers are paying down their debt and making capital investments. A little government stability and direction would certainly help the business climate. There probably is a certain amount of “pent-up” demand since we have all been a little cautious about spending over the last few years. It's not like a little bit of saving would hurt anyone in our spend-thrift society.

Attitude would seem to be a big factor at this point. Newspapers and tabloid television are more interested in crisis than they are in recovery—it creates more attention and sells.

The economy—it's not as bad as it was and not as good as it will be.



Feel around doors and windows for air flow. Adding weather stripping or caulk around a leaky door or window can lower energy bills by keeping your heating system from working too hard to compensate for air leaving your home.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Working on the LINE



Jason Bare (left) and Tod Matthias complete a storm project at 282nd and Graham Rd in Atchison County.

Welcome New Members

Matt Mueller—*Hiawatha*

Loretta Hiatt &/or Barbara R. Beyer—*Holton*

Joseph &/or Karrie R. Gilliland—*Holton*

Skyla Wakole—*Horton*

Michael Winsea—*Horton*

Marilyn Jessepe &/or Steve LaCour—*Lawrence*

Ryan &/or Cassie Crain—*Mayetta*

Victor R. &/or Valerie Knight—*Mayetta*

Opal D. Reynolds—*Morrill*

Robin McConnell—*Wetmore*

Cory Cheek—*White Cloud*

Charles &/or Clara Coonce—*White Cloud*

Debra K. &/or Stuart Ray Ferguson—*White Cloud*

Dore Goodtracks—*White Cloud*

Jessica J. Henning—*White Cloud*

Jolene M. Keller—*White Cloud*

Mary Knoxsah—*White Cloud*

Danae Scates &/or Ryan Simmonds—*White Cloud*

James Prater &/or Karlie Winterscheidt—*White Cloud*

Darla M. &/or Gregory D. Veltrop—*White Cloud*

Veronica Waggoner—*White Cloud*

Diana L. Woltje—*Whiting*

Light Bulb Winners

Tim Gray

John W. &/or Sharon Hochard

Kyle &/or Katie Ingels

Keep Out the Cold with Weather Stripping

No mistaking it: winter has arrived. Any drafts around doors and windows that went unnoticed during fall are now downright uncomfortable—and adding to your energy bills.

Weather stripping offers a relatively quick fix for drafty doors. To determine if a door leading out of your house needs new weather stripping look for daylight. If even a sliver of daylight remains visible between the door and its frame or the floor, add weather stripping.

Next, shut the door or window on a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it,

you're losing energy.

Here are a few basic guidelines:

- ▶ Weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20°F.
- ▶ Measure the area to be weather stripped twice before you cut anything.
- ▶ Apply weather stripping snugly against both surfaces. The material should compress when the window or door is shut.

When weather stripping doors:

- ▶ Choose the appropriate door sweeps and thresholds.

- ▶ Weather strip the entire door jamb.
- ▶ Apply one continuous strip along each side.
- ▶ Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners.
- ▶ Use a thickness that causes the weather stripping to tightly press between the door and the door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.
- ▶ When weather stripping windows:
- ▶ Apply weather stripping between the sash and frame.
- ▶ The weather stripping shouldn't interfere with the operation of the window.

THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT DOESN'T STOP AT YOUR METER

Butler REC NEWS

From the Manager

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a glorious holiday season. As always, I ate too much and couldn't keep my hands off those special holiday treats. A brand new year brings a lot of things to mind like: New Year's resolutions, tax returns and our Annual Meeting scheduled for March 17, which will be back at Circle High School in Towanda.

For the cooperative, a new year means a new budget, work plan and goals for the year. The Board just finished work on our budget and work plan for 2011. One area of emphasis this year is to analyze the new electric rates to determine how well they promoted energy efficiency and whether our members took advantage of the incentives to conserve at certain times during the day, most notably during the hot summer months when the cooperative's cost of electricity is extremely high. The early data looks very promising.

Why the time you use energy matters to you and your co-op?

We continue to have questions from members about the components of the new electric rates, especially the demand charge during certain hours of the day.

Just as you can get a cheaper airfare by catching a red-eye flight, using energy when fewer folks are pulling power out of the electric grid generally costs Butler REC, and ultimately you and your neighbors, much less.

There's a certain amount of en-

ergy we all use, regardless of whether we're at home or away. Refrigerators, air conditioning and heating systems, and other steady appliances create base load power requirements—the minimum amount of power your co-op needs to reliably supply all of its members.

Of course, we all have energy use patterns—television shows to watch, dishes to wash. Lots of consumers tend to use electricity during the same “peak” period. Our peak period happens to be in the afternoon after work when a home lights up with power-draining activities.

Why Timing Matters

Why does Butler REC carefully monitor member energy use or “load” patterns? Our price for wholesale power rises and falls depending on the type of fuel (coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, etc.) generating electricity, which largely depends on the time of day when power is used. For example, generating base load power with coal costs far less than starting up a natural gas peaking plant to meet peak electricity consumption on hot, humid summer weekday afternoons.

Here's a quick look at the types of power plants and fuels used to supply electricity at various times:

► **Baseload:** These are large, efficient generating stations providing enough dependable electric power at a low cost to meet the minimum level of electricity needed at any given time.

They do not start or stop quickly, and instead are run around the clock. Power Sources: Coal, nuclear, hydro, and large natural gas-fired power plants.



R. Dale Short

- **Intermediate Load:** These plants handle sharp increases in demand, filling the gap between baseload plants and peaking plants. Also known as load-following plants, these facilities are larger and therefore more efficient than peaking plants. Intermediate load plants provide power at low to medium costs. Power Sources: Natural Gas, Coal.
- **Peak Load:** Though expensive and small, these plants can start generating power quickly during times when electric consumption reaches its highest point. Peak plants provide power at the highest costs. Power Sources: Natural gas, diesel fuel.

Help Us Keep Your Electric Bill Affordable

Butler REC remains committed to providing you with affordable power, but there are some costs we can't control. Purchased power accounted for 62 percent of our expenses last year. As an owner of Butler REC, you can help keep costs low by keeping an eye on the clock when you use power. Our

Continued on page 16-D ►

There's Only One Water Heater As Faithful as the Marathon

Old Faithful and Marathon provide hot water dependently, year after year, without worry. But one is owned by the government and located in Wyoming; the other is available through Butler REC.

So now you can have your very own "Old Faithful" efficiently providing hot water for a lifetime.

Call Today
800-464-0060
316-321-9600



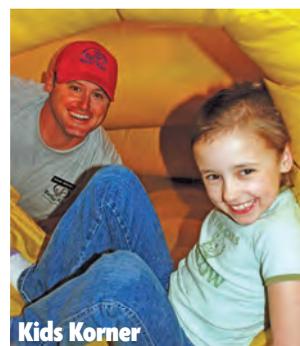
2011 Butler REC Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 6 p.m. at Circle High School in Towanda

Butler REC will hold its Annual Meeting at Circle High School in Towanda on March 17, 2011. The meal will be served at 6 p.m. with the business meeting to follow.

Your children will have a ball in the Kids Korner while you attend the meeting. There will be several booths to inform you about products and services offered by your cooperative.

Be sure to look at your *Kansas Country Living* magazine and bill stuffers for more information. You can RSVP by calling our office at 316-321-9600 or 800-464-0060.



Kids Korner



Co-op Information



Entertainment

Capital Credit Checks Unclaimed

The names listed at the right are members of Butler REC who have not claimed their capital credit checks.

If you know any of the individuals listed, please contact our office and provide their current contact information so that we can send them their capital credits. Thank you!

- ▶ Maxwell T Abbott
- ▶ Douglas J Adams
- ▶ Richard A Adkins
- ▶ Gary L Agard
- ▶ Joel A Alberts
- ▶ Paul D Albright
- ▶ Richard P Alexis
- ▶ Carl H Allam
- ▶ Mark L Allen
- ▶ Leon C Allison
- ▶ Evelyn J Alonso
- ▶ American Aircraft
- ▶ American Petrofina
- ▶ Robert L Ames
- ▶ Earl Amthauer
- ▶ Paula C Anderson
- ▶ Doris M Appling
- ▶ David C Archer
- ▶ Doyle L Archer
- ▶ Archie T Arnold
- ▶ Louis C Arvieux Jr.
- ▶ Bradley L Asher
- ▶ Aspen Oil Inc
- ▶ Harvey G Atwook
- ▶ James E Austin Jr.

Attention High School Juniors

Butler REC will send TWO students on a FREE summer trip!



Leah Smith poses in front of our nation's capitol during the 2010 "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

This trip was amazing! Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was a clear example that freedom has a cost—soldier's lives, and they give their lives so we may have that freedom.

LEAH SMITH, 2010 DELEGATE



Samantha Claassen enjoys the view on top of Mt. Werner in Steamboat Springs, CO, during 2010 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

This camp was a great, new experience for me. We traveled to beautiful Colorado to learn about electricity, cooperatives and leadership. River rafting was a blast, as well as the dance and banquet.

SAMANTHA CLAASSEN, 2010 CAMPER

If you are a Butler REC member and your child is a high school junior, he or she may have a chance to win an all expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., June 9-16, 2011, or Steamboat Springs, CO, July 9-15, 2011, plus a scholarship!

During Youth Tour students will join 1,500 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. You will see the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our govern-

ment works.

At camp, you will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas. You will form your own mock cooperative, learn about leadership and also learn about the cooperative industry.

Butler REC will provide information over which there will be a quiz, and a short oral interview to pick the two winners. The overall winner will choose which trip they would like to go on and they will also receive a

\$500 scholarship. The second place winner will go on the remaining trip and will also receive a scholarship.

For more information on the 2011 Youth Tour, visit our website at www.butler.coop where you can get information about both trips and download the application. There is also a video of the past trip which will give you an idea of all that you will be able to do and see. For more information you can call Travis at the Butler REC office at 800-464-0060

From the Manager

Continued from page 16-A ▶

member survey found that 42 percent of you were attempting to take advantage of the free demand periods by doing energy consuming chores at times other than our peak times of 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. We think that is fantastic and hope that more and more of you will take advantage of the savings. For more ways to cut costs, visit www.butler.coop or www.TogetherWeSave.coop

Repairs and Maintenance

We made it through 2010 without any major storms and that helped us catch up with the repair work from the ice storms of the past several years. We still have about a year's worth of repair, but things are looking much better.

For 2011, we also made a commitment to step up our efforts to remove trees from under our power lines. Tree removal is one of our largest expenses after purchased power costs. We have budgeted almost half a million dollars toward this problem.

Need an Electrician? Internet? Propane?

Our consumer and commercial electrical wiring department, satellite internet and propane subsidiaries had very good years in 2010 and we are looking forward to serving your needs in 2011.

For electrical work, we have two block certified master electricians that are licensed to work in all the counties that we serve including Sedgwick County. The next time you need an electrician give Matt Frazier and Gary Sphar a try.

On the propane side of the business, we have a great group of employees that can help you with your propane needs. Give Randy Dugan or Vickie Arnold a call. I know you'll like their service.

If you are in the market for high speed internet, but have limited choices give Ben Whiteside or Kacey Garner a call about WildBlue. We have several packages to choose from.

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year. Until next time!



SHOPPING
▶ AFFORDABILITY
HIGH-SPEED
TRAVEL
ENTERTAINMENT



**PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT
AND GET STARTED WITH WILDBLUE
FOR ONLY \$199!**

Get WildBlue high-speed Internet for only \$199 – Installed!
Now available where you live. Play on the Internet
at speeds up to 30x faster than dial-up.

We're stacking the cards in your favor.

Don't pass on this deal – call today and we'll deliver WildBlue to you.

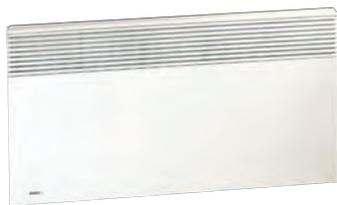
**Call 1-800-594-0103 or
Visit Powwwwer.net for
more information.**



High-speed Internet. Out of the blue.™

Requires a one-time \$200 activation fee. Not available in all areas. Subject to WildBlue's Fair Access Policy. Speeds are guaranteed. Download speeds cannot be guaranteed. WildBlue is a service mark of WildBlue. ©2011 WildBlue Communications, Inc.

CONVECTAIR



Call 800-464-0060

The Apero works on the proven principle of natural convection and its thermostat control is sensitive to 1/5 degree F. It's the perfect choice when you need to replace an old baseboard heater or in your home where your central heating system doesn't heat adequately.

- ▶ Built-in thermostat
- ▶ 500 to 2000 watts, 208/240 volts
- ▶ 500 or 1250 watts, 120 volts (plugs into a 120V outlet)
- ▶ Two-year guarantee on manufacturing and material defect.
- ▶ Five-year guarantee applies to the heating elements.



CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Kirk Thompson - General Manager

Board of Trustees

Linda Tomlinson
President

Clifford Friesen
Vice President

Michael Johnson
Secretary-Treasurer

Jeff Headrick
Trustee

Don Nighswonger
Trustee

Joe Murphy
Trustee

Ron Oliver
Trustee

Keith Randall
Trustee

R. Gary Warden
Trustee

Light Bulb Winners



Ronald Clifton
Francis Dye
Laura Lewis
Charles Meek
David Righetti

Happy New Year

CMS wishes all of our members a happy and prosperous new year.

KEC Observes 70th Anniversary

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) is observing its 70th Anniversary this year.

The member systems of KEC join together in working on issues of common interest among rural electric cooperatives. CMS is represented on the KEC Board of Trustees by Linda Tomlinson.

“Through KEC, we can debate issues and speak with a unified voice, representing what is in the best interest of our member-owners,” Tomlinson said.

Kirk Thompson, CMS Manager, serves as the Alternate to the KEC Board. Tomlinson, Thompson and Kent Davis also serve on various KEC committees appointed by the KEC Board



Kirk Thompson



Linda Tomlinson

of Trustees.

“Working together, we can provide services for member systems that we could not do on our own,”

Thompson said.

KEC represents electric cooperative issues on a statewide and national basis.

“KEC helps keep us up to date on issues in Topeka and Washington, D.C., that affect our members,” Thompson said.

The cooperative principle of members working together is the basis for KEC’s success throughout its 70 year history. As industry issues become more complex, KEC will continue to play a role in maintaining a safe, reliable power supply for its member systems.

Trustee Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative announces the following Trustee’s terms will expire in 2011 and their positions are open for election.

- ▶ **District 1, Position C**—Gary Warden
- ▶ **District 2, Position C**—Linda Tomlinson
- ▶ **District 3, Position C**—Keith Randall

The Board also announces that members wishing to serve on the Board of Trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative

office with the signatures of fifteen valid members within the district they are to represent.

Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade, or call and one will be mailed to you. You have until March 8, 2011, by the close of business to file your petition at the cooperative office in Meade.

If you need additional information, please call CMS at 1-800-794-2353.

2011 CMS Scholarships Available

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., offers six \$400 scholarships awarded annually to eligible applicants.

Purpose:

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

Objective:

To provide financial assistance to make it possible for six high school graduates with financial need, and scholastic and extra curricular achievements to continue their education.

Scholarship Eligibility:

Current high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of CMS

Electric Cooperative, Inc., are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Each applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited university or college, including junior, community, vocational or technical college. All applicants for a CMS Electric scholarship shall be considered on the above criteria without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin, or

existence of physical handicap.

Scholarship Criteria:

Scholarship merit is based on three categories:

- ▶ Extra-Curricular Activities (School, Community)
- ▶ Need
- ▶ Scholastic Achievement

CMS Board of Trustees

District 1

Jeff Headrick-Kismet
Ron Oliver-Satanta
R. Gary Warden-Liberal

District 2

Clifford Friesen-Meade
Michael Johnson-Minneola
Linda Tomlinson-Minneola

District 3

Don Nighswonger-Coldwater
Tom Murphy-Protection
Keith Randall-Ashland

How To Apply:

Students wishing to make applications should contact the CMS Electric Cooperative office or a CMS Board Trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain application forms. You can also obtain a application by visiting www.cmselectric.com.

Completed applications must be

returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., **by February 10, 2011**. Mail applications to:

- ▶ Scholarship Committee
- ▶ CMS Electric Cooperative
- ▶ P.O. Box 790
- ▶ Meade, KS 67864

Questions about the scholarship program should be directed to Kirk A. Thompson, CMS General Manager, at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The CMS Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of the organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Kirk A. Thompson, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

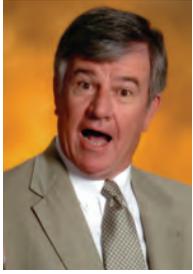
Feel around doors and windows for air flow. Adding weather stripping or caulk around a leaky door or window can lower energy bills by keeping your heating system from working too hard to compensate for air leaving your home.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Another Affordable Energy Efficiency Tool for You

BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

“When the attic temperature and the ductwork are 30 degrees cooler, one should have better comfort and lower utility bills.”

The response to last month's column was just great. Many of you called to tell me that the column on window tinting was the answer to a problem that you have had for many years. Several have called to tell me that they have already had the tinting installed. When this happens, I light up like a newly decorated Christmas tree. Remember that the only reason for this column is to help you. So now I want to help you with another new answer for an old problem.

I receive many, many calls about hot attics. Well, it may not be super hot in your attic now, but now is the best time to make energy improvements there. I actually had a fellow call me while writing this column to ask about installing a radiant barrier in his attic. It is a nice cool day today. I told him to do like most folks and wait until it was a hot summer day with the attic temperature at about 150 degrees. He laughed and I commended him for planning ahead.

I'm going to give you a short course on residential radiant barriers. But first let me explain why the attic gets so hot.

The rays of the sun hit the roof. The roof gets hot. Some rays are reflected back to the atmosphere, but others actually go right through the roofing materials. The attic air is heated and the attic insulation absorbs much of the heat, thereby creating a super hot attic.

A residential radiant barrier is any product that can stop the radiant heat. It usually consists of sheets of aluminum foil, although it can be an aluminum-type paint. Some folks say that it is okay to just place that foil on the top of the attic insulation. That may actually help some, but it does not prevent the attic from getting hot. And if you have ductwork in the attic, it will still get hot. It is also my opinion that the product will lose its efficiency as it gets dusty.

The best location for the radiant barrier is at the roof deck. For new construction it is best to use roof sheathing that has the radiant barrier actually laminated to the sheathing. It is simple and certainly feasible and is being installed on many new houses. Our testing shows that it performs magnificently.

If a radiant barrier is so helpful, then why don't more folks install it in their existing house? The answer is because it is difficult to install it

properly. To do it right, the radiant barrier should be fastened to the bottom of the roof rafters. If you think about it, this is not always a simple process and would probably take at least two people.

This past summer, I was introduced to a product that was much easier to install and could be done by one person and no tools are needed. It looked good to me, but just like the window tinting, I don't suggest a product to others until I have used it and have total confidence in it.

We found a house that really needed a radiant barrier. We installed the product early in the morning on a day when the temperature at noon was 100 degrees. We came back to the house two days later when the temperature was even hotter at 102 degrees. We were happy to find that the attic temperature was nearly 30 degrees cooler than before.

When the attic temperature and the ductwork are 30 degrees cooler, one should have better comfort and lower utility bills.

The product is called "Enerflex" foil" radiant barrier. The cost of the product is about 70 cents per square foot, which makes it feasible for many homes. For more details about this product go to www.enerflexfoil.com or call my office at 501-653-7931.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



A radiant barrier, like the "Enerflex" foil show above, can help lower your utility bills.



MY APPLIANCES AREN'T THE ONLY ENERGY STARS IN MY HOUSE.

I am, too. Because now I know how to get the most out of them. By simply using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, I'm really helping the savings grow. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



Touchstone EnergySM
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

TheVoice

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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Trustee

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Trustee

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Trustee

Coral Ann Magnus
Trustee

Fred McAdam
Trustee

Contact Us

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308
Cedar Vale, KS 67024
Phone: 620-758-2262
Fax: 620-758-2926
cve@caneyvalley.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for January is \$.02328/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$23.28 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bills based on the factor for the month.

FROM THE MANAGER

Outlook for 2011

The year of 2011 is already upon us! Your cooperative is looking forward to continue providing dependable electric service with the advantages and convenience of local access to our Cedar Vale headquarters. Our goal is to furnish conscientious, responsive, and personal service to our members.

When you call us, you will contact a real person who is an employee or an after-hours answering service person. You will not have to wait through an automated answering system. If your time allows, we would welcome you to visit us in person any time you can.

The 2011 work plans and line operations include ongoing line upgrades and improvements set out in the 2010-2013 construction work plan. Routine line maintenance and right-of-way clearing activities will also be a major part of the work in order to control outages and line losses.

Safety awareness for both our employees and the general public will be emphasized throughout the year.

General administrative activities will be monitored for efficiency and effectiveness. Several aspects of the electric utility billing and collecting procedures are always being reviewed. This may result in some changes in how they are conducted.

Encompassing all of the 2011 expectations for the cooperative is the willingness and receptiveness of the cooperative staff to be accessible to you for any comments, needs, questions, or problems that you might have. Feel free to contact us to discuss any of your concerns.

We wish you a very successful and happy 2011!

Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager



Allen Zadorozny

We wish
you a very
successful
and happy
2011!

Notice to our Rural Members....

We continue to receive calls regarding amounts on the "Add" line below the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on your bills.

If you live in a county that charges sales tax, there will always be an amount on that line. Our billing program automatically figures the sales taxes on the PCA amount, and includes it on the

line below the PCA.

Also, if you have miscalculated your bill from the month before and owe an additional amount (or have overpaid and have a credit), it will be included on the "Add" line.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions about your bill.

Attention High School Juniors

Caney Valley will send TWO students on a FREE summer trip!

The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 9-15, 2011.

While at camp, you will stay at the scenic Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. You will join winners from other cooperatives in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. Contest winners will learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy issues, safety, and leadership.

The contest is open to all current high school juniors in Caney Valley's service area, whose residence is served by Caney Valley Electric.

If you are a high school junior and are interested in this trip, please complete the application form below and send by February 16 to:

- ▶ Caney Valley Electric Cooperative
- ▶ P.O. Box 308, Cedar Vale, KS 67024



From left, Cale Ellis, Sarah Tatum and Cathy Call attended the week-long 2010 Cooperative Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.



Camp participants spent their trip building leadership and teamwork skills.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp Application

For an eligible high school junior to enter the competition, the cooperative office should receive this coupon by February 16, 2011.

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Grade _____ School _____

Name of Parents/Guardian _____ Parents' Phone # _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. _____

(Signature of Applicant)

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2011 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp competition sponsored by Caney Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

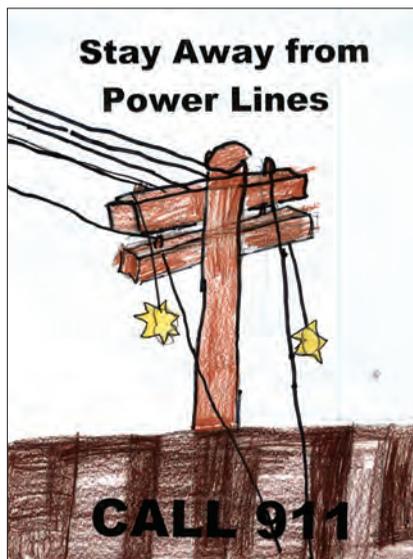
(Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian)

Local Fifth Graders Promote Electrical Safety

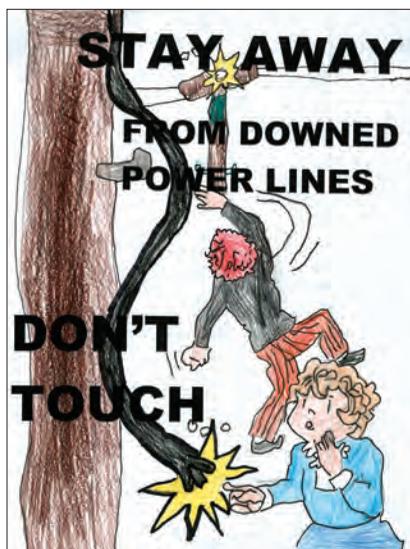
To commemorate National Cooperative Month, we once again invited area fifth graders to participate in an electrical safety poster contest.

We'd like to thank all the students who participated. There were a lot of excellent posters submitted, and the committee had a hard time deciding on a winner from some of the schools. Thanks again, kids!

Continued on page 16-D ▶



Cody Glass, Elk Valley Elementary



Nicholas Cannon, Elk Valley Elementary

Congratulations to all of our winners this year!



Riley Hall, Elk Valley Elementary



ATTENTION High School Seniors

Scholarship Deadline is March 31

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative has scholarships available for high school seniors going on to college or a vocational-technical school.

Application deadline for August enrollment is March 31, 2011.

Please contact Caney Valley Electric or your high school counselor for further information. Award recipients will be announced at our Annual Meeting on May 3, 2011.

Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Oct 2010	Oct 2009
Meters Billed	5,531	5,513
kWh Sold	4,856,944	4,603,687
Total Revenue	\$ 681,544	\$ 643,990
Purchased Power	\$ 347,947	\$ 313,229
Operating Expenses	\$ 170,279	\$ 180,412
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 47,232	\$ 43,822
Interest Expenses	\$ 32,464	\$ 34,329
Other Expenses	\$ 350	\$ 0
Operating Margins	\$ 83,272	\$ 72,198
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,949	\$ 2,066
Total Margins	\$ 85,221	\$ 74,264
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 416,750	\$ 308,323

Telephone Numbers Needed

To help us serve you better, we need your up-to-date phone number on file at our office. There are several benefits to you, our member, if we have this information. We are able to contact you promptly:

- ▶ If there is an outage in your area and we need to make sure your service is restored when repairs are made, a phone call is necessary.
- ▶ If your neighbor reports an outage or a problem with their service, it is helpful if we can phone you to see if you are experiencing the same problem.
- ▶ If there is an outage in your area and our electric lines and equipment are not accessible to our crews because of a locked gate or barricade, the crews might have to leave your service off if we cannot reach you quickly by phone.
- ▶ When there is to be a scheduled outage in your area, we may try to notify you of this in advance by phone.
- ▶ If bookkeeping has a question about a payment that is received, it is very helpful to make a phone call and resolve the question quickly.
- ▶ If we serve you on an oil account, having the pumper's name and phone number would be very helpful.

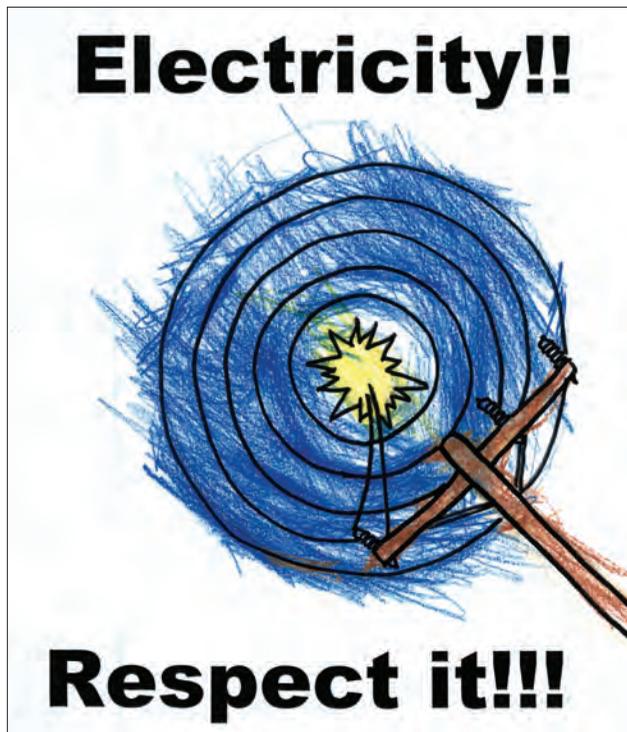
We appreciate knowing our members and being able to contact them promptly so that we can provide the best electric service and record keeping possible. If you are aware that we do not have your phone number on file, please contact us at 758-2262 or 1-800-310-8911, or send a note with your billing payment to P.O. Box 308, Cedar Vale, KS 67024. Thank you very much!

Local Fifth Graders Promote Electrical Safety

Continued from page 16-C ▶

Right: Brett Jones, Elk Valley Elementary.

Below: Maria Kimzey, Elk Valley Elementary



Outages for November 2010

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred during November 2010.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
11/11	Elgin	60	1 hr 40 min	Pole on fire



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box B
 1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, KS 66846
 620-767-5144
www.flinthillsrec.com

FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

Robert E. Reece General Manager

- #### Board of Trustees
- Gary Burton**
President
 - Duane Kaiser**
Vice President
 - Duane Carlson**
Secretary/Treasurer
 - Dale Andres**
Trustee
 - David Cosgrove**
Trustee
 - Grame Glaser**
Trustee
 - Bill Hein**
Trustee
 - Donald Kraus**
Trustee
 - Tim Miser**
Trustee
 - Shawn Potts**
Trustee
 - Roger Zimmerman**
Trustee

- #### Member Services
- ▶ ACH / Bank Draft Program
 - ▶ Credit Card Services
 - ▶ Energy Management Services
 - ▶ Outside Security Lighting
 - ▶ Power Surge Protection
 - ▶ Rebate Program

Flint Hills Rural Development

DirecTV Services
 WildBlue High Speed Internet
 Full line of High Definition Televisions & Electronics

Flint Hills Rural Development
800-732-6757

Nominating Committee Selected

The members listed in the accompanying chart have been appointed by the Board to serve on the 2011 Nominating Committee.

Each district Nominating Committee is to propose two candidates for Trustee from their respective district. District nominees will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting to fill Board positions which expire at that time.

Those Trustees whose terms expire at the 2011 Annual Meeting are Roger Zimmerman, David Cosgrove, Tim Miser, and Donald Kraus.

The Nominating Committee will receive a list of members in their district, which will be of assistance in seeking nominations. Nominating committee members are to nominate two candidates for each Trustee position of their respective districts and proposed candidates should be contacted prior to

2011 Nominating Committee

District 1: Roger Zimmerman, Trustee

- ▶ **Richard Roeser**
13408 Clarks Creek Rd, Junction City, KS 66441
785-210-5943
- ▶ **Roger Brown**
6630 Pepper Hill Rd, Alta Vista, KS 66834
785-499-5310
- ▶ **Wayne Erichsen**
12061 Clarks Creek Rd, Junction City, KS 66441
785-238-7562

District 2: David Cosgrove, Trustee

- ▶ **Charley Picolet**
211 S 1200 Rd, Dwight, KS 66849
785-482-3835
- ▶ **Edgar McGinnes**
846 J Ave, Council Grove KS 66846
620 767-5484
- ▶ **Dave Baker**
278 Lake Rd, Council Grove, KS 66846
620-767-6403

District 3: Tim Miser, Trustee

- ▶ **Gary Bruch**
1795 225th Rd, Strong City, KS 66869
620 273-6612
- ▶ **Thomas Burton**
1550 78th Rd, Matfield Green, KS 66862
620 753-3445
- ▶ **Lee Ayers**
P.O. Box 91, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845
620-343-5367

District 4: Donald Kraus, Trustee

- ▶ **Lawrence Biehler**
3026 Ks Hwy 4, Herington, KS 67449
785 258-2821
- ▶ **Richard Brenzikofer**
2071 14th, Marion, KS 66861
620 382-7231
- ▶ **Kenneth Nienstedt**
2095 Yarrow, Marion, KS 66861
620 382-2716

committee meeting to determine their willingness to serve on the board.

All Nominating Committee meetings will be held at the Flint Hills RECA offices, 1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at 11:45 a.m.

Mark Your Calendars For Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Flint Hills RECA Annual Meeting on March 17, 2011, at the Centre High School. Next month's *Kansas Country Living* will have more details about the meeting. Or you can go to our website for this and any other news items from Flint Hills RECA at www.flinthillsrec.com.





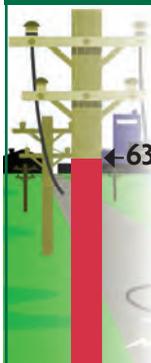
MY APPLIANCES AREN'T THE ONLY ENERGY STARS IN MY HOUSE.

I am, too. Because now I know how to get the most out of them. By simply using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, I'm really helping the savings grow. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



Touchstone EnergySM
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

FEMA Restoration Update



As of November 2010, Flint Hills RECA has completed 318 miles of our 503 miles of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rebuild work. Just 185 miles remain.

Wanted! Youth Tour Participants

Sophomores and Juniors:

Don't Miss This All-Expense-Paid Trip of A Lifetime!

Flint Hills RECA is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 17-23, 2011.

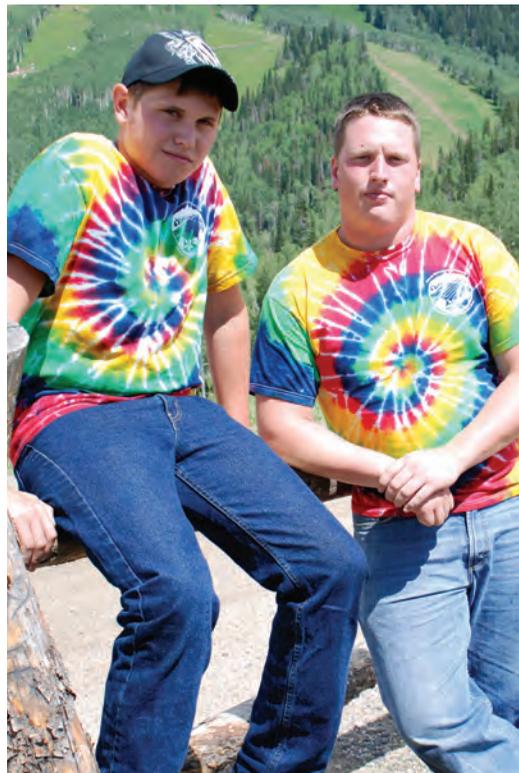
This trip is part of a four-state Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, sponsored by rural electric cooperatives in Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Contest winners will learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy issues, leadership and teamwork.

The contest is open to all current high school sophomores and juniors in Flint Hills' service area, whose parents or guardians are members of Flint Hills RECA. Contest entrants will be interviewed and required to take a brief written test covering material that will be made available to each contestant.

If you are a high school sophomore or junior and are interested in this trip, please call our office at 620-767-5144 or send an e-mail to Diann at diann@flintheillrec.com by February 4, 2011, materials will then be sent to you detailing the interview process.

Attendance will be required for the interview at Flint Hills RECA



Nolan Litke, left, and Ethan Frantz attended the week-long trip to Steamboat Springs, CO.

offices in Council Grove.

The best way to get more information about this camp is from our previous winners: Nolan Litke and Ethan Frantz. If you know these previous winners, ask them about their experiences.

You can also get more information on our website at www.flintheillrec.com.

CO-OP Connections Update



	Prescriptions Filled	Savings to Flint Hills' Members
November	33	\$385.90
2010 Total	335	\$3704.76

Have you taken advantage of your **Connections Card** yet?

Standby Generator Switch—An Essential Element

Adding a standby generator to the electrical system of a home, farm or business requires a suitable transfer switch to disconnect the electric loads from Flint Hills RECA's power grid. This is a requirement of both the National Electrical Code and all electric power suppliers for two critical reasons:

- ▶ It prevents the flow of current into Flint Hills RECA's lines during an outage, which could electrocute line workers attempting to restore power.
- ▶ It prevents feedback of power through the generator when regular electric service has been restored, which could destroy the generator.

Any type of generator that serves loads through the permanent wiring system of the home, business or farmstead must use a suitable transfer switch, installed by an experienced electrician.

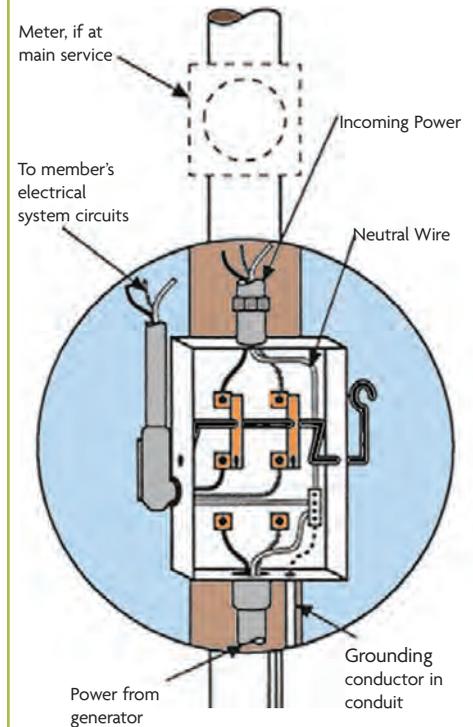
Double-throw means that the

operator can place or "throw" the switch into two different positions. One position feeds power from the utility system to the load. The other position feeds power from the standby generator to the load. Such a switch will prevent electricity from flowing simultaneously to the customers' home, business or farmstead, and Flint Hills RECA's system. Typically, the transfer switch is located between the meter and the loads to be served. It should be within 25 feet or less of the generating unit for convenience and safety.

The size of the transfer switch is determined by the loads to be served. The transfer switch rating must be equal to the size of the main service (typically 100, 200 or 400 amperes).

A suitable transfer switch, installed by an experienced electrician and approved by Flint Hills RECA, prevents injury to utility personnel and damage to the generator.

How a Double-throw Switch Works



Important New Year Resolutions...

That don't involve diet or exercise!



1. Make sure outlets have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom & laundry
2. Replace frayed electrical cords
3. Check for loose-fitting plugs
4. Replace missing or broken wall plates
5. Check for overloaded outlets
6. Make sure light bulb wattage matches the fixture requirements
7. Have an electrician check outlets that are warm/discolored

Learn how to keep your family safe at:



A Winning Combination



DIRECTV[®]
SATELLITE TELEVISION



WILDBLUE

High-speed Internet. Out of the blue.sm



One Local Source

You have seen the national ads, but did you know you can get these services from “your” local co-op?

Call us when you are ready for either one!

Flint Hills Rural Development
Council Grove, KS
800-732-6757

LYON-COFFEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

EVENTS



Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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George Zentner
Vice President

Richard Schmidt
Secretary

Harvey Raaf
Treasurer

Robert Converse
Trustee

Wayne VanGundy
Trustee

Donna Williams
Trustee

Staff

Scott Whittington
General Manager

Ray Hutson
Assistant Manager

Contact Information

Headquarters:
P.O. Box 229
1013 N. 4th Street
Burlington, KS 66839
620-364-2116

District Office:
P.O. Box 964
2501 W 18th Avenue
Emporia, KS 66801
620-342-0553

FROM THE MANAGER

We Like Being Different

Cooperatives are different from other business you deal with. To tell you the truth, I like being different. And the fact that you're reading this article shows you like that difference, too.

We're different because we're looking out for you. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. In January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gasses—an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements will more than likely lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations

are going to increase the cost of doing business.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials, and equipment will continue to rise. Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room, soon we will need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money. And with those new power plants and the added megawatts produced by wind farms the need for additional transmission lines will be needed.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like *Kansas Country*



Scott Whittington

Continued on page 16-C ►

Board Proposes By-Law Change

The Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees will recommend a By-Law change to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Co-op Meeting, Monday, March 21, 2011.

This proposed change would reduce the number of board members from eight to seven and our territory would be divided into three districts rather than four.

If the By-Law change is approved, ARTICLE IV, BOARD MEMBERS, SECTION 4., Voting Districts will read:

SECTION 4. Voting Districts

The territory served, or to be served, by the Cooperative shall be divided into three (3) districts, which shall be established by the board. Two districts shall be represented by two (2) board members and one (1) district shall be represented by three (3) board members. Not less than ninety (90) days before any annual

meeting, it the board should find any inequities in representation due to the territory served, number of members, community or government organization or any other pertinent factor which could be corrected by redefinition of districts, the board shall reconstitute the districts.

Other sections of ARTICLE IV that reference the number of board members and districts would also be updated upon approval by the members of the recommended change.

Living magazine, our website, www.lyon-coffey.coop and our e-mail newsletter. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

On our website you can link to TogetherWeSave.com where it shows how little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances, or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like our automated meter infrastructure system helps us control operating costs and improve service reliability. Nationally, co-ops are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including nuclear and renewable energy.

While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're member focused. No matter what comes our way we'll continue to put you, our members, first. Lyon-Coffey Electric is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates.

Member control means we are accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities—your money stays at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

In fact, as a not-for-profit organization, we give money back to you when our revenues exceed costs. I'm proud to report that in 2010 we returned more than \$325,000 dollars to our members in the form of capital credits.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what 2011 and the future years brings, one thing is certain. We're looking out for you.

Barrett & Crofts Retire from Co-op

Alan Barrett and Gayla Crofts and are officially retiring from Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative this month.

ALAN BARRETT began

working at Coffey County Rural Electric Cooperative on January 5, 1981. His first position was as an assistant to Clarence Knapp, Line Superintendent. He served as Office Manager of Coffey County REC from 1985-1989 when Coffey County REC and Lyon County Electric Cooperative merged to become Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative.

During his tenure as Office Manager, individual consumer files were created in order to keep more accurate records. When the two co-ops merged he returned to the operations department of the co-op as Engineering Technician. For several years, he and Ray Hutson served as the after-hour answering service from their homes.

One of Barrett's areas of expertise is organizing everything from documents to office space. As people retired he took on additional tasks and was instrumental in creating a numbering system for material in the warehouse, learning and teaching the Rural Utility Service (RUS) work order system, creating a work order numbering system each year, setting up filing systems for records retained, establishing the flow of documents in the office as computer systems and procedures changed, designed forms used in the field and in the office, set up records on our computer software to make ordering material faster and easier.

Since cubicle walls were purchased for the Burlington office in 1992, he has designed work areas and moved those walls many times as employees and their needs changed. He has staked innumerable new services and changes in service for our consumers and prepared documents for our linemen to complete.

Since the devastating ice storm in 2002 when the co-op obtained the first



Alan Barrett



Gayla Crofts

assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) he has been instrumental in completing records and reports neces-

sary to receive assistance. His efforts have greatly benefited the cooperative through several storms and continues to benefit as we rebuild damaged lines.

GAYLA CROFTS began her career at Lyon-Coffey Electric March 4, 1991, as a part-time meter reader. In 1993, she began working full-time still reading meters several days each month and working in the Burlington office the remainder of the time.

Crofts is an employee who does whatever needs to be done. She is dependable, does her job well, gladly assists anyone in any way and is willing to learn new things.

As the co-op went from consumer read meters to automatic meter reading (AMR) she learned the processes necessary to program "turtle" meters and kept track of monitoring those meters each day and filing reports and records related to those meters.

She has helped with many billing tasks, answered phones, helping members and filed many cabinets worth of paper in member files along with consumer service orders, payroll timesheets, payroll records and accounts payable invoices. After all that filing, she would then shred those documents after their retention deadline.

She has quietly taken care of so many time-consuming things never demanding attention or praise and she will be greatly missed! She will still read meters for us two or three days a month as we move from "turtle" meters to TWACS.

As Gayla and Alan change the direction of their daily lives we wish them success, good health and happiness. Thank you both for your many years of service!



**LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

The Powerline

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Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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Jeanine Murphy
Vice President

Marty Shaw
Secretary

Larry Meadows
Treasurer

Ken Bailey
Trustee

Mark Gratny
Trustee

Harlan Hunt
Trustee

Bill Pohl
Trustee

Larry Stevens
Trustee

Staff

Steve Foss
General Manager

Joe Heinen
Assistant Manager

Tom Mitchell
Manager of Operations

LJEC Upcoming Events

- ▶ **February 17**—Member Advisory Group Meeting at LJEC office.
- ▶ **February 18**—Trustee applications due to LJEC office.
- ▶ **March 11**—Youth Tour applications due.
- ▶ **April 27**—LJEC Annual Meeting.

LJEC Trustee Election Process Begins

LJEC is governed by a Board of Trustees, elected by our member-owners. Each year, three Trustee positions become open after their three year term has expired.

Serving as a Trustee is an important and valuable endeavor. LJEC is governed by the decisions of our Board of Trustees.

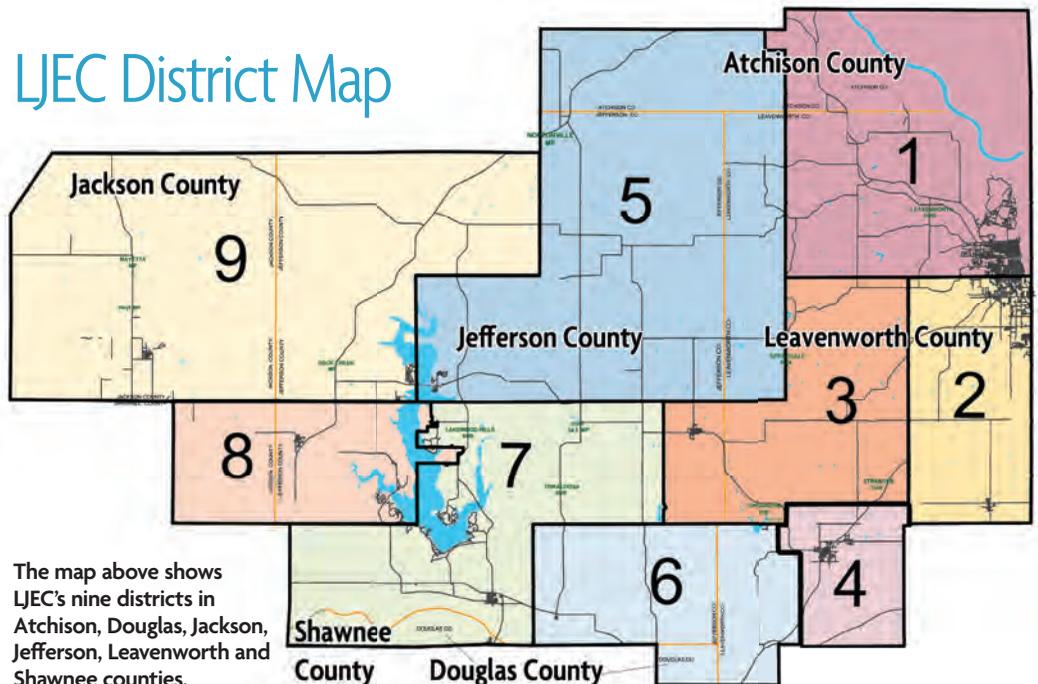
The following Trustees terms expire as of the LJEC Annual Meeting on April 27, 2011:

- ▶ **District 2**—Mark Gratny
- ▶ **District 5**—Larry Stevens
- ▶ **District 7**—Ken Bailey

The process for being nominated to the Board of Trustees is beginning immediately. If you are interested in seeking a position on the Board of Trustees, you can either contact the LJEC Offices at 888-796-6111 and submit your name or fill out the Trustee Application included on page 16-B and submit to the LJEC offices no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, February 18, 2011.

Questions regarding the nominating and election process can be directed to LJEC Assistant Manager, Joe Heinen, at 888-796-6111.

LJEC District Map



The map above shows LJEC's nine districts in Atchison, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth and Shawnee counties.

LJEC Board of Trustees Eligibility

Potential Trustees Must

- ▶ Be an LJEC member.
- ▶ Have a bona fide residence in the district with an opening.

Potential Trustees Cannot

- ▶ Be employed by or financially interested in an enterprise selling electric energy or services.
- ▶ Be employed by or financially interested in a business that sells services or supplies to LJEC.
- ▶ Be a current LJEC employee or have been an employee within the past three years.
- ▶ Be a close relative of a current LJEC Trustee or employee.
- ▶ Have entered a plea of guilty or no contest or have been adjudged as guilty of a felony crime.

What Makes a Good LJEC Trustee?

The LJEC Board of Trustees provides a vital connection with our membership and the community at large.

You may ask if you have what it takes to serve on our Board. We are seeking those who possess a sincere interest in preserving the strength of LJEC's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with our members.

We look to our Trustees to maintain open lines of communication with those in the district they serve, work with other Trustees to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the system, as well as strive to be knowledgeable about trends and circumstances that may affect the members and communities that LJEC serves.

The time commitment for an LJEC Board Member averages about eight hours per month. Some months will be less, some months will be more, depending on the issues and decisions that must be made for the cooperative.

LJEC Trustee Application

I, the undersigned, a member of LJEC, hereby applies as a nominee for Trustee of LJEC from district _____ and requests that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election during the LJEC Annual Meeting on April 27, 2011.

I certify that my account is current and that I am a member in good standing with LJEC.

I certify that I am a resident of district _____ and am receiving electricity from LJEC.

I certify that I am not in a competing business with LJEC.

If elected Trustee, I agree to abide by the Board Code of Ethics, Board Policies, the articles of incorporation and bylaws of LJEC.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return to LJEC no later than February 18.

Join the LJEC Member Advisory Group

You are cordially invited to participate in LJEC's member advisory group.

As a member of this cooperative, it is important that you stay informed and educated about what is happening with LJEC and the issues that affect your cooperative.

LJEC entered into a 50-year contract with the federal government to maintain the electric infrastructure on Fort Leavenworth. Many LJEC members have questioned this decision and look at it as a drain on the cooperative.

Attend this meeting and you'll learn that, in fact, the work LJEC does at Fort Leavenworth adds substantially to the cooperative's bottom line. We

will outline the ongoing work we do, the process of determining what needs to be done, how new jobs are integrated into the work plan and why this contract is a positive for LJEC.

The next member advisory group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the LJEC offices, 507 N. Union, McLouth, KS.

The member advisory group meetings provide you with the opportunity to have an active role in the issues affecting LJEC. Participation in these meetings is voluntary; you will be reimbursed for mileage.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Jennifer Fisher at 888-796-6111.

LJEC's 2010 Property Tax Bill

LJEC recently obtained property tax bills from each county/location in which we operate. The following is a comparison for the last three year period. For 2010, we saw a 4.54 percent increase over 2009.

County	LJEC 2010 Bill	LJEC 2009 Bill	LJEC 2008 Bill
Atchison	\$8,529.83	\$8,860.32	\$9,098.26
Douglas	\$253.80	\$264.47	\$264.96
Jackson	\$32,298.13	\$33,012.72	\$34,418.04
Jefferson	\$293,229.22	\$267,636.50	\$266,617.03
Fort Leavenworth	\$196,722.58	\$190,302.98	\$197,138.08
Leavenworth	\$162,062.78	\$162,899.98	\$162,510.56
Total	\$693,096.34	\$662,976.97	\$670,046.93



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

18th Annual

Home Efficiency Fair

Formerly known as the LJEC Homeowner-Contractor Seminar



Wednesday, February 16, 2011

McLouth Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room
Exhibits open at 6:30 p.m. Program begins at 7 p.m.



- ▶ Low/no cost ideas to lower your utility bills
- ▶ Efficiency Kansas low interest loan program
- ▶ New construction and remodeling efficiency ideas



Take Control of Your Utility Bills!

- ▶ Ground Source Heat Pumps
- ▶ Air Source Heat Pumps
- ▶ Insulation
- ▶ Energy Star Appliances
- ▶ Water Heaters
- ▶ Home Energy Audits
- ▶ Low interest loan programs

For more information
contact LJEC at 888-796-6111

Attention High School Juniors Win an All-Expense-Paid Trip!

LJEC is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips for high school juniors whose parents or guardians are LJEC members.

LJEC will send one student to the "Government in Action" Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 9-16, and two students to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, July 9-15.

Upon receipt of the application below, applicants will be mailed a contest packet. Applicants will complete a quiz and a personal interview at the LJEC offices on Sunday, March 20, 2011.

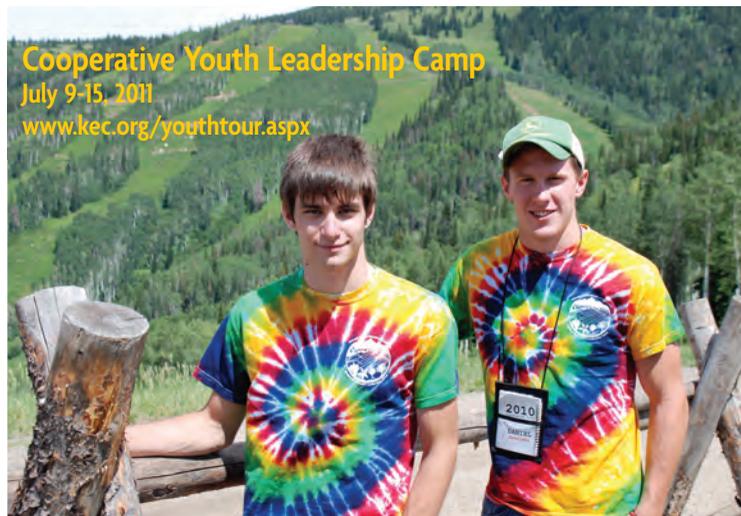
"The most memorable was the Archives. Being able to see the documents that helped make our country what it is today was absolutely breathtaking."

Megan Woods, 2010 Winner



"Government in Action"
Youth Tour
June 9-16, 2011
www.kec.org/youthtour.aspx

Megan Woods, Tonganoxie High School, at the U.S. Capitol.



Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp
July 9-15, 2011
www.kec.org/youthtour.aspx

Michael Brunner (left), Pleasant Ridge High School, and Daniel Sayles, Jefferson West High School, at Mt. Werner.

"Easily the funnest camp ever. I would definitely do it again!"

Daniel Sayles, 2010 Winner

"A once-in-a-lifetime camp! There were so many unforgettable moments."

Michael Brunner, 2010 Winner

2011 LJEC Youth Tour Application—Return applications by March 11 to LJEC, P.O. Box 70, McLouth, KS 66054

Student Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

High School _____ Date of Birth _____

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition sponsored by LJEC.

Signature of Parent/Guardian (Must be an LJEC Member)

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Craig Ramsey
Vice President

Paul Seib
Secretary

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Vic Torson
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Katherine Lewis
Manager of Financial Services

Bob Venters
Resale Manager

In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 800-407-2217. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

24-hour Electrician Service

If you are without electricity or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day.

Three Lane-Scott Trustees Achieve Credentials

Three members of Lane-Scott's Board of Trustees earned their certification through National Rural Electric Cooperative Associations (NRECA) continuing education program for Board Members.

RICHARD (DICK) SOREM and **CRAIG RAMSEY** received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). Ramsey also received his Board Leadership certificate, along with **BRUCE WILKENS**, received the Board Leadership certificate

The CCD and Board Leadership certi-



From left, Bruce Wilkens, Richard (Dick) Sorem and Craig Ramsey were recently presented with plaques for their part in NRECA's continuing education program for Trustees.

icates recognize individuals who continue their professional development as Trustees.

Lane-Scott Junior Board Visits Central Plains Wind Farm

Lane-Scott's Junior Board of Trustees traveled to Central Plains Wind Farm near Merinthal on November 24.

General Manager Earl Steffens and employee Rebecca Campbell escorted the Junior Board members.

The group was greeted by Rick Mastell, Westar Energy's site manager. Mastell educated the youth about the Central Plains Wind Farm, owned by Westar Energy. The farm has 33 wind turbines on nearly 6,000 acres and is a 99 megawatt facility. The turbines are about 300 feet high with three 144 foot long blades.



Front row from left: Chad Myers, John Clark, Sarah Mulville, Alyssa Scheuerman and CJ Shaffer. Back row from left: Rebecca Campbell, Darrick York, Austin Vieux and Rick Mastell.

According to Mastell, the wind farm produces more than 310 million kilowatt-hours of energy annually.

Mastell encouraged the Junior Board to look into wind energy technology

and engineering as areas of study beyond high school as the industry continues to evolve.

The highlight of the tour was the opportunity to go up into the base of one of the turbines. Inside the group viewed the ladder and two person lift that goes to the top and one of the three computers that run the turbine.

Attention High School Sophomores and Juniors



John Clarke and Sarah Mulville stand in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. They were among the 31 Kansas delegates that took part in this year's "Government in Action" youth tour.

Morgan Lawrence and Kate Hagans embrace the camp experience and enjoy the view on top of Mount Werner.

This camp would have to be one of the best experiences ever. I've seen new places, met new people, and have new memories. We did a lot of cool activities. I'd like to thank Lane-Scott again for sending me on this amazing trip! **Kate Hagans, 2010 Camp Participant**

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative will be offering free trips for up to four children of Lane-Scott Electric members.

Two winners will be chosen to join over 1,500 young people in Washington, D.C., for the "Government in Action" Youth Tour June 9-16. He or she will fly to our nation's capital to visit with government officials and the many historic sites.

Two winners will be chosen to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, July 9-15.

He or she will stay at the scenic Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. At camp, you will

join winners from other cooperatives in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming to form one of the most outstanding leadership camps in the country.

This trip is open to any sophomore or junior whose parents are members of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative.

To apply for this trip, you must submit a 200-word essay that answers the question: "How have the services from Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., made our lives better?" **The essay must be in our office by March 15, 2011.**

The winners will also be asked to present a short speech on their trip at

the Lane-Scott Annual Meeting in July.

Parents, please help your children understand what an amazing opportunity this is and encourage them to participate.

The Board of Trustees of Lane-Scott feels that education of our youth about the operation and structure of cooperatives is important to their future. The youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. The more they are aware of how the cooperative works, the better off our country will be.

If you have any questions or concerns about either trip, please contact our office and ask for Earl Steffens or Bob Venters.

Watts Ahead

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124 • 620-672-5538 • 800-828-5538 • www.ninnescah.com

Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Glen Honeman
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General Manager

John Tilley
Manager Operations

Teresa Miller
Manager of Financial and
Administrative Services

In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Nomination Committee Selected

At the regularly scheduled Board Meeting held November 21, 2010, Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees selected a Nominating Committee. Those appointed are listed at right.

The Nominating Committee will meet at Ninnescah's office on Friday, February 4, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. to select members of the cooperative to run for office. These nominees will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2011.

If anyone wishes to place a member's name into nomination (hus-

band or wife if signed jointly), please contact any Nominating Committee member before the Nominating Committee meeting in February. The committee shall prepare and post at the office of the cooperative at least 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting a list of nominations for Trustee. Any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than 20 days prior to the Annual

2011 Nominating Committee

- ▶ Galen Banks—Pratt
- ▶ Richard Molitor—Zenda
- ▶ Larry B. Foulk—Macksville
- ▶ Gilbert M. Larkin—Greensburg
- ▶ Ken W. Lewton—Coats
- ▶ Ricky D. Hunley—St. John
- ▶ Paul R. Petrowsky—Preston
- ▶ Jay Derley—Lewis
- ▶ Kermit L. Brown—Preston

Meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations may also be made from the floor the night of the meeting.

What You Should Know About Generator Safety

If you are planning to purchase a generator as a backup power source during power outages, remember, improper generator hookup can create serious problems in safety and service.

These tips can help you maintain and operate your generator safely:

- ▶ **Know your generator!** Read all the information on installation, safety and maintenance, and follow instructions regarding maintenance and testing.
- ▶ **Turn off the main power** switch or breaker in your home before using your generator.
- ▶ **Use it wisely.** Don't overload the generator. It should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment. Do not exceed the rated capacity of the generator. Overloading it can cause damage to the generator and the appliance connected to it. Overloading can also

cause wear and tear and could present fire and safety hazards.

- ▶ **Plug appliances directly** into the generator itself or have a transfer or double-throw switch installed. Don't try to wire your home's electrical system into the generator. Instead, have a qualified electrician install the double-throw switch.
- ▶ **Take care when fueling your generator!** Never try to refuel the unit while it's operating. Avoid spilling gasoline or other fuels on hot components, as this can cause an explosion.
- ▶ **Provide adequate ventilation** and air cooling for the generator to prevent overheating and the accumulation of toxic exhaust fumes. Do not run generators indoors. Always run generators outside, downwind of structures and as far away as possible.

Attention High School Juniors

Have we caught your attention? Ninnescah Electric will select two students from the applicants to take an all-expense-paid trip in the summer of 2011.

One winner will be chosen to join over 1,500 young people in Washington, D.C., for the "Government in Action" Youth Tour. He or she will fly to our nation's capital to visit with government officials and the many historic sites.

One winner will be chosen to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

He or she will stay at the scenic Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. At camp, he or she will join winners from other cooperatives in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming to form one of the most outstanding leadership camps in the country.

Both trips are funded by Ninnescah Electric Cooperative. All you need is spending money for souvenirs and a desire to have a great time.



Brandon Taylor, 2010 "Government in Action" Youth Tour winner, stops for a photo in front of the U.S. Capitol.



Danielle Wendland, 2010 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winner, enjoys the view on top of Mt. Werner in Steamboat Springs.

The lucky winners will gain knowledge and experience that will help them grow as they pursue their future career.

You may complete the application below or download it from Ninnescah's website at www.ninnescah.com and return it to our office by January 11, 2011. Fill out the application today, and be a part of this

exciting opportunity.

Ninnescah will provide informational packets on which there will be a quiz and short interview to select two winners. For more information about both trips, visit www.kec.org/youthtour.aspx.

If you have additional questions please call Trish Hanes at 800-828-5538.

Application for Youth Tour Contest - Due January 11, 2011

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Year in School _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____

Parents' Phone Number _____

School _____

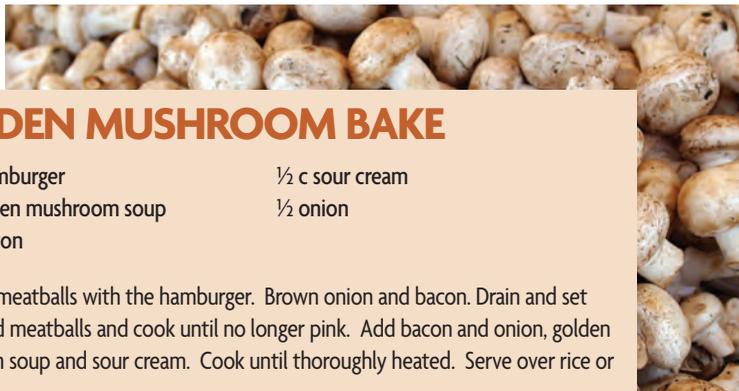
I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition
Student's Name
 sponsored by Ninnescah Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Recipes from Ninnescah's Members

It's so fun sharing recipes... won't you continue to submit **YOUR** favorite recipes!



GOLDEN MUSHROOM BAKE

2 lbs – hamburger ½ c sour cream
1 can Golden mushroom soup ½ onion
½ pkg bacon

Make meatballs with the hamburger. Brown onion and bacon. Drain and set aside. Add meatballs and cook until no longer pink. Add bacon and onion, golden mushroom soup and sour cream. Cook until thoroughly heated. Serve over rice or noodles.

Submitted by Carol Jean Welsch, Haviland



SUMI SALAD

4 t sunflower seeds (raw)	chopped onions	Dressing
1 pkg (16 oz) cabbage shredded	1 pkg Ramen noodles (broken up)	½ c oil
4 T sliced almonds	1 pkg of real bacon bits	¼ c sugar
4 green onions (1/4 c)		1/3 c vinegar

Mix the dressing ingredients. Pour over the cabbage and onions. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Mix "crunchy stuff" (sunflower seeds, almonds and Ramen noodles). Add just before serving. Add bacon bits. This keeps the "crunchy stuff" from getting soggy and gives the salad time for the flavor to enhance.

Submitted by Shirley Unruh, Greensburg

Attention—Sharing Recipes is Fun!

Won't you consider submitting YOUR favorite recipe? Thanks so much for helping us keep our local recipe page.

How to Submit

To submit your recipe please send the following information:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Contact information
- ▶ Ninnescah account number
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

Send your entry to:
Ninnescah Electric
Attn: Recipes
P.O. Box 967
Pratt, KS 67124
or e-mail to naschenbrenner@ninnescah.com

Mark Your Calendars!

March 2011						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

The Ninnescah Electric Annual Meeting March 29, 2011. **We hope to see you there!**

Survey Drawing Winners

Ninnescah congratulates the members below for completing their member survey. All members who completed the survey were entered into drawing for two energy credits. The winners were:

- ▶ **STUART BRIGGEMAN**, Pratt—\$100 energy credit
- ▶ **ROBERT W. PACKARD**, Medicine Lodge—\$50 energy credit

Welcome New Members

David W. Bunker—*St. John*
Leon Zogelman—*Cheney*
Brian Alexander—*Sun City*
John D. &/or Mary Coleman—*Strong, AR*
Roger L. Slief—*Pratt*
Clay Troyer—*Pratt*
Jason Luginbill—*Pratt*
Greg Ebert—*Kinsley*

FEMA Rebuild Update



As of November 30, we have completed 313 miles of FEMA rebuild work.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Another Affordable Energy Efficiency Tool for You

BY DOUG RYE

The response to last month's column was just great. Many of you called to tell me that the column on window tinting was the answer to a problem that you have had for many years. Several have called to tell me that they have already had the tinting installed. When this happens, I light up like a newly decorated Christmas tree. Remember that the only reason for this column is to help you. So now I want to help you with another new answer for an old problem.

I receive many, many calls about hot attics. Well, it may not be super hot in your attic now, but now is the best time to make energy improvements there. I actually had a fellow call me while writing this column to ask about installing a radiant barrier in his attic. It is a nice cool day today. I told him to do like most folks and wait until it was a hot summer day with the attic temperature at about 150 degrees. He laughed and I commended him for planning ahead.

I'm going to give you a short course on residential radiant barriers. But first let me explain why the attic gets so hot.

The rays of the sun hit the roof. The roof gets hot. Some rays are reflected back to the atmosphere, but others actually go right through the roofing materials. The attic air is heated and the attic insulation absorbs much of the heat, thereby creating a super hot attic.

A residential radiant barrier is any product that can stop the radiant heat. It usually consists of sheets of aluminum foil, although it can be an aluminum-type paint. Some folks say that it is okay to just place that foil on the top of the at-

tic insulation. That may actually help some, but it does not prevent the attic from getting hot. And if you have ductwork in the attic, it will still get hot. It is also my opinion that the product will lose its efficiency as it gets dusty.

The best location for the radiant barrier is at the roof deck. For new construction it is best to use roof sheathing that has the radiant barrier actually laminated to the sheathing. It is simple and certainly feasible and is being installed on many new houses. Our testing shows that it performs magnificently.

If a radiant barrier is so helpful, then why don't more folks install it in their existing house? The answer is because it is difficult to install it properly. To do it right, the radiant barrier should be fastened to the bottom of the roof rafters. If you think about it, this is not always a simple process and would probably take at least two people.

This past summer, I was introduced to a product that was much easier to install and could be done by one person and no tools are needed. It looked good to me, but just like the window tinting, I don't suggest a product to others until I have used it and have total confidence in it.

We found a house that really needed a radiant barrier. We installed the product early in the morning on a day when the temperature at noon was 100 degrees. We came back to the house two days later when the temperature was even hotter at 102 degrees. We were happy to find that the attic temperature was nearly 30 degrees cooler than before.

When the attic temperature and the ductwork are 30 degrees cooler, one should have better comfort and lower utility bills.

The product is called "Enerflex" foil" radiant barrier. The cost of the product is about 70 cents per square foot, which makes it feasible for many homes. For more details about this product go to www.enerflexfoil.com or call my office at 501-653-7931.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



Doug Rye

“When the attic temperature and the ductwork are 30 degrees cooler, one should have better comfort and lower utility bills.”



A radiant barrier, like the "Enerflex" foil show above, can help lower your utility bills.

P.O. Box 360, 14935 US Highway 36, Norton, KS 67654
 785- 877-3323 or 800- 577-3323
www.prairielandelectric.com



PRAIRIE LAND
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
NEWS

2010 Property Taxes

County	2010	2009
Cheyenne	\$97,852.40	\$66,473.46
Clay	\$5328.60	\$5,108.48
Cloud	\$209,170.09	\$204,720.40
Decatur	\$149,426.47	\$141,680.85
Graham	\$93,899.76	\$106,800.69
Jewell	\$84,545.98	\$81,924.33
Mitchell	\$49,084.74	\$47,838.56
Norton	\$265,930.11	\$249,092.30
Osborne	\$49,042.10	\$48,694.12
Phillips	\$322,709.18	\$284,472.98
Rawlins	\$105,170.29	\$80,828.78
Republic	\$102,411.66	\$91,519.77
Rooks	\$130,197.16	\$135,392.36
Sheridan	\$24,608.62	\$24,827.00
Sherman	\$385.62	\$319.26
Smith	\$151,949.90	\$143,173.12
Thomas	\$113.20	\$96.05
Washington	\$97,960.83	\$92,346.55
Totals	\$1,939,786.71	\$1,805,309.06

Prairie Land Electric paid property taxes totaling **\$1,939,786.71** in 2010. This is an increase of **\$134,477.65** when compared to taxes that were paid last year. The detail above show a the amount of taxes paid to each county.

Although, your cooperative signs the check that pays for the property taxes, we realize that you our members, actually pay the bill. We wanted to report to you where some of your money goes when you make a payment each month. A fair portion of that check goes to pay property taxes and that helps the communities in our area.

Insurance Coverage is Member's Responsibility

We are often asked by members who have had damage or loss during a power outage if their loss is somehow covered by Prairie Land Electric's insurance.

The answer is always the same; we have no way of insuring our members from the effects of outages which are beyond our control and are always going to be part of providing electrical service.

Although we try to provide the most reliable service possible and have an excellent record of reliability, some outages must be expected. Weather, vehicle accidents, birds, animals, falling trees and a variety of other causes will continue to create outages and inconveniences for all of us.

These outages are not only expensive and inconvenient for you, they are also extremely expensive for your cooperative to correct. This leaves you with the burden of insuring yourself for these occurrences which are caused by nature or otherwise. Each of you should consider having adequate insurance to cover such incidents.

There are many things you can do to help eliminate potential problems. Having proper protection on electric motors, an alarm system to notify you of an outage and possibly a standby generator when 24-hour electrical power is absolutely essential.

We intend to keep doing our best to prevent service interruptions, but we urge you to consider having proper insurance protection for those occasions when the unexpected happens.

2011 Prairie Land Electric Youth Tour Contest

Application Deadline is January 18, 2011

Protect Your Family from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Often called the “silent killer” because of its odorless, tasteless, and colorless nature, carbon monoxide remains the leading cause of accidental poisonings in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Each year, carbon monoxide poisoning claims nearly 500 lives and causes more than 15,000 visits to hospital emergency departments.

Carbon monoxide can be found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, small gasoline engines, stoves, lanterns, coal- and wood-burning stoves, and gas ranges and heating systems. Carbon monoxide from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces, poisoning people and animals who breathe it.

Portable electric generators are a source of carbon monoxide poisoning if used improperly. Many people rely on these units during extended power outages, but special care must be used.

The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of carbon monoxide inhalation can lead to loss of consciousness and death. Unless suspected, poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses like the flu.

To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in your home, follow these tips:

- ▶ Have your fuel-burning appliances including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves—inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. Make certain that flues and chimneys are connected,

in good condition, and not blocked.

- ▶ Read and follow all instructions that accompany any fuel-burning device. If you cannot avoid using an unvented gas or kerosene space heater, carefully follow the cautions that come with the device. Use the proper fuel and keep doors to the rest of the house open. Crack a window to ensure enough air for ventilation and proper fuel-burning.
- ▶ Do not idle your car in a closed garage. Fumes can build up very quickly.
- ▶ Never use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.
- ▶ Never use a charcoal grill indoors or charcoal briquettes in a fireplace.
- ▶ Do not sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- ▶ Do not use any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers, chain saws, small engines, or generators) in enclosed spaces.
- ▶ Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. Look for Underwriters’ Laboratory (UL) certification on any detector you purchase.

If a carbon monoxide detector in your house goes off, check to see if anyone in the house is experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. If so, get them out of the house immediately and tell your doctor you suspect poisoning from the gas. Regardless of whether anyone in the home has symptoms, ventilate the house, turn off all potential sources of carbon monoxide, and have a qualified technician check your gas appliances.

KILOWATT’S TIPS

How Much Can I Save by Using Energy Wisely?



Kilowatt

It depends on many factors, such as where you live and what your old energy-use habits were. But here’s an idea of the savings you can achieve:

- ▶ Installing insulation in an uninsulated home can cut up to 30 percent off your heating and cooling bill.
- ▶ Turning the thermostat down may save you from 1 to 3 percent of your heating bill for each degree lowered. During cold weather, keep your home at 65–68 degrees. Lower the setting when you’re not at home.
- ▶ Lowering water temperature to 120 degrees and insulating the hot water tank can cut hot water costs by up to 10 percent.

Winter Power Outages

Heavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs with the ability to disrupt power for days on end. With this comes a threat to property and also life itself.

Prairie Land stresses the importance of being prepared for dangerous winter storms and the power outages they may cause. Preparing ahead of time in order to have the right supplies and the knowledge to stay warm safely are keys to weathering a winter storm emergency.

Avoid going outside if possible.

Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice and difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines: Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact Prairie Land Electric. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking or moving to be “live”—and deadly.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 Ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.

RADIANT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Brian Sumner

Kerry Swinney

Tracy Tindle

Contact Us

9346 Jewell Rd, P.O. Box 390

Fredonia, KS 66736

620-378-2161

www.radiantec.coop

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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There are many things you can do to help eliminate potential problems. Having proper protection on electric motors, an alarm system to notify you of an outage and possibly a standby generator when 24-hour electrical power is absolutely essential are some suggestions.

We intend to keep doing our best to prevent service interruptions, but we urge you to consider having proper insurance protection for those occasions when the unexpected happens.

QuarterQuest Donations Grow, One Quarter at a Time

When the Radiant Electric Board endorsed the "QuarterQuest" program in 2009, we

had no doubt our membership would volunteer to donate to the program.

The program helps to fund food for kids in the Radiant Electric service area who are selected by their own elementary or middle school to participate in the ongoing Kansas Food Bank (KFB) Backpack program.

We asked all Radiant members to voluntarily authorize the addition of a tax-deductible 25 cents (or more) to their monthly bill. The donations are then sent to the KFB for the purpose of buying



QuarterQuest



supplies to fill the backpacks for children in the Radiant service area

at most serious risk of present and

future problems stemming from childhood hunger. During the school year, each Friday a backpack is sent home with a child that is filled with packaged food they can open themselves and eat. The child returns the backpack to the school the following Monday.

As of November 30, 2010, Radiant members and employees have donated \$4,456.86 to the QuarterQuest Program. If you would like to donate, please mark the box on your monthly electric bill, then choose the amount and frequency of the donation. All donations are appreciated.

Home Energy Checklist

Here's a list of items to check in your home to improve energy efficiency and conserve energy.

To Do Today

- ☑ **Turn down the temperature of your water heater** to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.
- ☑ **Check if your water heater has an insulating blanket.** An insulating blanket will pay for itself in one year or less!
- ☑ **Always use the cold rinse** on your washing machine.
- ☑ **If you have one of those silent guzzlers, a waterbed, make your bed today.** The covers will insulate it, and save one-third of the energy it uses.
- ☑ **Move your furniture away from vents** to improve air circulation in the house.
- ☑ **Open drapes in winter** to let warm sun in, close drapes in summer to keep heat out.
- ☑ **Start using energy-saving settings** on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers.
- ☑ **Check the age and condition** of your major appliances, especially the refrigerator. You may want to replace it with a more energy-efficient model before it dies.
- ☑ **Survey your incandescent lights** for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents. These new lamps can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescent. The best targets are 60-100W bulbs used several hours a day. Measure the clearance in the fixtures to make sure they will accommodate compact fluorescents, which are slightly bigger than incandescent.
- ☑ **Change the direction of your ceiling fans** seasonally; warm air should come down in winter and go up in summer.
- ☑ **Clean or replace furnace,** air-conditioner and heat-pump filters.

This Week

- ☑ **Visit the hardware store.** Buy a water-

heater blanket, low-flow showerheads, filters, faucet aerators, compact fluorescents, and foam rubber inserts to seal around your outlets.

- ☑ **Rope caulk very leaky windows.** Caulk smaller leaks around windows and doors.
- ☑ **Assess your heating and cooling systems.** Determine if replacements are justified, or whether you should retrofit them to make them work more efficiently to provide the same comfort (or better) for less energy. Consider a heat pump that cools in summer and heats in winter. Have your contractor perform a seasonal equipment check-up.
- ☑ **Vacuum the coils on your refrigerator** so it runs for shorter periods of time. If you can pull a dollar bill through the seal when the door is closed, replace the seal.
- ☑ **Swimming pools and spas** should have filters cleaned regularly for energy efficiency. Make sure pumps are sized properly and run as little as possible to maintain water quality.

This Month

- ☑ **Collect your utility bills.** Separate electricity and fuel bills. Target the biggest bill for energy conservation remedies.
- ☑ **Crawl into your attic** or crawlspace and inspect for adequate insulation.
- ☑ **Insulate your attic hatch** with 4" of Styrofoam insulation, weather stripping, and latch to tighten opening.
- ☑ **Insulate hot water pipes and ducts** wherever they run through unheated areas.
- ☑ **Seal up the largest air leaks** in your house—the ones that whistle on windy days, or feel drafty. The worst culprits are usually not windows and doors, but utility cut-through for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"),



If you need more insulation, have contractor blow cellulose into the walls and attic.

gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Better yet, hire an energy auditor with a blower door to find the cracks. Small cracks and holes may add up to as much as an open window or door, without you ever knowing it!

- ☑ **Install a programmable thermostat** to set your thermostat back automatically at night.
- ☑ **Buy a humidifier for winter.** It's easier for your furnace to heat air with a little moisture in it.

This Year

- ☑ **Replace aging, inefficient appliances** with top-efficiency models.
- ☑ **Make sure your stove is not next to your refrigerator.** The refrigerator may run unnecessarily because of the heat from the stove/oven.
- ☑ **Upgrade leaky windows.** It may be time to replace them with energy-efficient models or to boost their efficiency with weather stripping and storm windows.
- ☑ **Reduce your air conditioning costs** by planting shade trees and shrubs around your house.
- ☑ **Ask your tax preparer** if any of these improvements and/or repairs is tax deductible.

More info at: www.aceee.org/consumerguide/chklst.htm and www.eren.doe.gov

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Another Affordable Energy Efficiency Tool for You BY DOUG RYE

I receive many, many calls about hot attics. Well, it may not be super hot in your attic now, but now is the best time to make energy improvements there. I actually had a fellow call me while writing this column to ask about installing a radiant barrier in his attic. It is a nice cool day today. I told him to do like most folks and wait until it was a hot summer day with the attic temperature at about 150 degrees. He laughed and I commended him for planning ahead.

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The rays of the sun hit the roof. The roof gets hot. Some rays are reflected back to the atmosphere, but others actually go right through the roofing materials. The attic air is heated and the attic insulation absorbs much of the heat, thereby creating a super hot attic.

A residential radiant barrier is any product that can stop the radiant heat. It usually consists of sheets of aluminum foil, although it can be an aluminum-type paint. Some folks say that it is okay to just place that foil on the top of the attic insulation. That may actually help some, but it does not prevent the attic from getting hot. And if you have ductwork in the attic, it will still get hot. It is also my opinion that the product will lose its efficiency as it gets dusty.

The best location for the radiant barrier is at the roof deck. For new construction it is best to use roof sheathing that has the radiant barrier actually laminated to the sheathing. It is simple and certainly feasible and is being installed on many new houses. Our testing shows that it performs magnificently.

If a radiant barrier is so helpful, then why don't more folks install it

in their existing house? The answer is because it is difficult to install it properly.

To do it right, the radiant barrier should be fastened to the bottom of the roof rafters. If you think about it, this is not always a simple process and would probably take at least two people.

This past summer, I was introduced to a product that was much easier to install and could be done by one person and no tools are needed. It looked good to me, but just like the window tinting, I don't suggest a product to others until I have used it and have total confidence in it.

We found a house that really needed a radiant barrier. We installed the product early in the morning on a day when the temperature at noon was 100 degrees. We came back to the house two days later when the temperature was even hotter at 102 degrees. We were happy to find that the attic temperature was nearly 30 degrees cooler than before.

When the attic temperature and the ductwork are 30 degrees cooler, one should have better comfort and lower utility bills.

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DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



Doug Rye

Scholarship Available to Area Students

At Radiant Electric, we strongly believe in developing opportunities for young people. In keeping with this philosophy, the Board of Trustees encourages students of all ages within our service area to continue their education.

Radiant's Board of Trustees has approved \$4,000 for the Radiant Electric Cooperative Merit Scholarship program.

Scholarship applications will be available to any member or dependent in Radiant's service area that will be attending a four year college in 2011-2012.

The Scholarship Committee will meet in early January to determine the scholarship application criteria. Watch of details in the February issue of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

Recipients of the scholarship will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held on Thursday, April 7, 2011, at the Radiant Electric headquarters located at 9346 Jewell Rd, Fredonia.

Welcome New Members

Alex Chambers—Altoona
Larry D Miner—Altoona
Hassie Ezell—Buffalo
Susanna Voorhies—Caney
Landstar Energy—Carbondale
Chad Holt—Cherryvale
Karen Bombard—Coffeyville
Tony Pauzaskie—Coffeyville
Chris Meador—Elk City
Aaron Huser—Fredonia
John Enterprises—Fredonia
Hayes Puckett—Fredonia
Jonas Reed—Fredonia
Jacob Stockton—Independence
Lance Wolverton—Independence
Michael Spillman—Liberty
Knife River Oil, LLC—Bull Shoals, AR
LAMCO—Littleton, CO



MY APPLIANCES AREN'T THE ONLY ENERGY STARS IN MY HOUSE.

I am, too. Because now I know how to get the most out of them. By simply using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, I'm really helping the savings grow. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



Touchstone EnergySM
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Trustee - District 1

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Trustee - District 3

Melroy Kopsa, Cuba
Trustee - District 3

Jay Overmiller, Smith Center
Trustee - District 2, 3

District Offices

District 1 - Ellsworth

208 W. First Street
P.O. Box 125
Ellsworth, KS 67439-0125
785-472-4021

District 2 - Mankato

122 W. Main
P.O. Box 307
Mankato, KS 66956-0307
785-378-3151

District 3 - Belleville

2305 US 81 Hwy
P.O. Box 309
Belleville, KS 66935-0309
785-527-2251

Six New Employees Join Rolling Hills Electric

Rolling Hills Electric is pleased to announce **TYSON KNOX, ROY RUNNION, DANIEL SANFORD, TEL SOUKUP, COLT TOMLIN** and **TRENT WEBB** have joined the cooperative as full-time temporary apprentice linemen.

The Ellsworth District has approximately eight months of reconstruction work remaining from the ice storm of December 2007.



Tyson Knox



Roy Runnion



Daniel Sanford



Tel Soukup



Colt Tomlin



Trent Webb

The Belleville District is beginning reconstruction from the winter storms in November and December 2009.

This project will take approximately three years to complete.

Rolling Hills has been very fortunate

to hire quality apprentice linemen to assist with the workload in all three of the districts.

High Bill? Consider Your Usage When Your Bill Increases

Every year, Rolling Hills Electric receives numerous calls regarding high electricity usage. We do our best to troubleshoot the problem over the phone while visiting with the member and pulling the usage report from the Automated Meter Reader (AMR).

Many times, but not all, the high usage comes from the use of electric space heaters in various locations of the home in order to cut back on the use of natural gas or propane.

If you are in the process of purchasing a heater, it is very important to watch the wattage of the particular model. For instance, a 1500-watt heater will use 1.5 kWh.

If left running 12 hours per day, it would use 18 kWh per day, 18 kWh per day times 30 days amounts to 540 kWh per month. At 10 cents per kWh, this would increase your monthly bill a minimum of \$54, not counting the taxes and power cost adjustment. Keep in mind, this is assuming you were operating only one of the heater.

We have also found that electric tank heaters and block heaters, welders, grain dryers and/or augers, bad underground and heat lamps may also be sources of higher usage.

If you have a concern about higher than normal usage, please do not hesitate to call your district office.

Watt's Happenin'? 2011 Outlook

2010 has come and gone right before our eyes. It has been a very productive year for your cooperative and we are proud to say, "Thank you for a job well done!" to each of the employees.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) projects have kept everyone busy this past year.

"The reconstruction from the ice storm of three years ago is now 80 percent complete and going very well," said Dave Miller, Ellsworth District Superintendent.

The linemen have worked long and strenuous hours to stay on or ahead of schedule. Work on this project will continue as weather permits. In early spring, as the weather permits, the Wilson substation will be undergoing an upgrade.

The Belleville District FEMA projects as a result of 2009's snow and ice storms, are underway.

"We are still doing cleanup and hope to be done by the end of the year," said Melvin Jeardoe, Belleville Line Superintendent. "We are doing right-of-way clearing in the Republic area and northeast of Cuba. Following the right-of-way clearing, we are staking, and consumers will see the pink flags on stakes. We will do some new construction, if weather permits, yet this winter. If winter sets in, we will stop until early spring."

The Mankato District also has many projects staring them in the face.

"I appreciate the cooperation of members while clearing trees out of the right-of-ways," said Mike Liggett Mankato District Line Superintendent. "The district has a number of new services to build and we are striving to get these built as quickly as possible."

Liggett continued, "Once reconstruction line is staked in the Belleville District, I will send a crew to work on that FEMA project. My crew will start working west of Highway 81 near Republic. The other crews will work east of Highway 81. In all, there will be 460 miles of line to build for Rolling Hills Electric. If weather permits, the FEMA reconstruction will continue through the winter months."

If you should ever have questions or concerns, we encourage you to call or stop by your district office. This is your cooperative and any of us would be more than glad to visit with you.

In closing, we wish each and everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2011.



Linnea Beebe

Attenti

Don't Miss These
FREE Trips, Plus \$500
Scholarships!

Hurry! January 14 is Fast
Approaching

Youth Tour applications are due in the Ellsworth office no later than Friday, January 14. An "Application for the Youth Tour Contest" is located to the right for your convenience. Applications were also sent to each of the high school counselors in Rolling Hills Electric territory. Complete it and drop it in the mail or by the Rolling Hills Electric office in Ellsworth.

Reports from each of the 2010 trip recipients have been in recent issues of *Kansas Country Living*. You will notice that each has stated that her respective trip was a "trip and experience of a lifetime." Yes, there were some pre-trip anxieties experienced by each, but those were put aside as the trips began.

If you have questions about the trips, don't hesitate to contact any of the previous winners. **JORDANN BELL**, 2010 Washington, D.C., trip winner, attends Ellsworth High School and resides in Kanopolis. **KARA CAVALLI** and **ALEXANDREA FELDKAMP**, attended the 2010 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, both attend Lincoln High School and reside in rural Lincoln County. Any of these young ladies would be more than glad to entertain your questions and/or concerns. Don't wait! Complete the application now and submit it to Linnea at the Ellsworth office.

Attn: Linnea Beebe
Rolling Hills Electric
P. O. Box 125
Ellsworth, Kansas 67439

Employees Recognized for Years of Service



Sherri Jeffery



Glenn Hajny



Jerry Roesti

Three Rolling Hills Electric employees, with a combined 50 years of service, were recognized on Tuesday, November 23 for their commitment to the cooperative.

Recognized were: **SHERRI JEFFERY**, Mankato District, 20 years; **GLENN HAJNY**, Belleville District, 20 years; and **JERRY ROESTI**, Mankato District, 10 years. Congratulations!

on High School Juniors



Jordann poses in front of our nation's capitol just one of the many stops on Youth Tour.



From left: Kara Cavalli; Lexi Wingerson, Ambassador; and Andrea Feldkamp represented Rolling Hills at the 2010 camp. Here they enjoy the view at Mt. Werner.

The Holocaust Museum was absolutely beautiful in that it really brings the horrid events that took place into perspective. The feeling was haunting. The trip was really amazing with the most radical people.

Jordann Bell, 2010 youth tour participant

Application for Youth Tour Contest - DUE January 14, 2011

Please return to Linnea Beebe, PO Box 125, Ellsworth, KS 67439

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Year in School _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____

Parents' Phone Number _____

School _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition

sponsored by Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Considering a Heat Pump at Your Home?

Rolling Hills has Rebates & Info You Need to Know

Heat Pump Rebates

Several members have installed heat pumps recently. We suggest you visit with your district office or Linnea in the Ellsworth office prior to purchasing a heat pump to verify whether it will qualify for the rebate being offered through Rolling Hills Electric.

We have received rebate requests recently that will not qualify for the rebate due to a lower SEER rating than required. Following is the rebate program requirements and rebates for heat pumps.

Air-Source Heat Pump:

- ▶ Must be a minimum unit size of two tons.
- ▶ Minimum Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 14.5, and a minimum Heating Season Performance Factor (HSPF) of 8.2.
- ▶ Rebate amounts are \$150 per ton for a 14.5 SEER, \$200 per ton for a 15.5 SEER, and \$250 per ton for 16.5 SEER and above.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:

- ▶ Ground-Source Heat Pumps must be a minimum unit size of two tons.
- ▶ A Closed Loop system must have a minimum COP of 3.3 and a minimum Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) of 14.1.

- ▶ An Open Loop system must have a minimum Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3.6 and a minimum EER of 16.2.
- ▶ Rebate payment amounts are \$350 per ton up to and including four tons then payment will be \$125 per one-half ton increments.

Heat Pump Rates

Effective December 1, 2010, for single and three-phase services of a single character, where the consumer permanently installs and uses an electric heat pump as the primary source of heating and has so informed the Cooperative in writing. This rate is not applicable to services where the consumer has installed and/or uses a fossil-fueled heating source.

All energy equal to 250 kWh per ton of heating pump capacity used from October 1 to May 31 shall be billed at the following rates:

- ▶ Single Phase—\$.04883/kWh
- ▶ Three Phase—\$.05560/kWh

Energy in excess of 250 kWh/ton and energy used from May 31 to October 1 shall be billed at the regular rate.

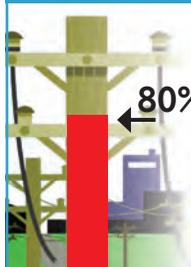
If you have additional questions regarding our heat pump rebates, please do not hesitate to call 785-472-4021 or 800-530-5572.

Used Poles in Ellsworth Dist.

If the line crews are replacing poles on your property and not retrieving the poles, then you, as the landowner, are welcome to have the poles. There may be instances when we can salvage certain poles.

If you are the landowner and see the crews in your area, please let the crew know that you would like to keep the poles.

FEMA Restoration Update



Ellsworth Superintendent, Dave Miller reports completion of 80 percent of qualified miles on the FEMA project for the ice storm of December 2007.

From Rolling Hills' Kitchens

How to Submit

To submit your recipe please send the following information:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Contact information
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

Send your entry to:
Linnea at lbeebe@rollinghills.coop
or to:
Rolling Hills Electric
P.O. Box 125
Ellsworth, KS 67439

CROCKPOT JAMBALAYA

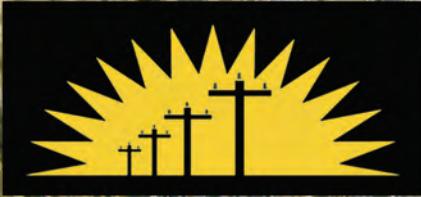
2 packages Dirty Rice	1 lbs. Bacon
1 bag shelled and precooked jumbo shrimp	1 tbsp. chopped garlic
1 lbs. Venison	1 onion
1 lbs. cubed precooked ham	1 can Rotel
5 Italian Sausage or Hot link	1 can corn
	1 1/2 cup water

Prepare "Dirty Rice" as directed and put in crock pot. Put precooked shrimp, ham, garlic, rotel and corn in crock pot mix well. Fry bacon, remove from drippings allow to cool, crumbled into crock pot. Next brown Venison and onion in the bacon dripping (the Venison should absorb all the bacon drippings) until cooked through, put in crock pot. Next add 1/2 cup of water to skillet cook Italian sausage in skillet with lid until cooked through remove from skillet, slice into bite size pieces and add to crock pot. Pour remaining 1 cup water in to crock pot. Salt and pepper to taste, allow 3-4 hours on low heat in crock pot, stir occasionally. Serve with homemade garlic cheese biscuits!

Submitted by Tessonra Modrow, Kanopolis

**SUMNER-COWLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

News *from the*
Wheat Capital



**Sumner-Cowley
Electric Co-op, Inc.**

Board of Trustees

- Max Lowrey**
President
- Charles Riggs**
Vice President
- John Schon**
Secretary-Treasurer
- Kenneth Adamek**
Trustee
- Gene Beard**
Trustee
- Eddie Crittenden**
Trustee
- Edmond Gardiner**
Trustee
- Ronald Jefferies**
Trustee
- Ralph Ohl**
Trustee

Staff

- Cletas Rains**
General Manager
- Richard Mitchell**
Manager of Operations
- Coni Adams**
Member Services



Feel around doors and windows for air flow. Adding weather stripping or caulk around a leaky door or window can lower energy bills by keeping your heating system from working too hard to compensate for air leaving your home.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Capital Credit Retirement Postponed

In order to improve the financial health of the cooperative, the Sumner-Cowley Electric board of trustees has elected not to retire any capital credits this year.

The rising costs of wholesale power, material, labor, fuel and property taxes have negatively impacted the cooperative and a refund would further weaken the cooperative's financial condition.

We have taken other actions to improve our cash flow. In August, the board modified the power cost adjustment mechanism which will better track the changes in wholesale power costs. We have also delayed some repairs and purchases and the employees have agreed to a reduction in benefits. This postponed retirement will not affect your capital credit account.

As a cooperative, Sumner-Cowley operates on a not-for-profit basis. Each year, we allocate any margin to your capital account based on your level of patronage. These are called capital credits and represent your investment in the cooperative. This investment offsets the cooperative's need

Allocation Rate by Account Type

For Month Ending	Rate
Residential	\$ 0.149490854
Residential with Load Control	\$ 0.146777769
Residential with Electric Heat	\$ 0.132644286
Residential Electric Heat w/ Load Control	\$ 0.133615454
Small Commercial	\$ 0.122275958
Large Commercial	\$ 0.83270355
Large Commercial with Kvar	\$ 0.15097014
Irrigation	\$ 0.188424238
Irrigation with Load Control	\$ 0.157758329
Non Residential	\$ 0.258610064

for borrowed money which helps to minimize future interest expense. After a period of years, these capital credits are refunded or retired when the board determines that the financial condition of the cooperative will not be harmed.

You can calculate the amount credited to your capital account for 2009 by multiplying your 2009 patronage (excluding taxes) by the appropriate factor above. It will be refunded to you in the future based on the retirement method established by the bylaws and policies of the cooperative.

What You Should Know About Generator Safety

If you are planning to purchase a generator as a backup power source during power outages, remember, improper generator hookup can create serious problems in safety and service.

A backup generator can be a nice thing to have when power failure occurs and for some people, such as those dependent on life-support equipment, a backup generator is essential.

Whether you need a generator or simply enjoy its convenience, it's important to keep it in good working order and use it safely to get the maximum benefit from your investment. These tips can help you maintain and operate your generator safely:

- ▶ **Know your generator!** Read all the information on installation, safety and maintenance, and follow instructions regarding maintenance and testing.
- ▶ **Turn off the main power** switch or breaker in your home before using your generator.

- ▶ **Use it wisely.** Don't overload the generator. It should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment. Do not exceed the rated capacity of the generator. Overloading it can cause damage to the generator and the appliance connected to it. Overloading can also cause wear and tear and could present fire and safety hazards.



- ▶ **Plug appliances directly** into generator itself or have a transfer or double-throw switch installed. Don't try to wire your home's electrical system into the generator. Instead, have a qualified electrician install the double-throw switch.
- ▶ **Take care when fueling** your generator! Never try to refuel the unit while it's operating. Avoid spilling gasoline or other fuels on hot components, as this can cause an explosion.

- ▶ **Provide adequate ventilation** and air cooling for the generator to prevent overheating and the accumulation of toxic exhaust fumes. Do not run generators indoors. Always run generators outside, downwind of structures and as far away as possible.

If you are planning to install a standby generator and have questions about installation and the use of a double-throw switch, please contact the Sumner-Cowley Electric office.

The Double-Throw Switch – An Essential Element

Adding a standby generator to the electrical system of a home, farm or business requires a suitable transfer switch to disconnect the electric loads from Sumner-Cowley Electric's power grid. This is a requirement of both the National Electrical Code and all electric power suppliers for two critical reasons:

- ▶ It prevents the flow of current into Sumner-Cowley Electric's lines during an outage, which could electrocute line workers attempting to restore power.
- ▶ It prevents feedback of power through the generator when regular electric service has been restored, which could destroy the generator.

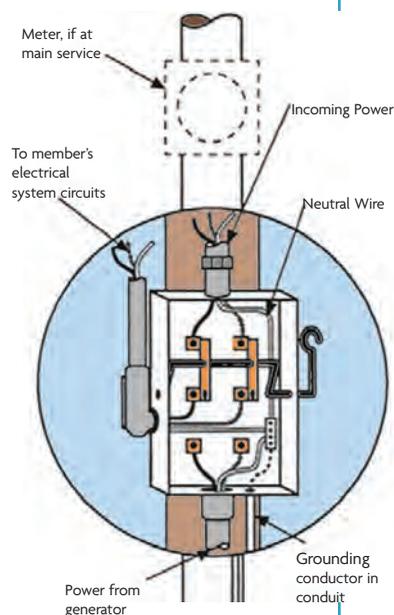
Any type of generator that serves loads through the permanent wiring system of the home, business or farmstead must use a suitable transfer switch, installed by an experienced electrician.

Double-throw means that the operator can place or "throw" the switch into two different positions. One position feeds power from the utility system to the load. The other position feeds power from the standby generator to the load.

Such a switch will prevent electricity from flowing simultaneously to the customer's home, business or farmstead, and Sumner-Cowley Electric's system. Typically, the transfer switch is located between the meter and the loads to be served. It should be within 25 feet of the generating unit for convenience and safety.

The size of the transfer switch is determined by the loads to be served. The transfer switch rating must be equal to the size of the main service (typically 100, 200 or 400 amperes).

A suitable transfer switch, installed by an experienced electrician and approved by Sumner-Cowley Electric, prevents injury to utility personnel and damage to the generator.





Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

Rebates Available

To qualify for any of the rebates below, the appliance must meet minimum energy efficiency performance standards detailed below. Units must be installed on the cooperative's line.

Water Heaters

- ▶ Less than 60 gallons, must have a minimum Energy Factor (EF) of .93
- ▶ 60 gallons or greater, must have a minimum EF of .91

Rebate Amounts

- ▶ \$100 for a non-lifetime water heater
- ▶ \$150 for a lifetime water heater

Air Source Heat Pumps

- ▶ Minimum unit size of two tons
- ▶ Must have a minimum Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 14.5
- ▶ Must have a minimum Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of 8.2

Rebate Amounts

- ▶ \$100 per ton for a 14.5 SEER
- ▶ \$150 per ton for a 15.5 SEER
- ▶ \$200 per ton for 16.5 SEER and above
- ▶ **Heating contractor receives the first \$200 of the total rebate.**

Ground Source Heat Pumps

- ▶ Minimum unit size of two tons
- ▶ Open loop—must have a minimum Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3.6 and minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of 16.2.
- ▶ Closed loop—must have a minimum COP of 3.3 and a minimum EER of 14.1

Rebate Amounts

- ▶ \$125 per one-half ton
- ▶ **Heating contractor receives the first \$200 of the total rebate.**

KEPCo Board Approves Rate Increase

Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo), Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, approved a rate increase for its member cooperatives on November 18, 2011.

The change amounts to a 3.4 percent increase to Sedgwick County Electric's wholesale purchases of electricity.

The rate increase is due primarily to increases in purchased power and operations cost associated with the generation and delivery of elec-

tricity. KEPCo's last rate change was in September 2008.

The new rate will go into effect one month after IATAN II, a new coal fired power plant in Missouri goes commercial in early 2011. KEPCo is a part owner of this new power plant.

This rate increase will affect the cooperative's wholesale power cost. This increase will automatically pass on to our consumers through the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on your electric bill.

Trees Cause Power Outages: Please Cut Trees Under Lines

Trees and transmission lines are not good neighbors. When trees are planted under power lines or right next to them, they create a dangerous situation. Trees can carry electricity from nearby lines down through their branches, and this voltage can harm anything that

gets near these branches. Trees also pose a problem when they fall onto power lines.

Please exercise caution when trimming trees near power lines. For your safety, we highly encourage you to seek professional help when trimming trees near power lines.

Let's Look on the Bright Side

From dusk to dawn, security lights for homes, businesses, and farms let you look on the bright side with safety and convenience. That's because when you add a security light from Sedgwick County Electric, you're adding protection for your family and your property—plus hours to your evening for work and/or play.

At just pennies a day, a security light is not only a bright decision, it is very efficient and affordable. So look on the bright side, and call us today for more information on how to get your security light.

- ▶ 100 Watt High Pressure Sodium – \$175



WANTED! Youth



Students from Kansas and Hawaii traveled together for a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. They had the opportunity to visit with members of Congress.



Cole Meierhoff represented Sedgwick County Electric in Washington, D.C., in 2010.

Don't Miss These FREE Trips!

Have we caught your attention? That's right FREE! Sedgwick County Electric will be selecting two students to take an all-expense-paid trip in the summer of 2011.

One winner will be chosen to join over 1,500 young people in Washington, D.C., for the "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

He or she will fly to our nation's capital to visit with government officials and the many historic sites. Plus, the winner will receive a \$250 scholarship.

One winner will be chosen to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO. Plus the winner will

receive a \$250 scholarship.

You will stay at the scenic Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

At camp, you will join winners from other cooperatives in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming to form one of the most outstanding leadership camps in the country.

Both trips are funded entirely by Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative. All you will need is spending money for souvenirs and a desire to have a great time.

The lucky winners will gain knowledge and experience that will help them grow as they pur-

sue their future careers.

If you're a sophomore or junior whose parents are members of the Sedgwick County Electric, you are eligible to participate in our youth tour drawing. Two winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to either Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, CO.

Please complete and return the form to the right by March 20, 2011, to be eligible for the drawing.

For further information you may contact your high school counselor or call the Sedgwick County Electric office at 316-542-3131.

Tour Participants



Levi Robert will be returning to next year's camp to serve as an ambassador.



Students from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming learned leadership and teamwork skills at camp.

Application for Youth Tour Contest—Due March 20, 2011

Two winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to either Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, CO. Winners will be drawn at the March Board Meeting, and will be announced at our Annual Meeting. Please complete and return this form to Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025 by March 20, 2011, to be eligible for the drawing.

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grade _____ School _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

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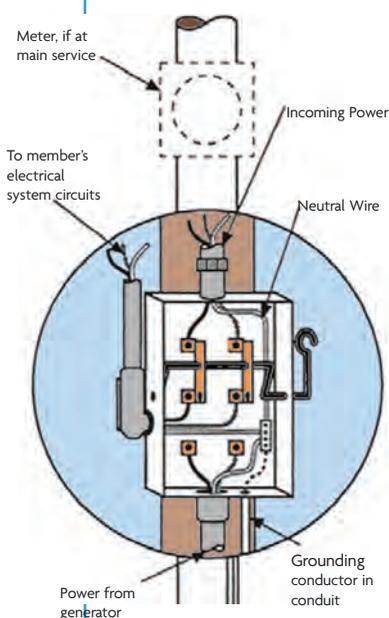
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A suitable transfer switch, installed by an experienced electrician and approved by Sedgwick County Electric, prevents injury to utility personnel and damage to the generator.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen General Manager

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Ronald McNickle
Secretary

Larry Hubbell
Treasurer

Michael Allison
Trustee

Tom Ellison
Trustee

Bryan Hucke
Trustee

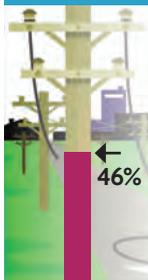
Wayne Revell
Trustee

Robert Webster, Jr.
Trustee

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
620-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

FEMA Rebuild Update



As of December 15, we have completed 46% of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rebuild work.

FROM THE MANAGER

Twin Valley Returns \$83K to Members

It's time for you to get the credit—capital credits, that you deserve for helping build and sustain your local electric cooperative.

You might not realize it, but when you signed up to receive electric service from Twin Valley you became a member—and owner—of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their investors, electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. So instead of returning leftover funds, known as margins, to investors who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, we periodically issue capital credits based on how much you paid the co-op for electricity during a specified period.

At the end of each year, when all the cooperative's expenses are paid, the money left over is classified as margins. Twin Valley proportionately divides margins among all the members who received service during that year. Each member's share of the margins is their capital credit.

The cooperative maintains a capital credit account for each member. Annual allocations of margins are added to each member's capital credit account, which includes amounts from other years. The account represents each member's share of ownership equity in the cooperative. Twin Valley Electric retains members' capital cred-

its as equity. The cooperative's lending institutions require a certain level of equity. Capital credits are typically retained for 20 to 30 years. Then, as financial conditions allow, Twin Valley Electric returns capital credits to members.

In November, the Twin Valley Board of Directors authorized retirement of the capital credits allocated for 1988, 1989 and 1990.

This year, members from 1988, 1989 and 1990 will receive your capital credits refund through a check in the mail, reflecting your ownership of the cooperative during those years. That may seem like a long time ago. During those three years, Twin Valley saved part of what was paid by members to cover operating expenses and to build and maintain a reliable electric delivery system.

This check represents your pro-rata share of the cooperative's margins earned in 1988, 1989 and 1990. In December, Twin Valley returned more than \$83,000 to approximately 1,800 members like you across portions of four counties served by the cooperative.

For more information on this rewarding part of cooperative business, read the following Q&A on page 16-B of this newsletter.

Thank you for your patronage and support.



Ron Holsteen

Twin Valley returned more than \$83,000 to 1,800 members like you across portions of four counties.

Notes from Operations



William Worthy

December 7, 1941, a day that still lives in infamy for all in this great country. December 7, 2010, will be a day that your cooperative will not soon forget.

Most of our members in the southwest area of our system had their service interrupted briefly that morning as we took on the task of changing out the transformer in our Mound Valley Substation. With the switching complete, we went through the process of tearing down the old transformer and prepping the new one.

A very experienced contract crew, working alongside Twin Valley crews, along with a local crane company hired to place the 80,000 pound transformer into place, set up to make this happen smoothly. The switch was going well until the Law of Murphy reared its head.

As pieces were added to the new transformer, the gauges that measure the liquid level in the new transformer did not respond in an appropriate manner. Upon further investigation, opening a small portal into the top of the transformer, the float on the back of the gauge was not where it was supposed to be. It was nowhere in sight. The nail biting and phone calls began. We could not energize the transformer with a seven inch rod floating loose somewhere in the massive tank.

The crane company was long gone and we faced the daunting task of having to leave the affected members on the

alternate feed overnight. We were pushing the limits of our system and it was a long night as all of your Twin Valley linemen were placed on standby in case the cold temperatures gave us problems with keeping the lights on. As the sun rose Wednesday morning, we were blessed that the system held and no one went without power.

The decision process started on what we were going to do. The transformer manufacturer was investigating what happened, but with no firm response from them, it left us in a pinch. The phone calls began again. Obtaining a 120 ton crane is not an easy find on such short notice. After several phone calls and hearing “next week”, “next month”, etc. It was not looking good.

Finally we found a crew from the state to our south. After explaining the situation, I was told, “They’ll be there by two.”

At just after 2 p.m., here came the cavalry. The new transformer was ready to be moved, and old faithful was ready to set back in place. When the dust cleared, the old transformer was installed and the nerves fired up again as thoughts of the possibility that something might have been damaged or came loose in the old one crept in. We put those fears away, and the sun was setting when the switch was thrown.

With the tiniest of an arc, 138,000 volts brought the old one back to life. After verifying the output voltage was correct, the waiting game began. The transformer

may not be customers of the utility.

Where does the money come from?

Member-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities like Twin Valley set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs and make payments on any loans. At the end of each calendar year, we subtract operating expenses from the total amount of money collected during the year. The balance is called a “margin.”

How are margins allocated?



Old faithful going back in.

had been setting overnight in sub freezing temperatures, and the oil had to be heated before load could be added. After 30 minutes, and the sun tucked away for the night, the switching began.

Our understanding membership being interrupted one more time, the load was switched back to the normal feed. Seeing the lights come back on as the old transformer held like a trooper, was a good feeling. Rest would come easier that night.

We are working with the transformer manufacturer in hopes to get the issue resolved and we will be trying this again in the spring.

I would like to thank all of our membership who were affected for their understanding and patience as we make your electric cooperative more reliable and more capable to handle our growing system. Happy 2011 to all!

Capital Credit Q&A

What are capital credits?

Retained margins left over at the end of a year at a not-for-profit electric co-op. Capital credits represent the most significant source of equity for Twin Valley. Since a co-op’s “shareholders” are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member’s ownership in the co-op. This differs from dividends investor-owned utilities pay shareholders, who may or

Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on their purchases from the co-op—how much power the member used. Member purchases may also be called patronage.

Why does my co-op refund capital credits?

Doing so follows one of our seven co-op principles—Members’ Economic Participation. This principle states: “Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the co-op, possibly by setting up

Continued on page 16-C

Attention High School Juniors

Don't Miss this FREE Trip of a Lifetime!

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., will send one high school junior to the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and one to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

To Qualify

The applicant must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries and the child of a Twin Valley Electric member.

To Apply

Applicants will be expected to study and take a quiz over information sent by Twin Valley regarding electric cooperatives. There will also be a short interview to pick the winner. All participating students will receive a prize.

To apply please complete, sign



Kansas delegates will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 9-15, 2011.



Students from Kansas join more than 1,500 youth in Washington, D.C., this year's Youth Tour is scheduled for June 9-16, 2011.

and return the application below to Twin Valley, PO Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.

Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office by March 16, 2011. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices on April 1, 2011.

For More Information

For more information contact Jennifer at 866-784-5500.

Capital Credit Q&A

Continued from page 16-B

reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-op; and supporting other activities approved by the membership."

Does Westar or municipal systems refund capital credits?

No. Capital credits only exist at not-for-profit electric co-ops owned by their members.

Are capital credits refunded every year?

Each year, the Twin Valley Board of Directors makes a decision on whether to refund capital credits based on the financial health of the co-op. During some years the co-op may experience high growth in the number of new accounts added or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. Both events might keep member equity low, causing the board to defer any capital credits refunds. For this reason, Twin Valley's ability to return margins to members in the form of capital credits reflects the co-op's strength and financial stability.

Do I lose my capital credits in the years the co-op decides not to make refunds?

No. All capital credits from every year members have been served by Twin Valley are maintained until such time as the board refunds them. Prior to this year, Twin Valley has refunded all capital credits from through 1987.

Application for Youth Tour Contest—Due March 16

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Twin Valley Account # _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____

Parents' Phone Number _____

School _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Take Advantage of these Local Discounts with Co-op Connections

► Scentsy, Monte Hermreck, Altamont—\$5 off a \$50 order

► Altamont Builder's Supply, LLC, Altamont—5% discount on paint and paint supplies. \$1 off a bag of cat or dog food.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mom's Best Brings Home-Style Cooking to You

JANELLE AND LEWIS GOINS, owners of Mom's Best Catering in rural Oswego, were looking to make a little extra income for their family of six while home-schooling their four children, Zachary, now 18; Jacob, 17; Micajah, 13; and Abby, 9. The small business began in the summer of 2002 as the family started selling baked items and garden produce in the park, which in turn became the Oswego's Farmers Market.

"At Mom's Best, we believe family time at meal time is important," Janelle said. "My husband Lewis and I both grew up in homes with stay-at-home moms who prepared a full meal for the family each evening – no TV trays, no eating on the run, no fast food. Instead, we had a full-course meal at the table with all the family."

The family business took off in 2005 when Janelle received her license for her frozen entrees and catering. She now considers it a full-time job, as not a day goes by that she is not

grocery shopping, making deliveries, doing bookwork or baking.

Consequently, one of the goals at Mom's Best is to make home-cooked meals practical and possible in today's two-income, fast-paced world. Their entrée line of products is prepared with the finest ingredients, convenient packaging and easy but tasty side dish suggestions. There is no lengthy preparation for your main course, no ingredients to gather, no pans to wash—simply thaw and bake. Most entrees easily serve a family of four or more.

An unexpected niche market has developed for Mom's Best products, says Janelle. "Many customers who have enjoyed the convenience of the frozen entrees order them when

someone they know is having hard times such as extended illness or family loss. And of course cinnamon rolls and pies are great comfort foods. We feel grateful that our business can be a blessing to people at times like that."

Another opportunity for the business has come in the form of fund raising for individuals and organizations. Having a delicious product that is already known in the community makes it easy. In the fall of 2010, the Labette County High School's Library Club contacted Mom's Best about helping them with a fundraiser. They sold over 500 orders of cinnamon



Above and below, fresh bread and homemade cinnamon rolls right out of the oven are just two favorites at Mom's Best Catering.



rolls, baked and delivered fresh, over the course of four days.

Besides the baked goods and frozen entrees, the catering side of the business is growing every year as well. "We have catered family reunions, weddings, class reunions, and other events," Janelle said. "And several businesses in the Parsons-Oswego area use us frequently for company events or holiday dinners."

Janelle is happy to help with any order, no matter how big or small. The children gladly help with quality control. "Tasting the bread," Abby says is her favorite job.

The Goins family are current members of Twin Valley Electric and have been since 2000.

If you would like to view what Mom's Best has to offer, visit their website at www.momsbestcatering.com or call 620-795-4235 or 620-778-2732. Mom's Best is located at 11068 Victory Road in Oswego.



Janelle Goins displays a pan of their signature cinnamon rolls.

Now is the Time to Slash Subsidies

By Representative Fred Upton (R-MI)

It is crystal clear that the United States is in the middle of a budget crisis. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the past two reported federal budget deficits were the highest on record since the end of World War II. Everyone in America, with the possible exception of those folks working at the White House and within Pelosi's caucus, understands that significant spending cuts must be made and that the government needs to get out of the business of picking winners and losers in the private sector.

There is a consensus among Republicans in the new House majority that Washington has a spending problem. In an interview shortly after the midterm elections, Speaker-designate John Boehner said, "I don't think Washington has a revenue problem. I think Washington has a spending problem." I could not agree more. In a recent joint op-ed with Americans for Tax Reform's Grover Norquist, I echoed Boehner's comments while underscoring the urgency of cutting spending while halting tax hikes of any kind. The whopping failure of the \$862 billion stimulus is the biggest case in point.

One realm that demands cuts are the renewable energy subsidies that have become so engrained in the renewable energy sector. While renewable energy has a place in an "all of the above" strategy, there is a right way and a wrong way to develop renewable resources. Carelessly throwing taxpayer money at it is the wrong way. Alarming, the U.S. government has spent over \$10 billion a year for the past ten years on these subsidies. Imagine how \$100 billion could be deployed in a far more productive manner, such as for debt repayment or tax cuts. The

subsidies were originally promoted as a way to get the renewables industry going, but they have become a crutch; the businesses are allowed to ignore the rules of survival in a competitive marketplace since they know that they will get their cash flow no matter what. Things have gotten so bad that many of these businesses will not survive without the handout. Let the market sort it out! Since I am sure that the industry will never give up its free money voluntarily, now is the time for us to slash it on our terms.

Taking on these subsidies will certainly be a challenge, as the Obama administration has made "green jobs" a cornerstone of its ill-fated economic plan. The president is fond of European-style economies, but an examination of the suffering that the Spanish endured over the past several years due to their failed "green jobs" policies must serve as a lesson. A study by Professor Gabriel Calzada Alvarez, Study of the Effects on Employment of Public Aid to Renewable Energy Sources, concludes that: "Spain's experience cited by President Obama as a model reveals with high confidence, by two different methods, that the U.S. should expect a loss of at least 2.2 jobs on average, or about 9 jobs lost for every four created, to which we have to add those jobs that non-subsidized investments with the same resources would have created." Essentially, when the subsidy spigot is shut off, the green jobs bubble will collapse, just like a Ponzi scheme. Where is the outrage here?

On top of the rampant cash handouts, many green jobs advocates also argue for a federal standard that requires utilities to

purchase a significant percentage of total power supplied from renewable energy sources. This is like a subsidy in that it artificially props up the industry. The problem with this policy is that electricity prices rise as a result, killing economic productivity and putting the pinch on American households. A recent Wall Street Journal article, "Renewables Investors Fear Withdrawal of Subsidies" (Aug. 19, 2010), highlighted the European experience with renewable energy subsidies, and provided a disturbing picture. The German economy minister said that "electricity prices are slated to rise 10% because of the rapidly growing power-generation capacity from renewable energy sources"; and the Italian program "currently adds about 5% to electricity bills." If this point sounds familiar, it is because it was our mantra during the Waxman-Markey cap-and-tax debate last year — we must not enact policies that inflict pain on American ratepayers in the form of higher monthly utility bills.

The bottom line is that the European experience has taught us that renewable energy subsidies will lead to massive job losses and higher electricity prices. Neither of these outcomes is acceptable, and next year we must determine not whether to cut, but rather how much to cut. Renewable energy sources have an integral role, but the free market must prevail without the government inserting itself — yet once again — where it does not belong.

This article was written by Representative Fred Upton, R-Michigan, and was originally published in The Daily Caller on December 3, 2010.

Notice: Date Change Irrigation and Technology Seminar Scheduled for February 11, 2011

Victory Electric Cooperative announces the date for the 13th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar.

The seminar will be held on Friday, February 11, 2011, at Victory Electric's headquarter's located at 3230 N. 14th in Dodge City.

The general public is invited to attend. If you are an irrigator on Victory's system, you will soon receive a personal invitation in the mail.

Victory Electric is working hard to bring a new and exciting lineup to this year's event, so feel free to come out, eat, listen to the great lineup of guest speakers, and visit with the exhibitors.

RSVP's are required. If you have any questions or would like to reserve your spot, please contact Josh Schmidt by calling 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915 or emailing jschmidt@victoryelectric.net.



Farmers attend 2010 Irrigation and Technology seminar.

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8000 Watt XP Series
\$1,499**

Victory still has the 15,000 watt and 17,500 watt generators available for \$2,299 and \$2,799, respectively.

If you are interested in buying a generator, contact Josh at Victory Electric at 620.227.2139

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
www.victoryelectric.net

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FROM THE MANAGER

Now is the Time to Slash Subsidies

As the general manager of Victory Electric Cooperative, I am responsible for keeping informed of the latest energy technology, energy legislation and other issues that might affect Victory and you, the member.

In addition to the many meetings on power supply, energy regulations and more, I also spend a great deal of time reading about these issues. I came across an article the other day that I feel is important to share with our members. It is written by Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan and originally published December 3, 2010, in *The Daily Caller*. Upton is the ranking member on the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.

In the article, Upton discusses the budget crisis and the role that renewable energy subsidies play in the economy and current budget deficit.

While I believe renewable energy sources have their place in our generation mix, Upton makes a great point about the subsidies becoming a "crutch" to the industry and soon the subsidies will lead to massive job losses and higher electricity prices.

Continue to page 16-E of this newsletter to see the article written by Rep. Upton.

'Til Next Time, TJ



Terry Janson

Upton discusses the role that renewable energy subsidies play in the economy and current budget deficit.



CFL Charlie Says

"Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"

And this month's lucky winners are... Alan Wetzel, Clare Shriwise, Martha Ozuna, Timothy Pacheco, Elizabeth Melendez, & Kelli Servis. Come by Victory Electric, talk to Josh or Jerry, and get your free compact florescent light bulb (CFL).

Every month Victory Electric will be giving free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!

Statement of Non-discrimination

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Terry Janson, General Manager of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Services, Washington, D. C., 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Dodge City Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest

The Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest was held on Monday, November 29, 2010, in Dodge City.

Sponsored by *The Dodge City Globe*, Victory Electric and Western Beverage, the events attracted hundreds of visitors to downtown Dodge City.

The Chili Contest had an impressive 43 entries. The lucky winners in the Judges Choice category were Arrowhead West, first place; National Beef, second place; and Parker Haskins, third place.



Those who impressed the crowd won the People's Choice category. Winners were Headcases Salon, first place; Miss Kitty's Quilters, second place; and Leon Feldt, third place.

All winners received a plaque sponsored by Victory Electric.

The parade sported more than 25 entries, ranging from an old fire truck, to an jewel-embellished car, to floats decked out in lights.

Thanks to all who attended, and we hope to see you next year!

1. Santa passed out candy canes to children.
2. Students from Dodge City High School entertained the crowds with Christmas carols throughout the cold, windy evening.
3. The crowd enjoyed Zaks Cheese's entry in the parade.
4. Headcases Salon won People's Choice Award.
5. Santa rode on one of Victory's trucks, in the parade.

Letter from the President

Victory Seeking Board Member Nominations



Richard Lightner

Dear Victory Electric Members, It is time once again to start thinking about Victory Electric's Annual Membership Meeting held in April 2011. We are currently soliciting nominations for Victory Electric's Board of Trustees.

Positions up for election are in District 2, currently held by John Leis, Minneola; District 4, currently held by Jim Imel, Bucklin; District 6, currently held by Kenny Wehkamp, Cimarron; and District 10, currently held by Milam Jones, Dodge City.

To qualify, you must be a naturalized U.S. citizen; and your principal residence must be served by Victory Electric and located within our territory and within the district which you wish to represent.

Also, if a close relative of yours—within the third degree—is an employee or a trustee of Victory Electric, you are not eligible to run for a trustee position.

Duties of an elected trustee include: attending a monthly six-to-eight hour board meeting, board training opportunities, and some travel will be required.

If you would like to run for a position, or you know someone interested, please send a letter of interest with qualifications to Terry Janson or Richard Lightner at Victory Electric, PO Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801.

Sincerely,
Richard Lightner, Board President

Victory Donates Goods

Getting into the holiday spirit, Victory Electric made a donation of toys and canned food in time for Christmas to New Hope Compassion Ministries.

We are thankful to

all the organizations for providing much needed services. This was just a small token of appreciation for the help and support they do for the citizens in our communities.



Victory employees Josh Schmidt (left) and Mike Clark (right) deliver toys and canned goods to New Hope Compassion Ministries.

Area Third Graders Receive Children's Dictionaries



Copeland (left) and Cimarron (right) third graders receive dictionaries courtesy of Victory, Cimarron Rotary Club, and United Telephone.

This year Victory Electric has teamed up with local Rotary Clubs and several local businesses to donate a children's dictionary to every third grader in our service territory.

The Rotary Club Dictionary Project is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. The goal of this program is to assist students in completing the school year as good writers, ac-

tive readers and creative thinkers by providing students with a personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come.

High School Juniors. Win a Free Trip

to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado



Last year's D.C. winners were (from left) Shelby Durler and Becca Heeke, both of Spearville.

**Two Winners, All-Expenses-Paid
"Government in Action" Youth Tour
June 9-16, 2011, in Washington, D.C.**



Last year's camp winners, Kate Lock, Cimarron, left, and Vanessa Nuñez, Dodge City, right. Also pictured is camp chaperone, Mellisa Bosley, center.

**Two Winners, All-Expenses-Paid
Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp
July 9-15, 2011, in Steamboat Springs, CO.**

If you are a high school junior and would like to increase your leadership skills, meet new friends and travel, you can apply for Youth Tour through Victory Electric.

During the Government in Action Youth Tour June 9-16, 2011, students will join 1,500 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. Participants will visit the monuments and other attractions,

as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.

At the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 9-15, 2011, students will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas. Campers will form a mock cooperative, participate in leadership activities, and learn about the cooperative industry.

Students will be selected based on a résumé, application and an interview.

To apply, contact your high school counselor, high school principal, or Jerri Imgarten at Victory Electric Cooperative by calling 620-371-7730 or 800-279-7915 for more information about the contest.

The deadline for applications is February 11, 2011.

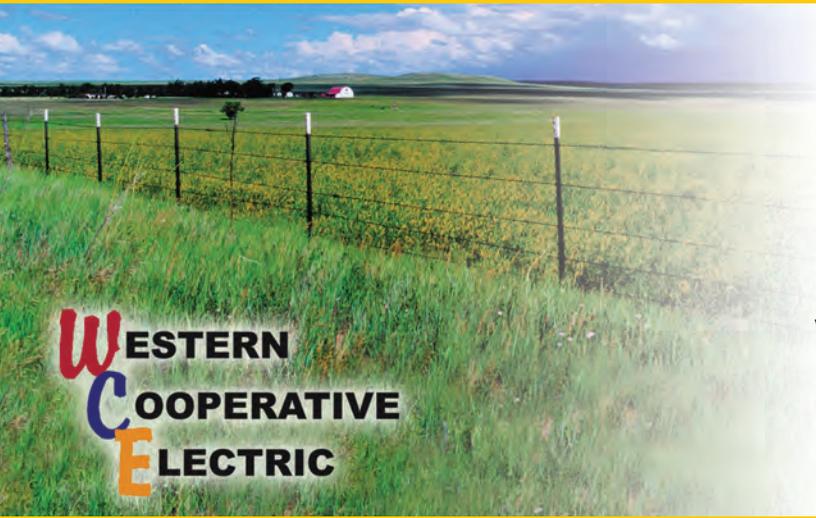
Victory Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application

The deadline for applications is February 11, 2011

Name of Applicant: _____
Mailing Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____
Birth Date _____ Applicant Cell Number _____
Name of Parents or Guardian _____ Home or Parent Number _____
E-mail _____ School _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. _____
(Signature of Applicant)

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition sponsored by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. _____
(Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian)



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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

County Tax Distributions

Western Cooperative Electric is a member-owned cooperative which not only pays capital credits after margins are accounted for, but also pays personal property taxes.

The beginning formula for the valuation is determined in Topeka and the final apportionments are prorated according to school districts within the counties served.

Below is a listing of the taxes Western paid for 2010 in those counties where electrical service is provided.

County Taxes Paid in 2010	
Ellis	\$59,805.50
Barton	\$58,642.36
Ellsworth	\$80,963.60
Gove	\$104,235.80
Graham	\$63,192.20
Lincoln	\$16,968.90
Ness	\$14,882.72
Osborne	\$13,158.72
Rooks	\$112,440.42
Rush	\$38,396.30
Russell	\$48,858.49
Sheridan	\$42,002.28
Trego	\$215,834.16

A Different New Year's Resolution

Something deep in the human mind seems to surface on January 1, and that something is a desire to make a resolution to improve ourselves in some tangible way.

Generally, our enthusiasm to fulfill those resolutions dissolves before we realize any benefits or results. One of the suspected reasons for the failure of a resolution is that we make them too generalized. Examples include: "I will lose weight this year" and "I will be safer this year."

Since safety is one of those generalized resolutions, let's be more specific and name a practical, measurable, and most importantly, attainable goal for the upcoming year. "When using electrical extension cords I will follow these safety suggestions":

- ▶ Use extension cords only when necessary and only on a temporary basis.
- ▶ Replace cracked or worn extension cords with minimum #16 gauge cords that have the listing, of a nationally-recognized testing laboratory, safety closures and other safety features.
- ▶ With cords lacking safety closures, cover any unused outlets with electrical tape or with plastic caps to prevent the chance of a child making contact with the live circuit.
- ▶ Insert plugs fully so that no parts of the prongs are exposed when the extension cord is in use.
- ▶ When disconnecting cords, pull the



Never use an extension cord while it is coiled or looped.

plug rather than the cord itself.

- ▶ Use only three-wire extension cords for appliances with three-prong plugs. Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong, which is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution
- ▶ Never cover any part of an extension cord with newspapers, clothing, rugs, or any objects while the cord is in use.
- ▶ Don't use staples or nails to attach extension cords to a baseboard or to another surface.
- ▶ Don't overload extension cords by plugging in appliances that draw a total of more watts than the rating of the cord.
- ▶ When using outdoor tools and appliances, use only extension cords labeled for outdoor use.

For further information contact Western's electrician department at 800-456-6720 or 785-743-5561.

Attention High School Juniors

Western will send FOUR students on a FREE summer trip!



Emily Ruder and Alex Lantis pose in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., during the 2010 "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

Taylor Hixon and Joey Augustine stand on Mt. Werner during the 2010 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Western Cooperative Electric will offer free trips for up to four children of Western Cooperative Electric members.

High school juniors, whose parents/guardians are Western members, are eligible to enter this contest.

Western is offering four all-expense-paid trips: two students to the Washington, D.C., "Government in Action" Youth Tour, June 9-16, 2011, and two students to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, July 9-15, 2011.

In addition to the trips, each winner will receive a \$250 scholarship. An additional \$250 scholarship is being

offered as a memorial for past Board Trustee, Darrell J. Brown.

To apply, students submit an application and résumé, take an open book quiz, and write a short essay on a topic to be announced. Based on these items, finalists will be selected for interviews and prize distribution at a time and place to be determined.

Since Western first sponsored the youth program in 1964, we have sponsored 57 students to Washington, D.C., and also two winners each year to the Steamboat Springs camp for the last 35 years.

Youth Tour Contest Coupon

For an eligible high school junior to enter the competition, the cooperative office should receive this coupon by January 31, 2011.

Mail or bring to: Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. 635 S. 13th St., P.O. Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672.

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Grade _____ School _____

Name of Parents/Guardian _____ Parents' Phone # _____

Electric Account # _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. _____
(Signature of Applicant)

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition sponsored by

Western Cooperative Electric, Inc. _____
(Name of Applicant)

(Signature of Paren/Legal Guardian)

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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District Offices

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2005 W Fulton
P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846
620-275-0261

Great Bend
2300 Broadway
P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-4223

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302 W. 6th
P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058
620-896-7090

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N Hwy 25
P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
620-375-2632

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101 Main Street
P.O. Box 230
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206 1/2 N Main
P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878
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FROM THE MANAGER

Wheatland Trustees Achieve Credentials

Three Wheatland Board members recently achieved their Board Leadership and Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

VIC CASE received his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate. **WOODY BARNES** and **DAVE LOWE** attained their Board Leadership (BLC) credentials.

CCD courses are intended to provide basic knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. The courses are:

- ▶ Director Duties and Liabilities
- ▶ Understanding the Electric Business
- ▶ Board Roles and Relationships
- ▶ Strategic Planning
- ▶ Financial Decision Making

The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Trustee. Trustees who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

Continuing education provides Trustees with information necessary to make good business decisions. There have been many changes in our industry over the years. More and more education will be needed to make intelligent, informed decisions.

All Wheatland Trustees have CCD certificates and several have completed the requirements for the BLC. Patrick Riley was awarded his BLC in 2009. Wheatland is privileged to have Trustees who have gone the extra mile to ensure the cooperative is the best it can be.

In addition to electric cooperative knowledge, Wheatland Trustees must have the knowledge necessary to direct Wheatland's Water Division and Internet Services Division. Each division is unique and requires Trustees to understand that specific business in order to make good decisions.



Neil Norman

Continuing education provides Trustees with information necessary to make good business decisions.

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Wheatland Trustees Achieve Credentials

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Seminars and trade magazines help keep the Trustees informed, as well as material provided by Wheatland staff.

Many hours are spent by the Trustees each month reviewing information so that they can make decisions that benefit the cooperative membership.



Woody Barnes (left), District 7 Trustee, receiving his Board Leadership certificate from Glenn English, NRECA CEO.



Vic Case (left), District 2 Trustee, receiving his CCD certificate from Wes Campbell, Wheatland Board President.



Dave Lowe (left), District 7 Trustee receiving his NRECA Board Leadership Program certificate from Glenn English.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Below are the proposed changes to Wheatland's current bylaws. The proposed revisions will be voted on at our annual meeting on April 6, 2011, in Scott City. The areas to be removed are marked with a line through the text. Additions are indicated in raspberry.

Article 1: Membership

Section 2: Membership Certificates:

Membership in the Cooperative shall be evidenced by a single certificate which shall be in such form and shall contain such provisions as shall be determined by the board of trustees.

Section 3: Joint Membership:

A husband and wife may apply for a joint membership and, subject to their compliance with the requirement set forth in Section 1 of the Article, may be accepted for such membership. The term "member" as used in these bylaws shall be deemed to include a husband and wife holding a joint membership and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter specified actions by or in respect of the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows:

- a) The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall have the effect of revoking a proxy, executed by either or both and of constituting a joint waiver of notice of the meeting;
- b) The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one joint vote;
- c) The proxy executed by either or both shall constitute one joint proxy;
- d) A waiver of notice signed by either of both shall constitute a joint waiver;
- e) Notice to either shall constitute notice to both;
- f) Expulsion of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- g) Withdrawal of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- h) Either but not both may be elected or appointed as an officer or trustee, provided that both meet the qualifications for such office.

Section 4: Conversion of membership:

A membership may be converted to a joint membership upon the written request of the holder thereof and the agreement of such holder and his or her spouse to comply with the

articles of incorporation, bylaws, and rules and regulations adopted by the board of trustees. The outstanding membership certificate shall be surrendered and shall be reissued by the Cooperative in such a manner as shall indicate the changed membership status.

Upon the death of either spouse who is a party to the joint membership, such membership shall be held solely by the survivor. The outstanding membership certificate shall be surrendered, and shall be reissued in such a manner as shall indicate the changed membership status; provided, however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

Section 5: Membership Fee:

There shall be no membership fee charged.

Section 2.6. Purchase of Electric Energy, Water or Telecommunications Services and Other Utility Services.

Each electric energy member shall purchase from the Cooperative all the electric energy used on premises owned by applicant for membership, save and except such energy as may be produced by means of an alternate source of energy owned and produced by applicant on premises owned by applicant. Applicant shall pay for energy, water, telecommunications services and/or other utility services provided by the cooperative at rates which shall, from time to time, be fixed by the board of trustees; provided, however, that the board of trustees may limit the amount of electric energy which the Cooperative shall be required to furnish to any one member. It is expressly understood that amounts paid for electric energy, water and telecommunications services in excess of the cost-of-service are furnished by members as capital and each member shall be credited with the capital so furnished as provided for in these bylaws.

Section 3.7. Termination of Membership.

...The membership of a member who for a period of six months after service is available to him, has not purchased electric energy, water, communications or other utility services from the Cooperative, or of a member who has

ceased to purchase same from the Cooperative, shall be cancelled by resolution of the board of trustees.

Article 3

Meeting of Members—Section 1. Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the members shall be held during the month of April each year, at such place in the area served by the Cooperative as shall be designated in the notice of the meeting, for the purposes of electing trustees, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

Article 4

Trustees—Section 1. General Powers.

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of fourteen no more than twelve trustees which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members. At least one but no more than two trustees shall be elected from each district.

Section 2. Election and Tenure of Office.

All trustees shall be elected by secret ballot at each annual meeting of the members, and from the members, and beginning with the 1961 annual election instead of electing all of the trustees annually, one-half the trustees, or a number as near thereto as possible, shall be elected for a three-year term except that the terms of the first trustees elected and as fixed by these bylaws, and commencing with the year 1960 shall be as follows:

- ▶ District 1, one trustee for a three-year term.
- ▶ District 2, one trustee for a three-year term.

- ▶ District 5, one trustee for a three-year term.
- ▶ District 1, one trustee for a two-year term.
- ▶ District 5, one trustee for a two-year term.

And commencing with the year 1961 trustees shall be elected at the annual meeting of the members as follows:

- ▶ District 2, one trustee for a three-year term.
- ▶ District 3, one trustee for a three-year term.
- ▶ District 4, one trustee for a three-year term.
- ▶ District 4, one trustee for a two-year term.
- ▶ District 3, one trustee for a one-year term.

That thereafter and for the year 1962 trustees shall be elected by the members as follows:

- ▶ District 1, one trustee for a three-year term.
- ▶ District 3, one trustee for a three-year term.
- ▶ District 5, one trustee for a three-year term.

All trustees shall be elected by secret ballot at each annual meeting of the members beginning with the year 1949 by and from the members and beginning with the 1950 annual election instead of electing all of the trustees annually, one-half of the trustees, or a number as near thereto as possible, shall be elected to serve succeeding annual meeting; thereafter as trustees' terms expire, the members shall elect their successors to serve until the second succeeding annual meeting after their election. If an election of the trustees shall not be held on the day designated herein for the annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, a special meeting of the members shall be held for the purpose of electing trustees within a reasonable time thereafter. Trustees may be elected by a plurality vote of the members present.

Section 4. Nominations and Districts.

... To insure equitable representation on the

and Sedgwick counties.

The first increase, if approved by the KCC, will enable us to achieve minimum requirements of our mortgage. The second increase will provide some margins (profits). These margins will provide working capital that will allow us to continue to rebuild the system without incurring too much new debt. They should also provide enough funds so that we will not need to seek another increase for several years.

Using 2009 as a test year, we show we have an additional revenue requirement of \$ 4,267,251 over our adjusted operating revenue of \$22,198,091 for that year. (Note: The

committee, the division of territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be as follows, to-wit:

District No. 1

Scott and Logan Counties

In Scott County, Kansas

- ▶ Township 17 South, Range 32 West
- ▶ The W ½ of Section 29
- ▶ All of Section 30
- ▶ All of Section 31
- ▶ The W ½ of Section 32

District No. 2

Wichita and Wallace Counties

In Wichita County, Kansas:

- ▶ All of Township 16 South, Range 35 West
- ▶ All of Township 16 South, Range 36 West
- ▶ All of Township 16 South, Range 37 West
- ▶ All of Township 17 South, Range 35 West

District No. 3

Greeley County, KS

Kiowa and Cheyenne Counties, CO

In Wichita County, Kansas:

- ▶ All of Township 16 South, Range 38 West
- ▶ All of Township 17 South, Range 38 West
- ▶ All of Township 18 South, Range 38 West
- ▶ All of Township 19 South, Range 38 West

District No. 4

Hamilton County, KS

W ½ Kearny County, KS

Prowers County, CO

In Hamilton County, Kansas:

- ▶ All of Township 22 South, Range 39 West
- ▶ All of Township 22 South, Range 40 West
- ▶ All of Township 22 South, Range 41 West

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Electric Rate Increase East Electric Division Customers Only

A cost-of-service analysis for our East Electric Division indicates electric rates to customers in that division need to be increased by nearly 19 percent over existing rates.

We have proposed to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) staff a two-step adjustment to rates. If approved as filed, the rates would increase about 10 percent in 2011 and another eight percent a year later.

Those affected by this increase would be residents of the city of Great Bend and members of Wheatland in Sumner, Harper, Kingman

\$4,267,251 is \$460,686 less than the \$ 4,727,938 indicated in last month's article.)

We currently have an investment of about \$46 million in this division. However, we still have more work to do. Outages in District 7 are unacceptable. To improve our service we will need to provide cover up protection for birds and small animals. We will also need to replace line insulators that have a known history of causing intermittent power interruptions. Many other routine improvements also need to be made such as changing out transformers and other devices. Please bear with us as we make these improvements over the coming years.

Bylaw Changes

Continued from page 16-C ▶

District No. 5

E ½ Kearny County
Finney County
Gray County

In Kearny County, Kansas:

- ▶ All of Township 22-South, Range-35 West
- ▶ All of Township 22-South, Range-36 West
- ▶ All of Township 22-South, Range-37 West
- ▶ All of Township 22-South, Range-38 West

District No. 6

Great Bend

District No. 7

Harper, Kingman, Sumner, and Sedgwick Counties

The committee on nominations, in selecting the selection of members for the nomination of trustee positions, shall be as follows to insure geographic representation, to wit by conforming to the following: ... Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than forty days prior to the meeting and said nominations appointed by the board of trustees, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place the list of nominees by the committee is posted.

Section 5. Removal of Trustees by Members.

Any member may bring charges against a trustee and, by filing with the Secretary such charges in writing together with a petition signed by at least ten percent per centum (10%) of the members may request the removal of such trustee by reason thereof. . . The question of the removal of such trustee shall be considered and voted upon at the next regular or special meeting of members and any vacancy

created by such removal may be filled by vote of the members at such meeting without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations.

Article 5

Meeting of Trustees

Section 1. Regular meeting.

A regular meeting of the board of trustees shall be held without notice, immediately after and at the same place as the annual meeting of the members. A regular meeting of the board of trustees shall also be held monthly at such time and place in any of the counties served by the Cooperative as the board of trustees may provide by resolution.

Section 3. Notice of Trustee Meetings.

Written notice of the time, place, and purpose of any special meeting of the board of trustees shall be delivered not less than five days previous thereto to each trustee either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the President or the trustees calling the meeting.

Article 6.

Officers

Section 2. Election and Term of Office.

The officers shall be elected by ballot, annually by and from the board of trustees at the next meeting of the board of trustees held immediately after the annual meeting of the members. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as convenient. Each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the board of trustees following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until his successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

Section 4. President.

The President:

b) May sign, with the Secretary, certificates of membership, the issue of which shall have been authorized by the board of trustees or the members, and may sign deeds, mortgages...

Section 6. Secretary.

The Secretary shall be responsible for:...

- c) Custody of the corporate records and of the seal of the Cooperative, and affixing the seal of the Cooperative to all certificates of membership prior to the issue thereof and to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Cooperative under its seal is duly authorized with the provisions of these bylaws;
- e) Signing with the President, certificates of membership, the issue of which shall have been authorized by the board of trustees of the members;

Article 7

Non-Profit Operation

Section 2. Patronage Capital.

...In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all its patrons for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy, water and telecommunications services in excess of operating costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of electric energy such services...

... After April 6, 1978, The board of trustees shall determine the method, basis, priority, and order of retirement, if any, for all amounts heretofore and hereafter furnished as capital.

...In the event that a non-member patron shall elect to become a member of the Cooperative the capital credited to the account of such non-member patron may be applied by the

Cooperative toward the payment of a membership fee on behalf of such non-member patron.

Article 8

Disposition of Property

... to secure any indebtedness of the cooperative to United States of America or any instrumentality or agency thereof; or for the purpose of securing any indebtedness evinced by a common mortgage wherein the United States of America, acting through the Administration of the Rural Electrification Administration, extends the loan of funds conditioned upon a concurrent loan to the Cooperative from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) in accordance with Loan Agreements between Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., and CFC; ...

Article 10

Financial Transactions

Section 4. Change in Rates.

Written notice shall be given to the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration of the United States of America not less than ninety days prior to the date upon which any proposed change in rates charged by the Cooperative for electric energy becomes effective.

Article 11.

Miscellaneous

Section 4. Accounting System and Reports.

The board of trustees shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system which, among other things, and subject to applicable laws and rules and regulations of any regulatory body, shall conform to such and with standard accounting practices as may from time to time be designated by the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration of the United States of America.