

Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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.

Pioneer Electric Prepares for the Upcoming 73rd Annual Meeting

Join us at Pioneer Electric's 73rd annual meeting and free health fair on March 18, 2017, at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses.

Events for the day will start at 7 a.m. with our annual health fair, sponsored in partnership with Pioneer Communications. Blood draws and free blood profilings will be available until 11:30 a.m. Members can also pay for additional tests including A1C (glycohemoglobin), PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) and TSH (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone). Each test will be available for \$8 each. Please note, payments will only be accepted in cash or check. It is important to note, Pioneer Electric and Pioneer Communications will not have access to your test results. We will provide you with the appropriate contact information to receive your testing results.

Registration for the annual meeting will begin at 8 a.m., and the meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m. At registration, members will receive their ballot for the election of the following board of trustee positions:

- **District 1** – incumbent **MELVIN WINGER** and nominee **DAVID WALKER**
- **District 2** – incumbent **MIKE BREWER** and nominee **SHANE W.**



Vice President of Energy Services Anita Wendt get help in drawing for door prizes during the annual meeting.

BROWNING

- **District 7** – incumbent **MARTIE FLOYD** and nominee **ROBERT E. SEGER**

Topics of discussion at this year's annual meeting will include the importance of community involvement, community outreach programs offered by Pioneer Electric, board of trustee elections and recognition of scholarship and Youth Tour recipients. In addition, Pioneer Electric employees will be drawing for door prizes throughout the meeting. Events will conclude with a free meal to be served at the end of the meeting.

"Active participation in your cooperative is vital," said CEO Steve Epperson. "It's through the support of our community that Pioneer Electric is able to meet the needs of the members we serve. Together, we work to ensure a strong cooperative today and for future generations."

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Sharing Stories With A True Pioneer: Lois Dunn BY WHITNEY TUREK

Imagine a time period where you lived without lights, running water, a hair dryer or a fresh bath. Your daily tasks were either a joint effort or creative hack, such as using an old washtub bowl to heat your water in the sun, or making all of your clothing because the store is too far away and clothes cost more than just a pretty penny. This life sounds all too familiar with those who grew up in the time before electricity was brought to rural communities.

LOIS DUNN is one woman who lived such a life before it became the society we now know today.

"Growing up, I remember we would have to wait for our pond to freeze before we would cut ice," Dunn said. "Without electricity, we did what we had to do to have cold water and ice in the summer."

While Dunn spent the majority of her life moving from Oklahoma, Kansas and California she finally settled in the small town of Richfield, Kan. after marrying her husband, Wallace, on June 1, 1945. The Dunn family began expanding in 1948 until six beautiful children filled their home with joy.

Dunn's days were filled with helping her husband on their farm. Together they milked the family's three cows, cared for pigs and harvested wheat. Her family relied on the farm for everything. They would garden for fresh produce and traded cream and eggs for goods and services, like family haircuts.

Dunn's story depicts a time where many cannot even begin to imagine the hardship that came with being a farmer, or even the advances to be made in agriculture with the coming of electricity access to their rural communities.

Life without electricity may have made farming more

difficult and time consuming, but Dunn did not let such obstacles stand in her way of living a happy life surrounded by friends, family and neighbors.

Although Dunn and her family prioritized the farm, they were very involved in their church.

Throughout suffering many tragedies in her lifetime, Dunn remained a devoted Christian and spent much of her time teaching Sunday school at the Richfield United Methodist Church and enjoying community potluck dinners once a month.

Family and community have remained a priority for Dunn. For years, she has actively served those needing a helping hand. With her love for knitting and crocheting combined with her desire to help others, Dunn also dedicated her time to making baby sweater sets and hats to send to foreign countries in need.

"Only in a small community would we do the things we do now, said Dunn. "Small towns bring people together. We help each other during the tough times and use our gifts to make things a little bit better for all."

Throughout Dunn's lifetime of devotion to her family, community, church and others, it came as no surprise when she was selected as Morton County's Pioneer Woman of the Year in 2012.

Dunn has spent her life living in rural communities and experienced first-hand the struggles of living without electricity; that is, until the day in 1950 when her husband signed the check to become a member of Pioneer Electric and Pioneer Telephone, bringing electricity and telephone service to their family farm. To this day, Dunn still has the check and will proudly present it to anyone who asks. Throughout her life, Dunn pioneered through times without electricity, hardships and joyous memories with family and friends. However, no matter what was thrown her way, she has remained a loyal resident, neighbor, wife, mother and grandmother to 14 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Lois Dunn truly is a pioneer.



Lois and Wallace moved from the California coast to Kansas after their marriage in 1945.



Pioneer Electric Member, Lois Dunn, shares stories from her time in the community. Although much has changed over the years, Dunn's commitment to her faith and her community has touched the lives of many.

Use Caution Near Co-op Equipment

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this spring, Pioneer Electric reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the cooperative.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call 888-551-4140 for professional assistance.

We are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- ▶ Keep a safe distance from electrical



Flying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous or, in some cases, even deadly.

equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.

- ▶ Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- ▶ Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Your safety is important to Pioneer Electric. By taking the time to practice electrical safety, you ensure that this spring will be filled with fun!

Find us on Facebook for more electrical safety tips and additional information.

Connections Corner

The Co-op Connections Card is your connection to great discounts at various local businesses. Check out this month's great deals!

Hamilton County Museum, Syracuse

- ▶ **FREE ADMISSION** at the museum

Grant County Senior Center, Ulysses

- ▶ **DISCOUNTED RATES** for seniors on various services.

J&M Paint and Decorating Center, Garden City

- ▶ **15% DISCOUNT** on any item in store or special order

Grant County Furniture, Ulysses

- ▶ **5% OFF** lowest marked price on items in store

Bank of Ulysses, Ulysses

- ▶ **FIRST BOX OF CHECKS FREE** with new checking account

Lost your card? No problem!

Replace your lost Co-op Connections Card, for free, by visiting our Ulysses office!



Statement of Non-discrimination

Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. The individual responsible for coordinating the organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Stephen J. Epperson. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Keep Trees Up and Out of Electrical Power Lines

Trees are a treasured sight in southwest Kansas. They help beautify our neighborhoods, provide some much needed shade and guard our homes from blistery breezes. However, the wrong tree in the wrong place can cause more harm than good, especially to electrical equipment. This spring planting season, we encourage our members to take the time to look up and plan ahead when planting extra trees around their homes or property.



Tree branches and other debris on power lines can slow down restoration efforts of line crews. Taking the time to maintain trees while they are growing can help ensure that they stay out of any electrical equipment.

branches. Underground utility lines, sewage lines, septic systems and more may lie under your lawn. Before busting out the shovel, call 811 to have these items marked. This will not only keep you safe but it could protect your new tree from being damaged if ever these lines need repaired.

Finally, you need to ensure that you give your new trees the proper care. Treat trees for any bugs or diseases and make sure to prune trees to the

When deciding what type of tree to plant, there are numerous factors to take into consideration. The height, leaf type and heat/cold tolerance of a tree can greatly vary between varieties. Leafy deciduous trees are great for providing shady cover, thick evergreens can help break up harsh winds and small ornamental trees can liven up a bare corner lot. Do your research on trees that grow well in your area. If you're unsure, ask a neighbor, local landscape supplier or contractor for recommendations.

suggested recommendations for its variety. As your tree begins to touch the sky, look for any problem branches that could potentially grow over your home, vehicle or overhead power lines. The earlier these branches are addressed, the easier it will be to stop them from growing where you don't want them to be.

By taking the time to properly care for your leafy friend you can help ensure that it will be enjoyed for generations and generations.

Take a look around your yard or property for any potential hazards, like power lines, that you'd like your leafy friend to avoid growing into. The general rule is that you should avoid planting any trees within 25 feet of any power lines, regardless of how tall it may grow. Trees populating the low zone (trees that will reach a height of 20 feet or less) should be planted at least 25 feet away from lines and 8 to 10 feet away from your home. Trees between 25 feet and 40 feet in height should be planted at least 40 feet away from lines and 15 feet away from your home or other buildings. Finally, trees taller than 40 feet at maturity should be planted at least 60 feet away from electrical equipment and 20 feet away from buildings and structures.

In addition to the space above your tree, you need to also look into what's going to be below the

Tree Planting Guide

