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**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NEWS

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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.

Important Dates and Deadlines

The holiday season is upon us and with the holiday cheer and cold weather comes an important date.

The deadline for Pioneer Electric Cooperative's 2019 Scholarship and Youth Tour applications is **JANUARY 8, BY 5 P.M.** This means that all application materials must be at the Pioneer Electric office in Ulysses by the 5 p.m. deadline; even if material is postmarked prior to the deadline, it will not be accepted if it is not received by the deadline.

For more information and applications, please visit www.pioneerelectric.coop.

Scholarship

If you are a high school senior looking to further your education next year, then look no further than Pioneer Electric's scholarship program. Rewarding \$20,000 worth of scholarships in 2018, Pioneer Electric is looking to continue its support of our future leaders. Investing in our future is close to Pioneer Electric's cooperative heart and there is no better investment

than our area youth.

This year it is even easier to apply for scholarships, with an email option for your official transcripts from your high school counselor now available. Simply fill out an online application, attach a one-page resume and get us your transcripts and you're done.

Youth Tour

Open to high school sophomores and juniors, the 2019 Youth Tour is a great experience for any student, with all-expense paid trips for two lucky winners to Steamboat Springs, Colo., and two more to Washington, D.C. From touring the Nation's capital to white water rafting in the Rockies, both trips offer numerous adventures and a treasure trove of experiences.

Visit our website and fill out a short application form with your basic information along with a brief explanation of why you would be a good candidate to represent Pioneer Electric on the 2019 Youth Tour trips.

Office Holiday Closures

Our office will be closed the following dates. For payment options, please visit www.pioneerelectric.coop.

- ▶ **DECEMBER 24 AND 25 — ALL DAY**
- ▶ **JANUARY 1 — ALL DAY**
- ▶ **DEC. 31 — CLOSE AT 12 P.M.**

Larry Davis: A Cooperative Ca

Pioneer Electric Cooperative has gone through some major changes over its 75-year history. From just over 400 members to almost 16,000 meters, a power plant bought and then retired, and endless advances in technology, time has never stood still at Pioneer Electric.

One man who has been around for quite a bit of that change is senior engineering specialist, Larry Davis. Starting in April of 1976, Davis is heading into his 43rd year at Pioneer Electric.

A Family Legacy

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Arnold Davis, and father, Charles “Red” Davis, Davis is actually among four generations of Davis’ who worked at Pioneer Electric, including his nephew Brandon Davis who worked as a summer intern in 2003.

Starting in 1976, Davis filled out an application for a lineman position when he was fresh out of high school and not only would he make a career at Pioneer Electric, but also a life.

“My dad thought I should apply at Pioneer,” said Davis. “So I went in to fill out an application and this beautiful lady helped me. Later in life that beautiful lady became my wife.”

That woman was Cynthia Lampp. The two have since had two children and five grandchildren.

While Davis never actually worked with either his father or grandfather, he still that working in the same industry as his forefathers adds something extra to the job.

“Red” Davis worked for Happy Painters, a roustabout crew installing underground cable as contractors for Pioneer Electric in the early 1970’s. It wasn’t until recently that Davis learned of his father’s employment at Pioneer Electric in the early 50’s.

Arnold Davis, formerly working for the train company, took on a job at

Pioneer Electric at the Ulysses Power Plant until retiring in 1972.

A Storied Career

Starting out as an apprentice lineman with no knowledge or experience,

Davis was quickly taken under the wing of former Pioneer Electric line foreman, Sy Hileman. Through the years, Davis picked up the knowhow and experience, even advancing as far as line foreman himself eventually.



Now and Then: Larry Davis in 2016 and 1992.



Larry Davis taking a moment to pose for a picture with some office “friends” at Pioneer Electric.

Career 43 Years in the Making

All linemen have their stories, and like others Davis has plenty of stories to tell. But the one story he always offers up first really does show the mindset of a lineman and the cooperative principles.

“One late night after a thunderstorm rolled through Stevens County, the Moscow sub had blown a fuse and we went out to fix it. We are out there working when a truck driver pulled up and asked me where the city of Moscow was. I told him if he could wait a couple of minutes we would light it up for him and sure enough, when we closed in the breakers the whole town lit up,” recalls Davis.

Davis says a lineman never gets tired of seeing the lights come back on. He quips a lineman’s three favorite words are “Make it hot.”

A Changing Landscape

After 15 years on the line crew, Davis moved into engineering where he has spent the last 27 years. In that time, despite all the challenges faced, Davis always said every department bands together to get the job done and he wouldn’t have it any other way.

Of the changes that Pioneer Electric has gone through over the years, to Davis there is no greater change than the use of computers.

“This technology has changed everything,” said Davis. “It is sometimes a challenge to understand them (Computers), in the long run it makes things so much faster and easier—the equipment and tools today are so convenient.”

Pioneer Electric and the Community

Being a cooperative, Pioneer Electric strives to support their community in every way possible. One practical way Pioneer Electric gives back is by educating our members on electric



Taken in 1988, the Pioneer Electric line crew at the time. Front Row (L to R): Steve Leiker, Ray Millard, Richard Findley, Harold Findley, Pat Barnes, Loyd “Bones” Pendleton and Tom Longtin. Second Row (L to R): Cliff Townsend, Mike Haney, Walt Wooten, Bob Johnson, Gene Garmon and Bob Gindlesburger. Back Row (L to R): Larry Davis, Chris Nuckles, Verl Seger, George Bushnell, Henry Buczynski, Joe Garrison and Sy Hileman.

safety, something Davis feels embodies the cooperative spirit.

“I think Pioneer Electric does an amazing job educating not only our employees, but the public on safety as well. Even though a power line looks so innocent, it can be so dangerous if someone makes physical contact with it,” said Davis.

“With all the safety demonstrations and feedback we get from our schools, I think we do a tremendous job through education.”

A take away from Davis’ story is not only the commitment that Pioneer employees show to their communities, but also that they truly do live and raise families in the communities they serve.

Giving Thanks

“I’d like to thank Sy Hileman for giving me that chance and many others who molded me into who I am today. Really a thanks to everyone.”



Larry Davis staking near Ryus in Grant County in 2002.

Pioneer Prepares for 75th Anniversary



Pioneer Electric's power plant in 1954.

Pioneer Electric Cooperative is preparing to celebrate

75 years of operation in 2019 and invites all of our members to join us in celebration. Formed in January of 1944 by a local group of farmers, Pioneer Electric's goal was to provide energy to rural southwest Kansas while being dedicated to the communities and members it served.

75 years later and our mission has not changed. Whether it is our yearly scholarships, safety demonstrations for local area youth, or senior center lunches, Pioneer Electric is about our members and how we can give back to them and their communities.

Our 75th year will be no different — in fact, it will be bigger and better than ever. With numerous events planned, Pioneer Electric's 75th will be an all year-long celebration. A birthday blowout, exciting updates to events like our Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation and some great community charity events are just some of the things our members can look forward to in 2019.

Please make sure and follow Pioneer Electric on Facebook and our website, www.pioneerelectric.coop, for all of our 2019 events and news. As part of our 75th, Pioneer Electric



Pioneer Electric employees form a 75 in front of the Ulysses office in celebration of 75 years of serving our members.

1 Lb. of Bacon was \$0.37 in 1944. In 2018, it is \$5.50.

Electricity from Pioneer in 1944 was \$0.06 per kWh, now it is only \$0.11.

A gallon of milk was \$0.62, now it cost an average of \$3.16.

75 PEC
PIONEER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Then and Now: 1944 - 2018

Minimum wage was \$0.30 cents in 1944.

\$1 in 1944 is equal to \$14.17 in 2018.

chose the phrase "Grounded in the past, powering the future," to exemplify our mission statement of being the dynamic energy provider for southwest Kansas and staying at the forefront of an advancing industry technology, while remaining true to our cooperative principles and the past.

About Pioneer Electric

Pioneer Electric serves approximately 15,700 retail electric meters spread throughout 10 counties in southwestern Kansas. Our system is made up of more than 128 miles of transmission line, 4,000 miles of distribution line and 20 substations. All of Pioneer Electric's electricity is provided by Sunflower Electric Power Cooperative, which is owned by Pioneer Electric and five other Kansas electric co-ops.

Pioneer Electric strives to be the dynamic regional provider of reliable, safe and affordable electricity. As a Member-Owned Cooperative, our team strives to serve our communities through leadership, integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement. Pioneer Electric works to improve the lives of our member-owners and customers.