



PIONEER ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

## Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Board of Trustees

**Melvin Winger**  
President

**Alfred Alexander**  
Vice President

**Perry Rubart**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Jim Bell**  
Trustee

**Mike Brewer**  
Trustee

**Fred Claassen**  
Trustee

**Martie Floyd**  
Trustee

**John Jury**  
Trustee

**Charles Milburn**  
Trustee

### Staff

**Steve Epperson**  
CEO

**Randy Magnison**  
Executive Vice President, Assistant CEO

**Lindsay Campbell**  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel

**George Bushnell**  
Vice President of Engineering and Operations

**Chantry Scott**  
Vice President of Finance and Accounting

**Anita Wendt**  
Vice President of Energy Services

**Drew Waechter**  
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.

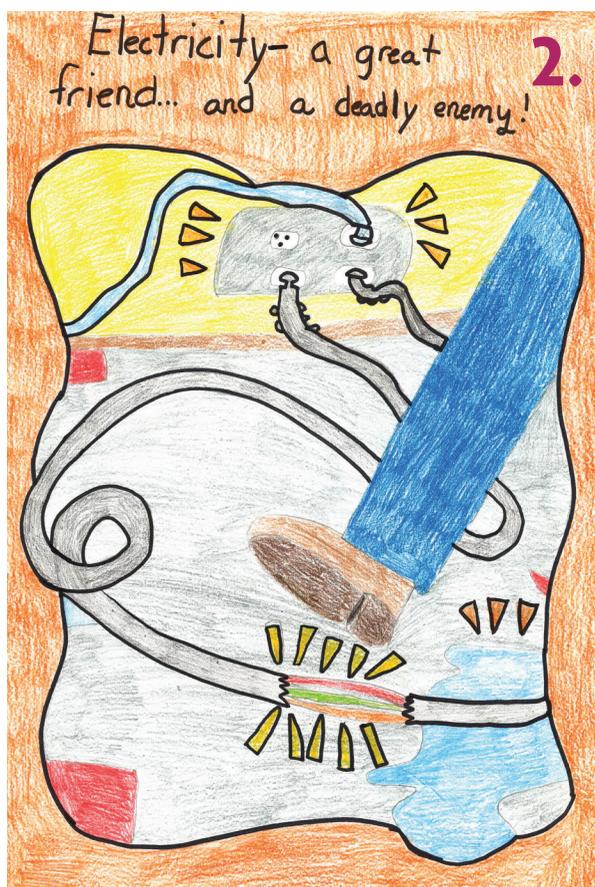
## Trudy Giesbrecht Wins Safety Poster Contest

Trudy Giesbrecht, a Hugoton Elementary student, was selected as the winner of the 2017 Co-op Month Poster Contest. Trudy's poster was one of 11 finalists selected from posters provided from six area grade schools in Pioneer's service territory. Students were tasked with developing a poster covering an electrical safety topic of their choice.

"It's never too early to bring up the importance of electrical safety," said Communications Specialist Drew Waechter. "Electricity is an integral part of our lives and it's important that we utilize it safely. Our hope is that through programs like these we can continue to help spur interest in staying safe around electricity."

Trudy's poster earned her teacher, Barb Concannon, \$100 to be put towards supplies for her class. Additionally, Trudy and her class enjoyed a pizza party with Pioneer Electric employees.

"It's humbling to look at these posters and see that these kids are truly paying attention," said Waechter. "I hope that they continue showing an interest in safety and that pass along this new knowledge to their friends and families."



1. (Left to Right) Dee Longoria, Trudy Giesbrecht and David Norton pose for a quick picture before enjoying the pizza party.  
2. Trudy's winning poster for the 2017 contest. In her poster, Trudy showcased many potential safety hazards found in our homes. Trudy's poster was one of 11 finalists voted on for this year's contest.

## H.U.G.S. Grants Awarded to Local High School Golf Program

The holidays are an opportunity to gather as friends and family and express our appreciation for those we hold dear. It is one of the many great aspects of this time of year and something that we take to heart at Pioneer Electric. In November, Pioneer Electric was proud to award \$2,500 H.U.G.S. (Helping Us Give To Society) grant to the Stanton High School girls golf program.

On November 7, representatives of Pioneer Electric's H.U.G.S. program proudly awarded the grant during the school's annual fall activities banquet. The surprise came after the school submitted an application to help with purchase of push/pull carts and bags for the newly implemented program.

"As with any new program, we learned that we needed to invest in some additional gear to help ensure the success of these young athletes," said head coach Marty Cook. "The carts and bags will help reduce the fatigue of having to carry the weight of their bags and clubs while on the courses. This will hopefully give the girls a competitive edge during tough playing conditions and help build a solid program for future athletes."

Since its establishment in 2016 the program has continued to gain momentum, expecting 6 golfers during the 2018 season, and they hope to provide a positive environment to golfers of all skill levels.

In addition to their H.U.G.S. grant, the school was awarded an additional \$1,000 from the CoBank, Sharing Success program.

"Through our partnership with CoBank, we are able to nominate Grant Recipients for additional funds through Sharing Success," said H.U.G.S. member Anita Wendt. "We are excited for this opportunity for the athletes and wish them a successful season next fall!"

Additional information regarding the H.U.G.S. program can be found at [pioneerelectric.coop](http://pioneerelectric.coop).



1. Representatives from Pioneer Electric's H.U.G.S. (Helping Us Give to Society) team present the Stanton County High School girls golf team with two grants for their team.
2. H.U.G.S. representatives Sheila Mason and Larry Davis surprise faculty and staff of Stanton County High School by revealing the additional grant from the CoBank Sharing Success program.

## 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 person 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.

## Simple Tips On Staying Warm During the Winter Season

When the weather is frightful, the promise of a warm house is always delightful. However, the reach of the cold can claw its way inside through gaps and leaks. Here are some simple ways to help stay comfy-cozy and keep the cold out where it belongs.

### Hearth and Home:

The warmth of a crackling fire is a welcome sight during cold winter days. However, it's imperative that you take time to ensure that your fireplace is clean and properly maintained. Have a certified chimney sweep clean and



**Taking time to check the exterior of your home for any leaks is a simple and easy way to ensure that your family stays warm throughout the course of the winter months.**

inspect your fireplace. If possible, ask them about any suggested cleaning tips or ways that you can help preserve your chimney for years to come.

Once cleaned by a sweep, take time to clean out the firebox (the area where logs are burned) twice a week as you use it. A great tip is to just under and inch of ash in the bottom. This will act as insulation and help retain heat and allows for coals to quickly heat up. Your fireplace shouldn't be used to heat a room for more than five hours. Be sure that a fire is always attended by an adult and never leave pets or children alone with a running fireplace. Even when supervised, children should not be allowed to play near or around any equipment or fireplace tools. After warming up, be sure to let coals cool completely before removing them. Use a dust mask, metal shovel and metal container to safely remove any debris as needed. To lock in the heat, be sure to close the damper once your fire has completely died out. An open damper can draw in as much cold air as an open window. However, be sure to open it back up before using your fireplace again.

### Sealing in Savings:

Drafts and air leaks are a major cause of cold seeping into places that it shouldn't. Take a couple minutes to walk around the exterior of your home and take note of any potential leaks. The rule of thumb is to look at areas where two different building materials meet together such as exterior corners, around outdoor water faucets, around chimneys and near your foundation. When inspecting those areas use sealant to fix any chips, gaps or cracks that you may find.

Inside your home, take time to check for gaps or leaks around exterior doors, windows, baseboards, attic hatches, window mounted air conditioners, electrical outlets and cable/phone lines. Applying sealant or weather stripping around those areas can help lock in warmth and keep your heating system running efficiently!

### Working With Windows:

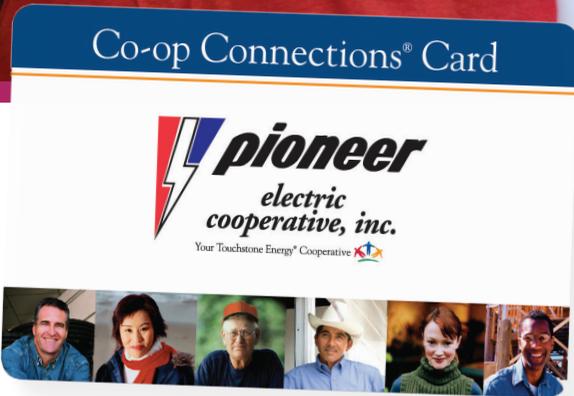
Windows require extra attention during the winter months. A small gap or a slightly cracked window can draw out warm air from the inside of your home. Take a few minutes to check that all windows are completely closed and are properly sealing. If not, tape a heavy-duty, clear plastic film to the inside of your window frame. This will create a tight seal and reduce any drafts.

Window treatments can also provide a bit of extra protection during the colder months. Open curtains on south-facing windows to let in sunlight during the day. The extra light will add a bit of heat when needed. Close curtains and blinds in the evening to help reduce the chill of the evening.



**Programs like energy audits are another great savings tool accessible to our members. Call 620-356-1211 to schedule a free energy audit with Pioneer Electric Cooperative.**

# Discounts That Pop!



## Saving Money and Supporting Our Communities

Save money and shop local with the only discount program designed with community in mind. Just ask for a FREE Co-op Connections Card the next time you visit our office and start saving. Additional information and more great deals available at [pioneerelectric.coop](http://pioneerelectric.coop)!

### Charisma Salon, Ulysses

\$5 off purchase of at least \$50 of boutique and/or hair products

### Revolt Technology Group, Garden City

10% discount on networking, security and computer services

### Seward County Historical Society- Dorthy's House and Coronado Museum, Liberal

One free child admission when accompanied by a paid adult

### The Movies, Ulysses

Buy a large popcorn and large drink combo for \$5

### Tiger Prints Photography, Ulysses

Free 5" by 7" photo magnet with purchase of any package

### Ulysses Veterinary Hospital, Ulysses

\$40 off pet dental procedures

### United Country Real Estate, Ulysses

Free use of trailer within 30 mile radius of Ulysses

### U-Town Zone, Ulysses

10% off apparel purchases over \$25 and buy one get one half off on apparel items.

**Lost Your Connections Card?  
Visit Our Office to Pick Up A New One Today!**