

Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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.

Annual Meeting to be Held Later in 2021



Customer Service Representatives Malissa Martinez and Donna Alcala register members for Pioneer Electric's "Drive-In" Annual Meeting on Sept. 10, 2020.

In September 2020, members voted to approve the cooperative's bylaw amendments. Part of the changes included removing the requirement for Pioneer Electric to hold its annual membership meeting in either February or March. With the vote of approval, Pioneer Electric may host the meeting any time between Feb. 1 and Oct. 31 of a given year. The bylaw change allows Pioneer Electric added flexibility to reschedule or adjust the meeting's date if needed to better serve its members.

"As we saw last year, you never know what type of situations may arise," said Martie Floyd, president of Pioneer Electric's Board of Trustees. "We want to be able to serve our members in the greatest possible capacity. By having a more flexible time frame to hold the annual meeting, we're able to choose a date that will best benefit our members."

Pioneer Electric's Board of Trustees will take into consideration the health and safety of its members when choosing a date for the 2021 annual meeting.

"Now that we have the opportunity to host the annual meeting outside of early spring, we have the chance to find a date that may not be impacted by snow or icy conditions," said Floyd. "We will also be able to work around school or other community events."

The health fair, traditionally held the same day as Pioneer Electric's Annual Meeting, will also be held at a later date.

"We understand that members look forward to attending the health fair on annual meeting day," said Anita Wendt, vice president of energy services. "Pioneer Electric will continue to work with county health officials to help keep our communities healthy. As 2021 progresses, we will continue to make choices that help us do that."

A copy of the cooperative's bylaws is available to members on Pioneer Electric's website at pioneerelectric.coop. Members with questions about the scheduling of the 2021 annual meeting or health fair may call Pioneer Electric's office at 620-356-1211.

Grant County Extension Receives H.U.G.S. Grant



Rae Gorman, manager of Energy Services (left), and Anita Wendt (right), vice president of Energy Services, present Monica Walker, Grant County extension agent, a \$2,000 H.U.G.S. grant.

Members of the Pioneer Electric Helping Us Give to Society (H.U.G.S.) team presented Grant County Extension staff with a \$2,000 grant. The grant will help purchase equipment to assist with virtual education presentations. The extension staff hopes the equipment will allow them to better reach Grant County residents and provide them with various educational opportunities.

The new camera system will allow virtual viewers to see all the individuals in attendance in a meeting/presentation and focus on the person speaking. Extension staff will also have the ability to record events and share them digitally.

Those interested in learning more about the various programs offered by the Grant County Extension may call their office at 620-356-1721.

Pioneer Electric Awards Youth Tour Scholarships



Pioneer Youth Tour Winners: Bryan Peña (Ulysses), Becca Rock (Ulysses), Hannah Evans (Elkhart) and Emily Nuñez (Ulysses).

In late 2020, four students were selected to represent Pioneer Electric on all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D.C., and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Due to concerns with the pandemic, Kansas Electric Cooperative's (KEC) board of directors decided to cancel both programs for summer 2021. Instead, Pioneer Electric will offer a \$1,000 scholarship to each winner.

Judges selected Ulysses High School students **BECCA ROCK** and **BRYAN PEÑA** to represent the cooperative in Washington, D.C. **EMILY NUNEZ**, Ulysses High School, and **HANNAH EVANS**, Elkhart High School, were chosen to represent Pioneer Electric in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The four students were finalists out of a pool of 12 candidates from schools in Pioneer Electric's service territory, after completing an online application and interview.

"We know that our students were looking forward to this trip, but the health and safety of our students, and their families, is our priority," said Rae Gorman, manager of energy services. "Pioneer Electric understands that we can't replace the experiences these trips would have provided. We hope these students will be able to use these scholarships to help them achieve their goals beyond high school."

Students selected for the 2021 trips will have the opportunity to apply for the 2022 program, provided they meet the program's requirements. Any students who age out of the program will be eligible to apply for Pioneer Electric's general scholarship their senior year of high school.

Questions regarding the cancellation of the 2021 trips may be directed to Pioneer Electric at 620-356-1211.

Pioneer Electric Donates Funds from UOM School to Pheasant Heaven Charities



Employees of Pioneer Electric on Jan. 8, 2021, presented members of the Pheasant Heaven Charities with a donation courtesy of funds from the Underground, Overhead, Metering School. Back row (from left): Mike Haney, Clayton Gerald, Matthew Rome, Damon Simmons, Yvonne Jackson and Mike Salsbury. Front row (from left): Anita Wendt, Dustin Johnson, Bob Passmore, Bryne Sullins and Sharon Concannon.

Representatives from Pioneer Electric presented Pheasant Heaven Charities with a check for \$14,352.52 on Jan. 8. Funds for the donation were available due to the disbanding of the Underground, Overhead, Metering (UOM) School. Beginning in 1974, the UOM school provided training to linemen and kept them up-to-date on new tools and products used in electrical power distribution. The non-profit training event, sponsored by Pioneer Electric, Wheatland Electric and the City of Garden City Electrical Department, formally disbanded in 2020.

“We wanted to ensure that these funds, created in southwest Kansas, were given back to a southwest Kansas organization,” said Mike Haney, a former board member for the UOM school and manager of engineering and operations at Pioneer Electric. “Pheasant Heaven Charities goes above and beyond to assist those in need throughout our region.”

Pheasant Heaven Charities will use the donation to assist individuals dealing with medical needs. Additionally, the charity will use the money for their scholarship program and

in supporting other organizations throughout southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Pheasant Heaven Charities’ goal is to support individuals with medical needs. In addition to its benevolent assistance program, Pheasant Heaven Charities provides support to cancer patients within a 50-mile radius of Hugoton through its Love From Above committee. The committee also provides snacks and water for two cancer center locations in Liberal. Persons in need of assistance may apply online at www.pheasanteheavencharities.com or contact Sharon Concannon at 620-544-4318.

MEMBER NOTICE: Cold Weather Rule

Pioneer Electric’s Cold Weather Rule will remain in effect through March 31. No residential electrical service disconnections will be made when the temperature will drop below 35 degrees or will be in the mid-30’s or colder within the following 48-hour time period. Members with questions or concerns about their bill or disconnections may contact Pioneer Electric’s Customer Service at 620-356-1211.

CO-OP 101

YOUTH PROGRAMS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Today's students are tomorrow's members; that's why Pioneer Electric believes in investing in the youth of the communities we serve.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2016, Pioneer Electric has awarded over **\$100,000** in scholarships to students seeking to further their education after high school. Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors planning to attend college or trade school the fall semester following high school. In addition to a general scholarship, Pioneer Electric also offers scholarships to students seeking to attend Power Line Technology programs.

YOUTH TOUR

Pioneer Electric provides the opportunity for the trip of a lifetime through youth programs. Each year, the cooperative selects four students from a pool of finalists to represent the co-op in either Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs. These youth programs are available to sophomores and juniors residing in Pioneer Electric's service territory and attending high school in Elkhart, Johnson, Hugoton, Lakin, Moscow, Rolla, Syracuse or Ulysses.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PIONEER ELECTRIC'S YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES BY VISITING PIONEERELECTRIC.COOP

OUT-OF-OFFICE PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay your bill from the comfort of your home or while running errands.



Visit pioneerelectric.coop to learn more.