

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's 2017 Annual Meeting



Pioneer Electric employees Mayra Nieto, Sheila Mason, Diana Nunez, Jean Franco, Ashley Gibbons, Sarai Garza and Larissa Hoopingartner gather for a quick photo while registering members for the Pioneer Electric Annual Meeting.

On March 18, members, employees and Board members of Pioneer Electric gathered together for the 73rd Pioneer Electric Annual Meeting.

At 7 a.m., lines began to form with eager faces for the free Health Fair. Twenty-four booths from local vendors provided various health related information to visitors throughout the morning. After spending time at the booths, attendees waited patiently for free blood testing. Phlebotomists from Preventive Health Now were kept busy throughout the morning, serving over 1090 individuals throughout the morning.

At 8 a.m., registration was opened for the Annual Meeting. Volunteers from Pioneer Electric eagerly greeted and handed out attendance prizes to 152 registered Pioneer Electric members filing in to the event. At 10 a.m., the meeting was called to

order by Melvin Winger, President of Pioneer's Board of Trustees. Winger introduced various guests before turning the podium to Pastor, Garrett Gretz who led members in prayer.

Margaret Nightengale, USD 214 Board President, welcomed guests to the meeting and discussed the importance of community interaction. Nightengale thanked Pioneer Electric for its involvement with the school district and encouraged members to continue to support their local schools.

Member's votes were then cast in the election of board members. Incumbents Melvin Winger (District 1), Mike Brewer (District 2) and Martie Floyd (District 7) were re-elected by their members and will continue to serve the cooperative board.

Concern for community was the topic of discussion during this year's

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CEO and President presentations. CEO Steve Epperson discussed with members the importance of community involvement and the various ways Pioneer Electric gives back to the communities.

“By showing you the volunteer work, charitable donations and the benevolence that comes from Pioneer Electric, we can prove our care for the communities we serve,” said Epperson. “Your cooperative employees achieve greatness through their service. They coach, serve on organizations and contribute time and energy to making our communities better. I think this says a lot about them, not just as employees but as servants.”

Epperson then discussed various programs and services and programs offered by Pioneer Electric highlighting their reach in the communities.

“Members and employees, both make contributions to our PEAR (Pioneer Electric Area Round Up) Program. This past year, your cooperative gave \$2,983.54 in donations to those needing a helping hand.”

To finish his presentation, Epperson discussed the importance of the H.U.G.S. (Helping Us Give to Society) Program and its reach in our communities.

“H.U.G.S. is a program that we are especially proud of,” said Epperson. “In taking our scrap metal, we can turn into real dollars that we use to fund real opportunities in our communities! In 2016, your cooperative was able to give \$19,220 back to various projects.”

The floor was then opened to members for questions and answers and the meeting was brought to a close.

Without your support, none of what your cooperative accomplished would have been possible. Through your feedback, the cooperative is able grow and adapt to meet your needs. Thank you to all of the members, businesses and special guests for joining us for this year’s Annual Meeting.

1. Michelle Brungardt (left) greets board member Jim Bell along with members at the health fair.

2. (Left to right) Ranelle Carter, Melissa Morales and David Romero warmly welcomed members to the annual meeting. The team handed out attendance prizes to all at the annual meeting.

3. Mike Salsbury shared home safety tips with members at the health fair. Salsbury gave advice on how to avoid electrical accidents and stressed the importance of contacting Pioneer Electric to report any downed power lines.

4. Youth Tour recipients Vanessa Reza and Carson Milburn were recognized during the annual meeting. Vanessa and Carson will be representing the cooperative in Washington, D.C. this June.

5. Pioneer Electric scholarship recipients gather for a quick photo at the end of the meeting.

Plug Into Electrical Safety Month

May is Electrical Safety Month, and Pioneer Electric will be sharing safety tips and reminders throughout the month to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

Our responsibility to you

Pioneer Electric's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

"It's never too early to discuss electrical safety with your family," said Safety and Compliance Specialist Danny Law. "We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future. That's why we make an effort to be out and show our communities the importance of electrical safety."

Our responsibility to employees

Safety is a top priority at Pioneer Electric. We are committed to ensure a culture of safety in our



Pioneer Electric employees hold a safety demonstration discussing the importance of staying safe around power lines.

daily operations. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

Pioneer Electric believes it is our duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Take a moment to plug into safety. Follow Pioneer Electric on Facebook for tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Connections Corner

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

Inner Balance Massage, Ulysses

► \$ 5 OFF an hour long massage.

Grant County Bank, Ulysses

► .10% ABOVE APY on 3 year or greater term CD.

Katie's Goodie Shop, Ulysses

► \$3.50 LUNCH SPECIAL of popcorn chicken and french fries.

Farm Bureau Financial Services, Ulysses

► FREE INSURANCE CONSULTATION.

AJ Graphics, Garden City

► 10% OFF all products.

Lost your card? No problem! Replace your lost Co-op Connections Card, for free, by visiting our Ulysses office!

Co-op Connections* Card

pioneer
electric
cooperative, inc.
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1. Download the SmartHub app onto your mobile device. (available for iOS and Android)
2. Create your account or login using an existing e-billing account. New e-billing accounts can be made in the app or online at pioneerelectric.coop.
3. Enjoy 24/7 account access to your Pioneer Electric account! Make payments, check your electrical usage, manage your account and more!





Don't TOY with Your SAFETY



When playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.

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 and in some cases, even deadly.

- ▶ Never fly kites or remote-controlled toys near power lines.
- ▶ Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines.
- ▶ If you get something stuck in a power line, call Pioneer Electric at 620-356-1211 or 800-794-9302.
- ▶ Never touch or go near a downed power line.