



# Lyon-Coffey Events

## Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Headquarters

1013 N. 4th Street  
P.O. Box 229  
Burlington, Kansas 66839  
Phone: (620) 364-2116

### District Office

710 Industrial Rd.  
P.O. Box 964  
Emporia, Kansas 66801  
Phone: (620) 342-0553

## Letter From The Manager: *Climate Change Debate - Part 1*

What do you think of when I mention the words "climate change"? Some will think that it is one of the greatest threats facing the world today. Others will see it as nothing more than a social or political agenda trying to masquerade itself as a scientific fact. But regardless of what your view is, you need to understand that this issue is already affecting your cooperative today and will have an impact on each of us directly in the months and years to come.

Over the next four months, I would like to share with you some information concerning this greatly deliberated topic. The fact is that the Earth's climate is always changing. A key question is how much of the observed warming is due to human activities and how much is due to natural variability in the climate. This month we will look at the climate change debate and discuss both the science and politics involved.

In the judgment of some scientists, Earth's warming in the recent decades has been caused primarily by human activities that have increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Al Gore has become somewhat of a spokesperson for this view with the release last year of his movie "An Inconvenient Truth". He says

that an increase in carbon dioxide into the atmosphere has caused the atmosphere to retain more heat, resulting in higher surface temperatures. This camp goes on to say that if the Earth's temperatures rise too much, they predict increases in severe weather, ice caps melting, sea levels rising and coastal flooding.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations organization, released a report last May that states it is "very likely" that emissions of heat-trapping gases from human activities have caused "most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-twentieth century".

On the other side of this subject is an equally passionate group that insists that the debate about the cause of climate change is far from over. They contend that the planet's temperature has historically gone through warming and cooling cycles similar to what we are currently observing today. They claim that natural forces far outweigh any impact that we humans can have by releasing carbon dioxide into the air. They believe that the effect of solar activity, variations in the Earth's orbital cycles and changes in the ocean currents have been the drivers in climate change in the past and are most likely the driving

principals today.

No matter what our personal opinion is, it seems as though Washington politicians, as well as those in Topeka, have decided that climate change is real and requires some "action" on their part. What that means to you and me is that there will be laws and regulations passed that will begin to control what can be released into the atmosphere. Many businesses and industries will be directly affected, especially utilities. The question then becomes, how do we balance economic affordability and environmental responsibility?

I realize that we've just scratched the surface of a rather complicated topic. If you would like to read more, many websites have sprung up to either support or refute each side of the argument as well as weekly magazines and newspapers. If you are a more visual person, I mentioned the Al Gore movie earlier and the BBC has released a documentary titled "The Great Global Warming Swindle".

Next month I will focus on the makeup of fuel sources from which Lyon-Coffey Electric gets its power. Hope to see you then.



Scott Whittington

# ATTENTION:

## Lyon-Coffey Annual Meeting 2008

**You could win the  
\$250 FREE ELECTRICITY  
grand door prize at the  
Lyon-Coffey Electric Annual Meeting**

**Monday, March 31, 2008**

Emporia Civic Auditorium  
W.L. White Arena  
111 E 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Emporia

Dinner Served – 6 p.m.

Business Meeting – 7 p.m.

Please RSVP by March 21 by calling  
(800) 748-7395 or (620) 364-5121

Great Food, Door Prizes, Exhibits, Co-op Annual Report,  
Election of Trustees, FREE Child Care During Business  
Meeting, A Time of Fellowship with Friends and Neighbors

**Don't Miss YOUR Cooperative Annual Meeting!**

## Crew Foreman Redeker Retires

Larry Redeker, Lyon-Coffey Electric Crew Foreman, retired February 29, 2008.

Redeker began working for the cooperative in February 1982 and has served cooperative customers faithfully for 26 years.

Not only has he worked for the benefit of the members, but he has been a great employee and co-worker. He is respected by co-op employees for his



*Larry Redeker*

dedication and willingness to do whatever it took to get a job done. The safety of his co-workers is important to him and he has trained numerous young men to do their jobs in a safe and efficient manner.

The members and the employees of Lyon-Coffey Electric will miss him tremendously, but we wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement. Thank you, Larry, for your years of service.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met at the Burlington cooperative office on February 8, 2008, to nominate members to be voted upon to fill vacancies of the Lyon-Coffey Electric Board of Trustees as required by the by-laws. These nominees will be voted on at the Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting to be held in Emporia on March 31, 2008. The members nominated to serve are:

### **District I**

Wayne VanGundy  
2517 Rd J  
Americus, KS

### **District II**

Richard Prather  
27546 SE 800 Rd  
Kincaid, KS

### **District III**

Richard Schmidt  
1951 Rd 60  
Hartford, KS

Other nominations can be made by petition of any 15 or more members acting together or nominated from the floor during the meeting. Nominations made at least five days before the meeting shall be included on the official ballot if an official ballot is printed in advance of the meeting.

**Have a Happy  
St. Patrick's Day!  
Monday, March 17**