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www.pioneerelectric.coop

**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**



NEWS

Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

- Martie Floyd** – President
- Alfred Alexander** – Vice President
- John Jury** – Secretary/Treasurer
- Steve Arnold** – Trustee
- Mike Brewer** – Trustee
- Fred Claassen** – Trustee
- Jeff Moyer** – Trustee
- Jim Bell** – Trustee
- Charles Milburn** – Trustee

Staff

- Steve Epperson** – CEO
- Lindsay Campbell** – Executive Vice President, Assistant CEO and General Counsel
- Randy Magnison** – Executive Vice President of Special Projects
- George Bushnell** – Vice President of Engineering and Operations
- Chantry Scott** – Vice President of Finance and Accounting and CFO
- Anita Wendt** – Vice President of Energy Services
- Alyssa Hammond** – 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.

FROM THE CEO

New Year's Greetings

BY STEVE EPPERSON, PIONEER ELECTRIC'S CEO

The new year is here and we have never been more thankful to be your trusted energy partner. Our commitment to provide world-class service to our members remains at the heart of everything we do and every decision we make.

Last year was a reminder that when we work together, amazing things happen. With the closure of our lobby, we continue to provide members with the same outstanding service at our drive-up window. Our line crews continue to work safely and effectively when outages strike, ensuring that our members are not without valuable power. Even with social distancing, we were able to achieve a successful drive-in style annual meeting with attendance that rivaled that of previous years.

A successful cooperative takes more than great people working behind the scenes every day, it takes outstanding members as well. Your involvement with your cooperative helps ensure a financially strong business. Our commitment to our consumer-members is reflected in the retirement of \$4.9 mil-



Steve Epperson, CEO

lion back to our members in December; a record amount!

As we move into a new year, we will continue to work together with, and for, the members we proudly serve each day. Our promise to you is that we will continue to provide service that goes above and beyond the standard. As your cooperative, we will continue to rise to the occasion in an effort to serve the needs of our members.

“As your cooperative, we will continue to rise to the occasion in an effort to serve the needs of our members.”

Arnold Elected to Pioneer Electric Board of Trustees



Steve Arnold will serve as the District 1 representative on Pioneer Electric's Board of Trustees.

In September 2020, members of Pioneer Electric gathered in the parking lot of the Grant County Civic Center to hold its annual meeting and board of trustees election. Members elected **STEVE ARNOLD** of Johnson to represent District 1.

Arnold also serves on the Skyland Grain Board and is a member of the Kansas Ag Research and Technology Association. He spends much of his time farming in rural Stanton County with his family. Arnold's family includes his wife, Kathleen, and their five children Travis, Andy, Tess, and the late Tony and Tracy.

"I'm proud and honored to be a part of this board," said Arnold of his experience thus far. "I have really enjoyed the opportunity to work with the other trustees and for our members."

Arnold was elected to fill the vacancy of long-standing board member, Melvin Winger. Winger retired from the board in 2020, after serving as the representative for District 1 since 1971. Nominees for the board of trustees are selected by a nominating committee as seats come up for election. To be considered by the nominating committee, an individual must meet certain qualifications outlined in the cooperative's bylaws and serve a three-year term once elected. For more information regarding the nominating process, the cooperative's bylaws or Pioneer Electric's Board of Trustees, visit pioneerelectric.coop or call 620-356-1211.

Co-op 101: Open and Voluntary Membership

Pioneer Electric operates according to a set of core principles that is shared by cooperatives around the world. The first principle "Open and Voluntary Membership" serves as the backbone of our structure. But how is membership determined?

At Pioneer Electric, membership is available to any person, business or other entity (regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances) that uses its service and is willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

As a member of the cooperative, you have a say in the decisions the co-op makes. Through democratic member control, each member has one vote, and with it they actively participate in elections for board trustees and proposed cooperative policies; members shape the cooperative through the representatives they choose.

Membership also has value. Members have an ownership interest in the margins (revenue in excess of expenses) of the cooperative. Each year, Pioneer Electric allocates any year-end margin to its members based on their patronage for that year. Pioneer Electric's Board of Trustees reviews the financial strength of the cooperative each year and decides a dollar

amount to retire back to members as capital credits checks.

Members of Pioneer Electric also have access to the many programs offered through the cooperative. Pioneer Electric has a vested interest in the communities it serves and aims to help them grow through programs like Helping Us Give to Society (H.U.G.S.), and the opportunity to partner with local schools and organizations with sponsorships and donations. Pioneer Electric also supports students in its service territories through youth programs and scholarship opportunities.

Members are the backbone of the cooperative. We rely on an active membership to help be proactive in the communities we serve. It takes a partnership between members and cooperatives to keep communities shining brightly. Questions about membership and its many benefits may be directed to Pioneer Electric at 620-356-1211.

Cheers to Your Years!

Thank you for your dedication throughout the years!

It takes a dedicated team behind the scenes to keep the power flowing every day. In December, Pioneer Electric recognizes employees for their dedication and years of service to the cooperative. In 2020, Pioneer celebrated with 17 employees and two board members who reached admirable landmarks in their years of service. The recognition ceremony is traditionally held during Pioneer Electric's annual Christmas party, with friends and family to help celebrate their achievement. To keep employees healthy, Pioneer Electric opted to recognize the cooperative's employees internally in 2020.



Celebrating 25 years of service with Pioneer are (from left): Yolanda Marquis, operations coordinator; Ross Riley, operations supervisor; and LeRoy Rodriguez, Engineering supervisor.



Alfred Alexander has served on Pioneer Electric's Board of Trustees since 1985, making 2020 his 35th year of service. He serves as the representative for District 4 and vice president of the board.

20 YEARS

CODY CALDWELL, Journeyman Lineman
NICK HAMPTON, Mechanic
RANDALL MAGNISON, Vice President of Special Projects
NEAL MANGELS, Apparatus Metering Coordinator

15 YEARS

ABEL DIAZ, Crew Foreman
MIRIAM KEATON, GIS Specialist
ANDREW PETERS, Journeyman Lineman
MICHAEL SALSURY, Safety & Compliance Specialist

10 YEARS

ERIC ARCHULETA, Journeyman Lineman
JAMES BELL, Trustee
ANITA WENDT, Vice President of Energy Services

5 YEARS

LARISSA BATTERTON, Legal Executive Assistant
EVELIA CASTILLEJA, Billing Specialist
JACOB MENDOZA, Journeyman Lineman
DREW WAECHTER, Communications Coordinator

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

SCHOLARSHIPS

now available to 2021 high school graduates!

Applications due Feb. 2, 2021
Apply at pioneerelectric.coop

AWARDING \$20,000
IN SCHOLARSHIPS!

