



# Lyon-Coffey Events

## Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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## Do-It-Yourselfers Should Make Safety a Top Priority

With an increased interest in home improvement television shows and magazines, many do-it-yourselfers are just itching to cross some of those remodeling projects off their lists. Before starting repairs, landscaping, and construction projects, whether inside or outside the home, take a few moments to brush up on basic electrical safety guidelines to help protect you, your family and friends from electrical injuries.

Safety tips to keep in mind include:

- Look UP and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work.
- Never go up on the roof in bad weather.
- Be sure to lower your long equipment when you are moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.

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## Letter From The Manager: *Capital Credits 101*

An electric cooperative's Board of Trustees must be sure that its capital credits decisions are in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as the cooperatives articles of incorporation and bylaws.

As a borrower of funds from the federal government through the Rural Utility Service (RUS), the agency's regulations impact the cooperative's allocation and retirement of capital credits.

These regulations stipulate certain financial benchmarks the cooperative must attain before they are allowed to retire capital credits. These regulations include: equity levels, timeliness of loan payments, and aggregate dollar amount of retirements paid within a year as a percentage of margins.

Under Kansas law, Statute 17-4623 refunds to members, are applicable. This section outlines the guiding principles the board must contemplate before any course of action is taken in regards to capital credits. This statute defines necessary operating revenues and then discusses the distribution of excess capital.

Finally, the bylaws of the

cooperative give the Board of Trustees direction in retiring capital credits. Our by-laws state that the co-

operative may only retire capital credits if the Board determines that the retirement will not impair or adversely affect the cooperative's financial condition. Therefore, under the bylaws, the retirement of capital credits is contingent upon one or more determinations by the cooperative's Board of Trustees. A member's right to the payment of capital credits does not vest until the Board makes the required determination(s) and the cooperative retires capital credits.

As you can see, capital credits are not a simple matter. The Board has a myriad of legal issues to consider when making a determination if, when and how much to pay.

Next month we will look into the various methods of disbursing capital the Board can consider once it has made the determination to distribute capital credits.



Scott Whittington

# Youth Tour Participants Visit Lyon-Coffey

## Do-It-Yourselfers... Continued from page 16-B



Ray Hutson, Director of Member Service, demonstrates electric safety.

As a part of the annual, "Government in Action" Youth Tour winners from Kansas and Hawaii spent a some time at Lyon-Coffey Electric June 8 before leaving for Washington, D.C.

Ray Hutson, Director of Member Service, presented an electric safety demonstration to the students. Afterward, linemen Mark Doebele gave bucket rides to the students.

Kate Parker and Allen Harkrader represented Lyon-Coffey during the Youth Tour.

The students enjoyed their time at the cooperative and look forward to their trip to Lyon-Coffey next year.



**Above:** Lineman Mark Doebele gives Hawaii participant Alyssa Nishihira a bucket truck ride.

**Bottom Left:** Kate Parker shows off her muscles in linemen's gloves.

**Bottom Right:** Allen Harkrader waits his turn in line for bucket truck rides.



- Make sure you have the right tools and equipment for the job. Use only extension cords that are rated for outdoor use when working outside. Keep your work area tidy and don't allow your power cords to tangle.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call your local underground utility locator before you begin. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines.
- If it's raining or the ground is wet, don't use electric power or yard tools. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you're wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.
- Make certain your home electrical system and wiring is adequate to support increased electric demands of new electric appliances, home additions or remodeling projects.

Home electrical systems age and deteriorate over time. Older homes require more frequent inspections and maintenance. Aging of electrical systems combined with increased loads to meet today's electrical needs can pose electrical hazards. Replace worn and outdated wiring and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics.

Lyon-Coffey Electric strongly recommends this NOT be a do-it-yourself project.