

1850 W. Oklahoma, P.O. Box 368  
Ulysses, KS 67880  
620-356-1211 or 800-794-9302  
www.pioneerelectric.coop

**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

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- 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.

## H.U.G.S. Team Rolls Out Grant For Skating Rink



**L to R: Jamie Williams** assistant manager of the Rolla Skating Rink, **Shawn Schwindt** manager, **Dee Longoria** Pioneer Electric H.U.G.S. team member and **Shelley Barrett** Rolla City Clerk showcase the grants awarded to the City of Rolla for renovations at the Rolla Skating Rink.

The town of Rolla has the only known skating rink facility in southwest Kansas. For years, youth and adults have been making laps on the rink and now faces the need for some renovations. Pioneer Electric's H.U.G.S. (Helping Us Give to Society) and CoBank's (Pioneer's financial services provider) Sharing Success programs awarded \$2,000 in grants to help in ensuring this southwest Kansas staple keeps rolling.

"Our small community skating rink is used not only by local community members, but citizens from across southwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and the Oklahoma panhandle," said Shelley Barrett Rolla city clerk.

"We hope that the renovations will increase participation during general operating business hours and also the hosting of private events."

The rink hopes to add new carpet to the entryway and walls, increase the number of skates available and install an air cooling system for summertime use. The contributions made by Pioneer and CoBank will be used to assist in these projects but the rink is hoping to accumulate additional donations.

"This is an exciting opportunity and we're honored to be a part of this project," said Anita Wendt, vice president of Energy Services and H.U.G.S. member.

"We often overlook the reach that our communities have outside of southwest Kansas. This rink is a great example of community coming together to provide a space for families, friends and neighbors."

Members may contact the city of Rolla for more information on the rink.

# When Winter Winds Howl, Power Lines Can Gallop

Severe weather with strong winds can cause damage to trees, buildings, and electrical equipment. While power lines can sway in high winds, add freezing rain or icy conditions and the result can be galloping power lines.

Galloping is the bouncing or bucking movement of overhead lines and can cause several problems, from temporary power interruptions to equipment damage, the collapse of power poles and downed lines.

Galloping lines often result from ice buildup on one side of the power line due to strong winds. The buildup of ice creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the line, causing bouncing wires, or galloping power lines.

There isn't much utility workers can do until the wind dies down. That's why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These help reduce galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

## If you see galloping power lines:

- ▶ Keep your distance—ice can break off or power lines can break loose.
- ▶ Contact Pioneer Electric (620.356.1211 or 800.794.9302) to let us know of the potential damage as soon as possible.

## If you see a downed line:

- ▶ Stay far away and warn others to stay away too.
- ▶ Remember, a downed line can remain energized even if it is not sparking or arcing.
- ▶ Always report the location of a downed power line and damaged electrical equipment.

In the event of an outage, be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

To learn more about storm and outage safety, be sure to check out resources available at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



**Top:** Bucking lines may not only cause outages but have the potential to damage electrical infrastructure. Crews must wait until the weather calms down before they can make repairs.  
**Bottom:** Please be cautious if you notice ice accumulation on power lines. The added weight of the ice can lead to line movement or "galloping/bucking". If you notice a large amount of ice accumulation on a line, report it to our office.

## PIONEER ELECTRIC'S Birthday Bash

# JAN. 14

Grab a piece of cake and help us celebrate 75 years of service to southwest Kansas. Free snacks and prize drawings throughout the day at our Ulysses office (snacks available while supplies last).

# PEAR UP!

Rounding Up to Make A  
**HUGE**  
Impact In Our Community

\$6 can buy you coffee at your favorite spot, half a movie ticket, a “value” meal, a couple gallons of gas or it can be used to help neighbors in our community. The PEAR program is a partnership between members and our cooperative to make a big difference with a little spare change. Thanks to contribution from members, the program has awarded over \$X,XXXX in funds to those in our community needing a helping hand.

## What's PEAR?

PEAR (Pioneer Electric Area Roundup) is an initiative from Pioneer Electric's board which uses spare change to help those needing a helping hand in our community. The program falls into the principle of “Commitment to Community” and offers a way for the cooperative to give a little back on behalf of members. PEAR members round up their monthly bills to the next whole dollar amount. This money, on average about \$6 per year per member, is used to assist individuals needing help or in Pioneer's service territory. The program is completely voluntary and members have the opportunity to opt in or out to making donations at any time. Additionally, donations made through PEAR are tax deductible as PEAR is an approved 501(c)(3) not-for profit foundation. Members seeking to apply to the program may do so by calling our office or through our website ([pioneerelectric.coop](http://pioneerelectric.coop))

## How Does PEAR Help?

Funds from PEAR are used to assist with medical expenses, payment of bills, disaster assistance, home weatherization and education purposes. Those seeking funds will need to fill out an application packet found on our website (applications also available at our office). The PEAR board, consisting of local cooperative members, review each application and distribute funds based on the financial need outlined in the application. Members with questions can contact Sheila Mason ([sheila.mason@pioneerelectric.coop](mailto:sheila.mason@pioneerelectric.coop)) for additional information regarding the PEAR application process.



Join the cause!  
Sign-up at  
[pioneerelectric.coop](http://pioneerelectric.coop)





# Hard Hats Off to You!

## Recognizing Years of Service to Pioneer Electric

Pioneer Electric's Years of Service Award recipients for 2018. This award is given in recognition of continuous years of service with the Cooperative. Front: Fred Claassen, Melissa Morales, Zane May, David Romero and Charlie Milburn. Middle: John Jury, John Ledesma, Greg Davis, Henry Buczynski, and Cord Teeter. Back Row: Steve Epperson.

In December, Pioneer Electric proudly recognized the efforts of employees and their years of service to the cooperative. 2018 saw seven of Pioneer's employees and three board members reach milestone achievements for their years of service.

For years, the cooperative has chosen to recognize the continuous service of employees and board members. This is traditionally done each December, giving employees' family and friends the opportunity to join in on the celebration.

"Thank you for being part of our work family," said Melissa Morales, manager of human resources and 2018 service award honoree. "We wouldn't be where we are today without the wonderful group of people that we have at Pioneer Electric. Thank you for all the years of dedication and hard work!"



Greg Davis (center) is congratulated by his family for 15 years of service with Pioneer. Davis joined Pioneer's team back in 2003.



Henry Buczynski is proudly recognized for 30 years of service to Pioneer. Buczynski is looking forward to retirement in 2019.

### 5 Years:

- Zane May, Journeyman Lineman
- Charles Milburn, Board Member
- John Ledesma, Staking Technician
- Cord Teeter, Journeyman Lineman

### 6 Years:

- John Jury, Board Member

### 10 Years:

- Melissa Morales, Manager of HR
- David Romero, Bulding Technician

### 15 Years:

- Greg Davis, Senior System Administrator

### 20 Years:

- Fred Claassen, Board Member

### 30 Years:

- Henry Buczynski, Work Order Clerk