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From the Manager... Looking to the Past for a Brighter Future

In order to keep electricity affordable in the future perhaps we need to look back to our roots.

As late as the mid-1930's nine out of 10 rural homes were without electric service. A farmer milked his cows by hand in the dim light of a kerosene lantern. His wife was a slave to the wood range and washboard.

Electricity was unavailable in rural areas, which confined rural economies entirely and exclusively to agriculture. Factories and businesses, of course, preferred to locate in cities where electric power was easily acquired.

Seventy years ago two separate electric coops in East Central Kansas (Lyon County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Coffey County Rural Electric Coop-

erative Association, Inc.) were formed to fulfill the dream of electrifying every farm and house in rural Kansas.

The first sections of electric line were energized in 1939. In talking with some of our more "experienced" members, they recall it was hard for some of them to even come up with the initial \$5 membership fee. Many worked hand-in-hand with the co-op employees to bring the electricity to their farms and homes. They helped dig the holes and set the poles. This is the kind of commitment at the member-owner level, a real sense of community, that is needed today.

With climate change measures on the horizon in Washington and Topeka, we need to make sure the result is legislation the

co-op members can afford. We need you engaged with our representatives to insist that anything they do increases the standard of living and not just have a negative impact on your electric bills.

Let's remind them of the history of the electric cooperatives and why we were formed. Let's remind them that we don't want to return to the days where only the rich can afford to use electricity. And let's remind them of the grass roots efforts of our forefathers and the hard work they sacrificed to bring power to rural Kansas.

We hope that you will join us in the cooperative spirit on March 30th to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of "Neighbors Serving Neighbors" at the Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The night begins with dinner from 6 to 7 p.m. followed immediately with the business meeting portion of the program. See you there!



Scott Whittington



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use a programmable thermostat to vary your home's temperature based on your schedule. Lower your thermostat when you're not home or at night to save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling costs!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Lyon-Coffey Linemen Assist Arkansas Co-op

Lyon-Coffey Electric linemen spent two weeks in Arkansas assisting Carroll Electric Cooperative with restoration of electric service following a devastating ice storm that broke trees and electric poles, tearing down miles of electric service line to their consumers.

The first crew responding to the storm included Chuck Alferts, Zack Peak, Craig Muetting, Corey Robinson, Dillon Carrier, and Matt Hopkins. They left January 28 and returned February 4.

A second crew including Marvin Burns, Steve Rohde, Mark Moomey and Matt Sowers left February 4 and returned February 10.

Crews put in long, hard days but enjoyed the challenge and the privilege of working with the Arkansas linemen. The terrain is very beautiful with tree covered mountains, but the landscape



Lyon-Coffey crews assist Carroll Electric in Arkansas with restoration efforts after a severe ice storm.

created challenges when repairing and rebuilding line. Their labor and expertise was appreciated by Carroll Electric and their members. Lyon-Coffey is proud of our linemen's dedication and willingness to serve.

ATTENTION: Lyon-Coffey Annual Meeting 2009

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

Monday, March 30, 2009

Burlington High School
830 Cross Street, Burlington, KS

Dinner at 6 p.m. ~Business Meeting at 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, Energy Conservation Information

Don't Miss Your Cooperative's Annual Meeting!

Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Please RSVP for Dinner by March 20 by calling 800-748-7395 or (620) 364-5121. You can also RSVP by returning this form to our office at:

Lyon-Coffey Electric
P.O. Box 229
Burlington, KS 66839

Name _____

Number of persons _____

We understand that plans change so if you can come at the last minute please do. We just need to have an idea of how many meals to order. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you there!