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www.pioneerelectric.coop

**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**



NEWS

Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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.

Spring Safety Tips

A shift in seasons will soon be upon us as many anticipate the transition into spring. The promise of spring sees many “fever”-ing to get outdoors and enjoy all that nature offers. However, don’t let the rush of warm weather dull your safety senses. The transition into the new season sees a new set of safety challenges to watch for.

Watch Where You Dig

Before you tackle that “honey do” list of yardwork, take time to understand the potential dangers lurking under your lawn. Underground electrical, gas, telecommunications and sewer lines may sometimes be located in the spot that you’ve been eyeing for that new fence or sapling. Take time to utilize services like Kansas One-Call (Call 811) to get help planning out where to start digging.

Take Time to Look Up

In looking below, we sometimes neglect to see the dangers right above us. Overhead utility lines are a common sight and you must allow for plenty of clearance while you’re enjoying the

outdoors. Taking just a few minutes to survey your surroundings can set your project up for a safe conclusion. Be cautious when using handled tools (rakes, shovels, ladders, etc.) and double-check that you are safely out of reach of accidental contact.

Making Safety a Family Priority

Safety is not only a priority while working, but you should also be safe while at play, too. Take time to talk with your children about the importance of keeping away from dangerous electrical equipment. Messing or tampering with electrical meters, pad mount transformers or power lines could result in accidental contact. A rule-of-thumb is to allow for 20 feet of clearance around utility poles. This allows you plenty of room to have fun and stay safe.

Taking time to talk about electrical safety is a great way to start the season, safely. To help you get started, Pioneer Electric has a variety of safety resources available for members by visiting pioneerelectric.coop.



Preparing for the 76th Annual Meeting

Pioneer Electric would like to invite members to its 76th annual membership meeting on March 14 at the Grant County Civic Center (1000 W. Patterson Ave., Ulysses). Save the date and join the cooperative staff in celebrating 76 years of service to our southwest Kansas communities.

Free Health Fair

Members and friends of Pioneer Electric are invited to join us by starting the day with a free community health fair. Phlebotomist will be available from 7-11:30 a.m. to take blood draws for a free general blood chemistry testing. Attendants will also have the opportunity to purchase additional tests for A1C (hemoglobin), PSA (prostate) and TSH (thyroid). Each test will be an additional \$8 and payments may be made at the fair. Those interested in testing are suggested to fast at least 8 hours before testing and encouraged to stay hydrated.

Pioneer Electric hosts the health fair in partnership with Pioneer Communications and contracts Preventative Health Now (PHN) and CoreMedica to test and provide results. Contact information for PHN will be provided to those who opt for testing. Please note, results will be sent and provided to participants by PHN; Pioneer Electric and Pioneer Communications do not receive or hold any medical information.

Questions regarding the testing process may be directed to a member of the energy services team by calling 620-356-1211.

Pioneer Electric Annual Meeting

Registration for the annual meeting is set to begin at 11 a.m. and will be held in the Lawson Room of the Grant County Civic Center. Pioneer Electric members planning to attend the annual meeting will need to register to receive their official ballot for the proposed bylaw changes and for board representation. Those acting as a proxy will also need to take the appropriate card to the registration table to receive their proxy ballot.

The meeting is scheduled to be called to order at 1 p.m. in the South Room. Registered members will receive a free extension cord and cord wrap as they enter for the meeting. Staff and members of Pioneer Electric's board will be presenting on the current state of the cooperative including recognition for 1 million employee hours without a lost time accident, advance metering, government updates, the Johnson Corner Solar Project and updates regarding generation and transmission. Members will also vote for board representation for three cooperative districts and on proposed changes to the cooperative's bylaws. These changes have been mailed to members and are viewable at pioneerelectric.coop.

Annual Meeting & Health Fair Schedule

Free Health Fair: 7-11:30 a.m.

- ▶ **PHLEBOTOMISTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE BLOOD PROFILE TESTING:** Attendants can opt into additional blood tests for A1C (hemoglobin), PSA (prostate) and TSH (thyroid). Each additional test is \$8 and cash or check (made payable to Pioneer Electric) payments may be made at the fair.
- ▶ **VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES FOR HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS SOUTHWEST KANSAS WILL HAVE BOOTHS AVAILABLE:** A full list of booth participants will be available on Pioneer Electric's website (pioneerelectric.coop).

Pioneer Communications Annual Meeting: 10:30 a.m.

- ▶ Pioneer Communications to host their annual meeting in the South Room of the Grant County Civic Center.

Pioneer Electric Meeting Registration: 11 a.m.

- ▶ **REGISTRATION TABLES OPEN FOR PIONEER ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING:** Member registration to close by 1 p.m.

Free Community Lunch: noon-1 p.m.

- ▶ Members and friends of Pioneer Electric are welcome to join us for a free barbecue lunch (catered by Webb's Food Crew).

Pioneer Electric Annual Meeting: 1 p.m.

- ▶ **ATTENDANCE PRIZES AND DOOR PRIZES FOR REGISTERED MEMBERS:** All registered members will receive a free extension cord and cord wrap for attending the annual meeting (limit one per membership and available while supplies last).
- ▶ **COOPERATIVE, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER UPDATES:** Members will have the opportunity to hear updates from cooperative board members and staff regarding the current state of Pioneer Electric and plans for 2020.
- ▶ **SCHOLARSHIP AND YOUTH TOUR RECOGNITION**
- ▶ **VOTING FOR BOARD REPRESENTATION AND PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS:** Information available at pioneerelectric.coop.

2020 Board of Trustee Nominees

Pioneer Electric's annual meeting will be held March 14, 2020. The following is excerpted from Pioneer Electric's bylaws regarding nominations of the board members.

Nominations

It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than seven members. At least two members shall be selected from each district from which a trustee is to be elected so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 20 days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members which shall include at least two candidates for each board position to be filled by the election. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing, with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least 10 days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nomi-

nations. Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, if any, received at least five days before the meeting shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

The Role of a Board Member

A cooperative is powered by three different, but vitally important, groups: members, elected trustees and employees. Between the three, management of the cooperative's business is tasked to those elected to serve on the cooperative board. These nine individuals act as representatives and the collective voice for the defined districts (and districts at large) of Pioneer Electric. They take the information provided by the members and the action of the cooperative staff and use it to ensure reliable, safe service and the sustainability and health of our cooperative.

Districts Up for Election

District 1

- ▶ **STEVE ARNOLD** (Nominee)
- ▶ **DAVID WALKER** (Nominee)

District 2

- ▶ **MIKE BREWER** (Incumbent)
- ▶ **JAMES WILSON** (Nominee)

District 7

- ▶ **MARTIE FLOYD** (Incumbent)
- ▶ **JERROD L. DANIELS** (Nominee)

Nominee Qualifications

Trustees of Pioneer Electric must meet the requirements outlined in the member-approved bylaws of Pioneer Electric. The nomination committee must take into consideration these qualifications:

- ▶ Nominee must be a member and bona fide resident of the particular district which such a person is to represent;
- ▶ Must not in any way be employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to members of the cooperative.

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 believes 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.

SPRING EFFICIENCY QUIZ

Spring is just around the corner!

Take this quiz to learn how you can help save energy around your home.

Hint: Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Sealing air leaks around _____ saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.

A) doors B) windows C) both A and B

2. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use, like _____.

A) refrigerators B) cell phone chargers C) dishwashers

3. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave the room to save energy.

A) True B) False

4. LED bulbs typically use _____ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

A) 25% B) 50% C) 75%

5. Planting _____ around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.

A) flowers B) shade trees C) vegetables



Answer Key: 1. C 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. B