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**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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.

Floyd Inducted into KCC Hall of Fame

As a board member for the last two decades, Martie Floyd has worked to ensure the needs of Pioneer Electric's members and employees are met on a daily basis.

As a board member for the last two decades, Martie Floyd has worked to ensure the needs of Pioneer Electric's members and employees are met daily. A dedication to community and service is a trait often found throughout rural Kansas, but it shines brightest in individuals like Martie Floyd. A life-long resident of Stanton County, Floyd has left his impact on many organizations throughout southwest Kansas.

Elected to the Pioneer Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees in 1999, and more recently nominated as board president in 2019, he has worked hard to ensure that "world-class service" is the standard set at Pioneer Electric for the past two decades. His dedication to the communities he serves is why Floyd will be inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame in 2021.

"I have been ever impressed with his vision and leadership abilities as we have navigated some 'uncharted waters' with the electrical industry," said fellow board member, John Jury.

Floyd's vision for change, transparency and planning has been the focal point of his presidential term. Floyd has continued to encourage fellow board members and employees to rely on the cooperative's core principles and maintain its mission of providing the members the



Floyd speaks about the state of the co-op at Pioneer Electric's 2020 Annual Meeting.

cooperative serves with reliable power at the lowest cost possible.

Recipients for the Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame are recognized and honored as those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in working to further the cooperative's philosophy.

To be inducted, recipients must be nominated and meet the criteria set forth by the Hall of Fame Committee. Floyd was nominated as a joint effort between Pioneer Electric and Skyland Grain, LLC.

Magnison Celebrates 20 Years of Service

Assistant CEO Randy Magnison talks service to communities and plans for a relaxed retirement.

The culture at Pioneer Electric is shaped through two ideals: treat each other exceptionally well and provide world-class service to our members. In his 20-year career, **RANDY MAGNISON** has demonstrated those ideals and now celebrates the transition into retirement.

Originally from Medicine Lodge, Magnison began his career at Pioneer Electric in 2000 as assistant to the CEO (later changed to assistant CEO in 2011) with a small desk in a large office. Before coming to Pioneer Electric, Magnison served in law enforcement with the Garden City Police Department, worked at an accounting firm as an administrator, and at Sunflower Electric managing benefits. There is a common theme that runs through his resume — serving others.

As assistant CEO of Pioneer Electric, Magnison has helped kick-start nearly 17 projects through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant or loan program and Pioneer's Revolving Loan Fund. The projects have ranged from helping libraries and health care facilities expand their services, to dairies and even a car wash. Depending on the complexity of the projects and because these projects compete nationally for funding, the process can take anywhere from 24 months to several years to complete after the business' application has been approved through the USDA. Keeping all parties focused on the process can sometimes be a task itself.



Randy Magnison and his wife, Rhonda, at his retirement reception on Jan. 26, 2021.

"I've always enjoyed helping others," said Magnison. "Seeing local communities prosper is something I enjoy."

Magnison is particularly proud of a community-owned grocery store that will break ground in the near future. The grocery store will bring local shopping back to Plains, Kansas, after nearly a decade. A not-for-profit foundation will help sustain the business.

"It takes a lot of energy and effort — we help a lot of people" said Magnison. "Being able to be involved in the economic development of a community has been rewarding to me."

Magnison approximates 104 new jobs and millions of dollars in new businesses have been created to date through the completion of these many community projects.

Regarding his time spent at Pioneer Electric, Magnison recalled being proud of many accomplishments, especially if it involved helping

“Seeing local communities prosper is something I enjoy.”

communities or employees of Pioneer Electric and Southern Pioneer, a not-for-profit wholly-owned subsidiary of Pioneer. One of his most notable being Pioneer's acquisition of the Aquila West Plains assets and customers that ultimately formed Southern Pioneer, a process that began in 2005 and received approval in 2007.

"We started with 20 employees and one leased building to serve over 17,000-plus consumers throughout 10 southwest and southcentral counties," said Magnison, smiling. "Not many people today can say they started a utility, but we did."

Magnison plans to continue helping communities and organizations, even in retirement. If asked, he will assist in writing grants or explore funding opportunities for projects. He also plans to enjoy a more relaxed schedule that includes more time with family, fishing, golfing and working on the three acres he and his wife, Rhonda, purchased in Holton, Kansas.

"I grew up on a farm and I've always loved to do yard work and home



Retiring Assistant CEO, Randy Magnison sits at his now much larger desk.

projects," said Magnison.

The last year with COVID-19 restrictions has helped Magnison prepare for retirement as Pioneer Electric's lobby closed and many employees worked remotely from home. He spoke highly of the trees and rolling hills of his new home in northeastern Kansas. Though he admits, "the higher humidity, cold and all the leaves in the fall will take some time to get used to compared to western Kansas."



Randy Magnison (red shirt) breaks ground for the new Southern Pioneer Electric Medicine Lodge office in 2015. Southern Pioneer is a not-for-profit wholly-owned subsidiary of Pioneer Electric formed in 2005.

What is Pioneer Electric's Revolving Loan Fund?

A Brief Synopsis:

Applicants must first determine the type of project for which they are seeking assistance. Through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, Pioneer Electric is able to help fund community development projects and economic development projects.

► COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

projects are focused on civic improvements and proposed by city, county or other not-for-profits. These include the expansion of county hospitals, county fairgrounds, county libraries, etc. Community development projects can receive up to \$300,000, which must be no more than 80% of the total project cost.

► ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

projects are requested by private businesses looking to expand within our served communities. The types of projects can vary greatly. Pioneer Electric has funded projects that include equipment for food processing facilities, construction of a hotel, and additional storage facilities for a grain merchandising company.

Applications must request assistance for their project from Pioneer Electric's board of trustees. Once accepted, the project must complete The Intergovernmental Review and Environmental Review. Projects seeking assistance must also provide a business plan that follows specific guidelines and provide additional supplemental information outlined by Pioneer Electric.

For More Information

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Pioneer Electric H.U.G.S. Local Communities With Grants

Pioneer Electric believes in helping our members build better, stronger communities that will thrive for generations to come. Through programs like Helping Us Give to Society (H.U.G.S.) we are able to make a direct impact on our communities that help us all continue to grow.

In January, Pioneer Electric provided community-centered projects with grant funds totaling \$26,500. The projects ranged from putting new roofs on buildings used for community events like Bingo to purchasing a skating bike.

“World-class service doesn’t end at our drive-up window,” said Anita Wendt, vice president of energy services. “Part of serving our members, is serving our communities. We don’t just work in these communities, we live in them too and we want them to continue to grow and have success.”

Pioneer Electric’s H.U.G.S. program is funded through the recycling of materials like steel, aluminum, or copper. As funds become available, Pioneer Electric seeks out projects within its service territory focused on impacting and improving communities. For more information regarding the H.U.G.S. program and information regarding applications, visit our website at pioneerelectric.coop.

American Legion Post #79 — \$9,000

Pioneer Electric granted the American Legion Post #79 with \$9,000 in funds courtesy of its H.U.G.S. program to help cover the costs of replacing its roof.

The Grant County American Legion is a resource for veteran’s within its community. It serves as a system of support for families, and provides burial rights for veterans. Its members also make themselves available to the community for any civic efforts. The Legion’s main source of fundraising came from its weekly Bingo nights held in its building.

“The roof repair will help us continue our Bingo fundraising events which are our main source of funding,” said Kyle Stringham, American Legion member. “It will also help us maintain a patriotic presence in the community.”



The Pioneer Electric H.U.G.S. team presents the American Legion Post 79 with a \$9,000 grant for roof restoration.



The Stevens County 4-H Council will use their \$9,000 grant to fund renovations of their 4-H Building located in Hugoton.

Stevens Co. 4-H Council — \$9,000

The Stevens County 4-H Council, a committee of youth representatives, received a grant totaling \$9,000 courtesy of the H.U.G.S. program. The funds will be used to repair the roof of the Stevens County 4-H building.

“The goal of this project is to stop the damage occurring to the building due to the leaks,” said Ron Honig, Wild West District Extension Agent. “Now that we are back to allowing 4-H groups to use the building, we are seeking funds to fix the issues in the building.”

The council hopes to renovate the bathrooms, doors and flooring in the future as well.

Rolla Skating Rink — \$2,000

The Rolla skating rink welcomes visitors from southwest Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado to its facilities. It offers a fun and inclusive environment, even to non-traditional skaters.

“The sheer joy of the kids being able to participate in this activity is truly immeasurable,” said Wendt. “Those kids come to the rink and enjoy watching the kids, but they would prefer to be out there skating with the others.”

The Rolla Recreation Commission received \$2,000 to assist in purchasing a skating bike, allowing two local students to partake in skating in a safe and fun way.



The Rolla skating rink will purchase a skating bike with their \$2,000 H.U.G.S. grant.