

# Lyon-Coffey Events

## Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Headquarters

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## Bazil Retires from Lyon-Coffey



**Kenneth Bazil**

Kenneth Bazil, Director of Operations, retired from Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative October 6, 2006.

His last day reporting to work was September 29. Ken came to work at Lyon-Coffey Electric June 22, 1992 as Director of Operations.

The cooperative celebrated his 14 years of service with a reception at the Burlington office. Family members, co-workers, and friends helped him enjoy the afternoon. Memories were shared, some at Ken's expense, of course, along with the presentation of his retirement gift.

Lyon-Coffey Electric thanks him for his service and wishes him a long and enjoyable retirement.

## Letter From The Manager



**Scott Whittington**

Autumn is a time for college football, pumpkins, apple pie, cool mornings and warm afternoons. It is a time to gather with friends and family and a time to give thanks.

It is also a time for many of us to begin preparations for the colder weather. There are a number of things you can do to minimize your winter heating bills or at least make them a bit more manageable.

Whether you are adding more insulation or fixing the caulking around doors and windows please be aware of the electric lines. Look up, especially when using ladders. Please keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from power lines. Let's all be safe and enjoy this beautiful time of the year.

If you have questions or need additional ideas on reducing your heating bills for this winter just give our member services department a call.

Last month, I reported that Lyon-Coffey was initiating the process of a cost of service study. The purpose of the study is to

determine if the existing rate structure

is sufficient to meet the service needs of our membership, as well as the financial obligations we have to our lenders. I discussed using our statewide organization, Kansas Electric Cooperative's (KEC) staff to support us in this multi-stage endeavor.

After conferring with KEC, it appears that four other Kansas Electric electric cooperatives have requested similar help in rate studies and are in line ahead of us. Due to this backlog, the Board of Trustees has asked the cooperative's management team to find an alternative source to conduct the study. We have been in contact with several well qualified firms that have experience in this field and have assisted other Midwest cooperatives. From the responses we have received we are convinced that we will be able to complete the analysis in a timely manner.

As promised, we will keep you informed throughout the process.

# Copper Thefts in Lyon-Coffey Area

Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative has been among those businesses and individuals that have suffered loss recently as a result of the theft of copper wire and tools.

The stolen items add to the cost of providing electricity and is dangerous both to the thief and the people affected by the consequences of damage to the electric system.

Across the country, increasing incidences of copper theft are met with rising fatalities and outages to thousands of people. With a 25% surge in these offenses over the past year, Lyon-Coffey urges you to be aware of the deadly risks and far-reaching consequences involved in copper theft.

“Stealing material from an electric substation or utility pole can cause not only serious injuries and death, but extensive outages, fires and explosions – consequences that impact innocent people,” Scott Whittington, Manager of Lyon-Coffey, said. “The minimum damage that can occur is an outage, which may affect thousands of individuals. In some instances, removal of copper can cause a surge on the electric system and permanently damage household appliances and other equipment as well.”

Copper in wire is appealing to thieves who seek to sell the metal for scrap. Burglars will go as far as climbing power poles, scaling fences, and breaking into buildings to steal the precious metal.

While this issue is not new, higher prices for the metal are causing thieves to become bolder

and more inventive, resulting in more fatalities and public impacts than ever before.

“People must be aware of this kind of theft and that tampering with electric power facilities can result in extremely dangerous situations. Always alert your utility provider when you see or suspect suspicious activity,” Whittington said.

Lyon-Coffey offers these tips to help safeguard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft:

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc. contact your electric utility immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than utility personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight. Consider hiring a night security guard.

Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper.

## Kayton Hired As Director of Operations

Curtis Kayton is the new Director of Operations for Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative.



**Curtis Kayton**

Kayton graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management. Before that he spent five years in the U.S. Navy Seabees where he served as Construction Electrician Foreman and performed conventional electrician duties on military bases in the U.S. and overseas.

He has also worked as an apprentice lineman and as a Project Manager while working for Kayton Electric, his father's company.

Kayton was the Operations Superintendent at Southwest Public Power District in Pali-sade, Nebraska, before accepting his current position with Lyon-Coffey Electric.

Kayton and his family have moved to Burlington and are already an active part of the community. Lyon-Coffey is pleased to welcome Kayton as our new Director of Operations and his family to the Burlington community.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

*Our office will be closed  
November 23-24  
Have a safe and happy holiday.*