



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

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
- David Norton** – 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.

Pioneer Electric Prepares for 75th Annual Meeting

Pioneer Electric is preparing for our 75th annual meeting and free health fair on March 2, 2019, at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses.

This year is a special occasion for Pioneer Electric because we are celebrating 75 years of service to our members. Beyond the normal activities at our annual meeting, including lunch, giveaways and the health fair, we also have some other surprises that are in the works! From family fun activities for all ages to special prize giveaways, this will be a celebration to remember.

Please note that the date has been moved up from what is normally mid-March to the first Saturday of the month. The health fair will start at 7 a.m. with Pioneer Electric's annual meeting registration starting at 8 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by lunch starting at noon.



Lineman Tolan Seger helps members out during the 2018 health fair and annual meeting.

At registration, members will receive their ballot for the election of the following board of trustee positions.

- ▶ District 5 - Fred Claassen
- ▶ District 6 - Jim Bell
- ▶ District 9 - Charles Milburne

Connections Corner

The card that does it all! As a Pioneer Electric member, you have access to some great local discounts. Check out our featured deals!

Perry's Tire, Ulysses

- ▶ 10% off oil change/10% off alignment on cars!

Triple J's Pizza, Satanta

- ▶ Three topping pizza for the price of a single!



Cooperative Employee Celebrates

While it is not unusual for someone to work at one job for 30 years, nowadays it is becoming more and more rare with each passing year. Pioneer Electric's Henry Buczynski is just one of those rare few, but what really makes Henry rare goes well beyond the fact the Ulysses cooperative has been his home for the last 30 years and counting.

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, the east coast boy soon made his way to the west coast when he enlisted out of high school into the United States Air Force. Serving in the Air force between 1970-74, Henry reached the rank of an E-4 sergeant while stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Vandenberg was part of the Strategic Air Command, primarily used as a missile base, it also served as a secondary location to Cape Canaveral to land astronauts upon reentry from space.

Henry was also stationed in Guam for six months during the Vietnam War. He worked on the flight line shuttling airmen off and pulling in parachutes from the B-52 bombers that landed. Once he left the military, Henry worked in California before heading to the Midwest and finding the cooperative.

Starting at Pioneer in 1988, the only thing Henry has spent more

time with is his wife, Debbie. The couple is celebrating 45 years of marriage this month. Henry was blessed with two daughters, Charity Kast and Amber Foster. He now has seven grandchildren, with Preston, Autumn, Chance and Brayden Foster, along with Cherish and Joel Kast.

When asked what working at Pioneer Electric for 30 years has meant to Henry, he points out the financial security the job provides—not just for his family, but for his real passion in life, the ministry.

“Working for Pioneer Electric has provided a mainstay for me and my family in the church ministry,” said Henry. “Helping others in their lives has always been important, not only spiritually, but also financially.”

When it comes to his actual work though, Henry said, “Pioneer has a motto, owned by those we serve, which is a true model of servant leadership. Work should always mean more than just a paycheck—it needs to be satisfying, fulfilling and purposeful and you need it as something that has a positive influence in your community.”

Working as a work order clerk in the warehouse, Henry is right in the thick of things at Pioneer Electric. With frequent trips to the pole yard to organize and haul supplies, he is one of the many at Pioneer Electric



Henry's 2018 employee photo.



Henry sharing a laugh with journeyman lineman Martin Herrera during Pioneer Electric training in 2018.



A candid snapshot of Henry doing what he did most at Pioneer Electric - Bringing joy to those around him.

30 Years with Pioneer Electric

working behind the scenes on a daily basis to keep his community's lights on.

One of the few left at Pioneer Electric with three decades under his belt, Henry has seen a lot of change at Pioneer Electric—all moving in the right direction.

“The forward leadership of those who have Pioneer’s best interest at heart, slowly keeping things moving in the right direction for the benefit of all we serve as a distribution cooperative,” said Henry. “You only need to look at the pictures (of Pioneer Electric) to see where we have come from and where we are going.”

Specifically, for his job, Henry has noticed that the job has become more fine-tuned for accuracy and less guess work, much like everything else in this world. He says this makes things more efficient and less time consuming in the long run.

While Henry has stories that could probably fill an entire book or two, when asked what the best times at Pioneer Electric were over the decades he always says first and foremost, the people he has worked with.

He said, “The best part has been the people I have had the privilege to work with. The friendships established and the learning imparted by others that will go with you even when you retire from a place.”

“I want to thank everyone at Pioneer for again, the privilege of working with such great people,” he continues. “It’s more of a family. I thank God for the job he created for me when I came to work at Pioneer.”

While Henry’s time at Pioneer Electric has provided for his family, it has helped Henry truly embody the cooperative spirit in his ministry, which shares the same principles about helping others and serving the community as Pioneer Electric and cooperatives in general.

“It has been important to me to help my family and others from a position of strength, stability and example. It has affected my life by going the distance and enduring things in the journey of life, that otherwise I would not have had the stamina to endure. It (Pioneer Electric) has truly been a blessing,” said Henry.



Henry cleaning up the, at the time, new shop in Pioneer Electric's warehouse.



Taking a moment to visit with Santa Claus at Pioneer Electric's annual Christmas Party. Warehouse manager and Henry's supervisor, Mark Shogren, is playing the role of Santa.

UPDATE

**YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN A \$75 ENERGY CREDIT!**

As simple as one, two, three! All we need from you is updated account information such as a phone number where you can be reached and a working email address. Then you are entered to win a \$75 energy credit towards your next bill! How easy is that? Visit www.pioneerelectric.coop to update and enter!

