



1850 W. Oklahoma, P.O. Box 368
Ulysses, KS 67880
620.356.1211 or
800.794.9302
www.pioneerelectric.coop

ULYSSES
COOP OIL-SUPPLY
**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**
NEWS

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Editor

In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 888-551-4140. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

Free Trips and Scholarships Up For Grabs

Would your high school student like to visit Steamboat Springs, Colo., or Washington D.C., for free? How about receiving a \$1,000 scholarship toward his/her further education? Pioneer Electric is excited to accept applications for our Youth Tour programs and scholarship opportunities.

Visit the Rockies or Washington, D.C.

Sophomore and junior students residing in our service territory have the opportunity to apply for trips offered through our Youth Tour program. These all-expense-paid trips provide our local students with the chance to develop their leadership skills, meet students from across the U.S. and learn more about government and their cooperative.

► **Washington, D.C.** – The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour takes place from June 8 to 15. During this week-long tour, students visit historic sights, go on a dance cruise, meet students from across the U.S. as well as their elected officials.

► **Steamboat Springs, Colo.** – The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

takes place July 14 to 20. At camp, participants enjoy rafting on the Colorado River, touring the Trapper Coal Mine and exploring the ins and outs of a cooperative.

Visit pioneerelectric.coop for Youth Tour application guidelines.

Receive a Pioneer Electric Scholarship

Pioneer Electric offers 15 \$1,000 scholarships for further education to area high school seniors in our service territory. There is no GPA or grade requirement to apply. To apply, interested students must complete the online application at pioneerelectric.coop and provide a résumé and an official high school transcript. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Submit your application

Applications for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, and scholarships are **DUE ON FEB. 1, 2017**. If you have any questions, please call Pioneer Electric at 620-356-1211.

Hard Hats Off to You!

Congratulations and thank you to our employees for their continued years of service to Pioneer Electric and our members!

- **5 years** – Steve Epperson & Chris Wagner
- **10 years** – Sherry Easton, Kristen Hampton & Diana Nunez
- **15 years** – Sheila Mason & Chantry Scott
- **25 years** – Dee Longoria
- **30 years** – Marvin Billings
- **35 years** – George Bushnell
- **40 years** – Larry Davis
- **45 years** – Melvin Winger



Davis Celebrates 40 Years at Pioneer Electric

On Dec. 1, 2016, Engineering Supervisor **LARRY DAVIS** was recognized for 40 years of service to Pioneer Electric.

Over his career, Davis served on the line, in the office and out in the field. While his job titles may have changed throughout his career at Pioneer Electric, his commitment to the co-op and its members remained the same.

On the line

"I was about 18 years old when I first started with Pioneer. My dad was a contractor for Pioneer and told me that I should go apply for a position with the co-op," Davis said. "I started as a groundsman."

The more Davis watched, the more he learned: He quickly began honing and developing the skills he needed to advance his career. He eventually became a linemen and became a crew foreman for the cooperative. In working on the line, nothing meant more to Davis than restoring power.

"I remember one night we needed to replace a high line fuse outside of Moscow. The whole town was out of power, and we didn't have any fuses with us, so we were waiting for someone from the office to bring us some," Davis said. "While we waited, a semi-truck pulled up and a guy jumped out and asked us for directions to Moscow. We told him to wait a second and we'd show him. We finished up our work, placed in the fuses, and the whole town lit up. To be able to do something like that is just unreal. While not comparable to winning the Super Bowl or anything, it still left us with a sense of pride for doing

something good."

New department, new challenges

With his experience from the line, Davis was challenged with a new position. "I joined the engineering team in 1991, and while I didn't have any formal training, I did have experience from building line," Davis said. "I had to think differently: I knew how to set a pole, but I had to learn where to place those poles."

An increase in central pivot irrigation, along with the growth of new businesses, brought hurdles to Pioneer's system that needed to be addressed.

"In 2006, we started to see a rise in service requests for electric irrigation wells. We had to look at our system and make adjustments to our infrastructure for these systems," Davis said. "However, we also were faced with one of the worst ice storms I'd seen that took out a third of our system. During the restoration, we didn't just want to be reactive, we wanted to be proactive. We could build it back just like it was, but it might go down again in the next storm. It was such a big learning curve for Pioneer as a whole, and it was impressive what we accomplished together."

Continuing to change, one day at a time

Today, Davis continues to work to ensure the stability of Pioneer Electric electrical infrastructure, utilizing new technologies and collaborating with co-workers to meet the needs of members. With each passing day, new changes and challenges are brought to his attention, but through teamwork he believes that the co-op can accomplish anything.

"It takes everyone working together to make this cooperative run," Davis said. "We work with the people we serve, listen to their needs and do our best to let them know that we truly care."

When asked about the future, Davis plans to continue his service to Pioneer Electric, facing each new change as it approaches.

"I'd like to continue working at Pioneer Electric as long as I can," Davis said. "When a person works with a company this long, you start to become a second family with those you've worked with over the years. I'm sure, at times, they can get sick of you, but you get to the point where you know what they can do, you start to count on them, and you know they have your back. This is my home, I've had four generations of my family work for Pioneer, a wonderful wife, a great family and a wonderful job. I couldn't feel any more blessed."

Pioneer Electric thanks you for your dedicated service to the cooperative, Larry!



Pioneer Electric CEO Steve Epperson (right) congratulates Engineering Supervisor Larry Davis for 40 years of service to Pioneer Electric Cooperative and its members.

Increasing Your Home's Energy Savings in Every Season

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective, achieving this goal varies by season. A number of factors impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home and desired comfort levels. During the fall and winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, we want a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out. Conversely, in the spring and summer, the focus is on keeping the heat out of our cool homes.

Fall and winter: keeping heat in

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, you can take simple steps to increase energy efficiency. Fall is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and increase energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts.

During the day, open the curtains on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Then, close the curtains at night for an added layer of window insulation. As the temperature drops lower, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an



During the winter months, conserve energy by using a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature of your home when you are away.

optimal level.

Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to

the Department of Energy, this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

Spring and summer: keeping your cool

During warmer months, energy savings and efficiency will require different measures, many of which are inexpensive. If you live in a climate that is cool, open your windows in the evening and turn off your cooling system while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and sunlight in winter. In addition to the aesthetic value, well placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by creating a canopy for the house.

During the hottest months, it's all the more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The wasted heat from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates unwanted heat. For additional savings, employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or when your family is sleeping.

For more energy efficiency tips, find Pioneer Electric on Facebook.

2017 Pioneer Electric Board of Trustees Nominations

Pioneer Electric's annual meeting will be held March 18, 2017. The following is excerpted from Pioneer Electric's bylaws regarding nominations of the board members.

NOMINATIONS. *It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than thirty days nor more than 60 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than seven (7) members. At least two members shall be selected from each district from which a trustee is to be elected so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members which shall include at least two candidates for each board position to be filled by the election. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing, with the*

notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations. Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, if any, received at least five days before the meeting shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

For more information, please contact Pioneer Electric at 620-356-1211.



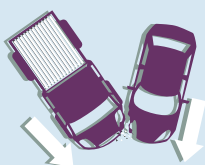
5 DISTRACTED DRIVING STATS YOU SHOULD KNOW



3,179

Number of people killed each year in vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers

(Federal Communications Commission, 2014)



1 in 4

The probability that a vehicle crash involved a cellphone

(National Safety Council, 2014)

60%



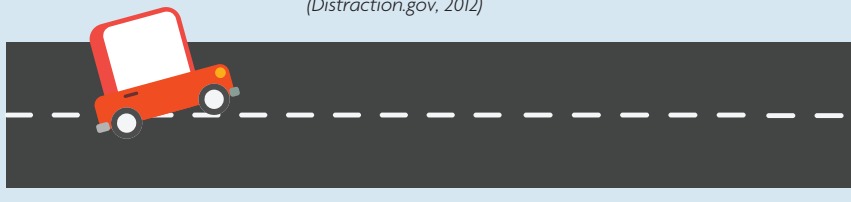
Percentage of people who use cellphones while driving

(Harris Poll, 2011)

21-24

Age group most likely to send a text or email while driving

(Distraction.gov, 2012)



4X

How much using a cellphone increases your risk of crashing

(National Safety Council, 2014)

