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www.pioneerelectric.coop



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.

Campbell, Scott Announced as Pioneer Electric CEO, Assistant CEO



LINDSAY CAMPBELL, CEO



CHANTRY SCOTT, ASSISTANT CEO

The Pioneer Electric Board of Trustees voted to instate **LINDSAY CAMPBELL** and **CHANTRY SCOTT** in their respective roles as CEO and Assistant CEO of Pioneer Electric. The announcement followed former Pioneer Electric CEO Steve Epperson's selection as president and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. Epperson has served as interim CEO of Sunflower since summer 2023.

"Our congratulations to Steve," said Campbell. "We thank him for his years of dedication to Pioneer Electric and its members; we know he will lead Sunflower with the same commitment to service demonstrated within our cooperative."

Campbell and Scott have served in their roles over the past months and look forward to continuing their work.

"We are going to continue serving our members with the same dedication to provide reliable and safe power," said Campbell. "I look forward to stepping into this role and being a part of the future at Pioneer Electric."

Members with questions about the transition may contact Pioneer Electric's office during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) by calling 620-356-1201. Additional information may also be found at www.pioneerelectric.coop.

PEC WELCOMES OPERATIONS INTERNS

Pioneer Electric is excited to welcome two new faces to its operations department. **ORINN NORRIS** and **GARRET WINNER** began their internships at the cooperative in February.

Norris is from the Lakin/Ulysses area. In his free time, he enjoys being with his family and his various hobbies.

“I enjoy carpentry, welding and mechanics, and have completed a couple engine rebuilds over the past year,” said Norris. “I have gotten to be a part of a couple aircraft restorations, rebuilding a Bellanca Citabria, and a Piper Cub. I also love to fish, hike, run and be outdoors.”

Winner is a Ulysses native with many family ties to the community.

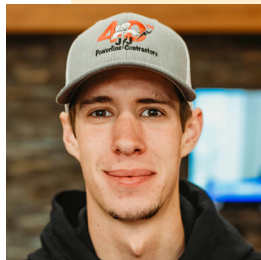
“My dad is a district magistrate judge and owns his own construction company and my mom works for the local telecommunications co-op and the Furever Friends Humane Society,” said Winner. “My brother, Chance, is also a lineman at Pioneer Electric.

When he is not working, Winner likes to hunt, fish and grill.

Welcome to the team, Orinn and Garret.



Orinn Norris
Operations Intern



Garret Winner
Operations Intern

Youth Tour Winners Selected



SANDRA SPOONER, Ulysses
Washington, D.C.



OLIVIA SALMANS, Hugoton
Washington, D.C.



QUENTIN FRANKLIN, Moscow
CYLC



KIMBER THOMECZEK, Syracuse
CYLC

Four local students were selected to represent Pioneer Electric this summer as representatives for our youth programs.

SANDRA SPOONER, Ulysses, and **OLIVIA SALMANS**, Hugoton, will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. **QUENTIN FRANKLIN**, Moscow, and **KIMBER THOMECZEK**, Syracuse, will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

“Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our winners,” said Alyssa Hammond, communications specialist for Pioneer Electric. “This program gives students the chance to see and do things they may never have otherwise.”

In June, Spooner and Salmans will have the opportunity to meet and engage with students from across the country while visiting Washington,

D.C., sites and the surrounding areas. Delegates will meet with legislators on Capitol Hill, tour monuments and more.

While at camp in July, Franklin and Thomeczek will experience the ins and outs of running a cooperative, raft down the Colorado River, tour a power plant, and more as they take in the beauty of the Rocky Mountains.

Pioneer Electric’s Youth Tour program is available to local high school sophomores and juniors. Students are selected after submitting an online application and participating in an in-person interview.

Upcoming sophomores and juniors interested in applying for the 2025 trips are encouraged to watch Pioneer Electric’s social media page and www.pioneerelectric.coop for information this fall.

Thank a Lineworker on Lineworker Appreciation Day

Lineworker Appreciation Day is Monday, April 8, 2024

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause power outages.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers complete a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power lineworkers and repairers held approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- ▶ Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- ▶ Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- ▶ Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- ▶ Install power lines between poles, towers and buildings.



Crew Foreman Jacob Mendoza removes infrastructure from a pole to prepare it for replacement.

- ▶ Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- ▶ Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- ▶ Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.

PIONEER ELECTRIC CELEBRATES LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH APRIL. Join us in thanking our crews for all they do to keep the power flowing. Members are welcome to leave a word of thanks on our social media page, send thank you cards to the cooperative office (P.O. Box 368, Ulysses, KS, 67880) or simply thank our crews when you see them, however, please do not approach crews while they work.



Apprentice Lineman Josh (Rowdy) Martin participates in Pioneer Electric's annual pole top rescue training.

BOARD WELCOMES MARK GOEHRING



Mark Goehring
District 7
Representative

The Pioneer Electric Board of Trustees announces the appointment of **MARK GOEHRING**, of Ulysses, as the District 7 trustee. Goehring began his three-year term in February.

“We welcome Mark and look forward to working with him in service to our members,” said Board President Mike Brewer. “Mark’s insight and skill will be a great addition to the board.”

Goehring plans to use his background in finance as well as his involvement on various boards and committees in service to the cooperative.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the members of Pioneer Electric and work alongside the board of trustees,” said Goehring.

Additional information and a list of current Pioneer Electric board members is available at www.pioneerelectric.coop.

Hickok Elementary Receives \$1,000 H.U.G.S. Grant



H.U.G.S. team members present Hickok Elementary with a \$1,000 grant. From left: Pioneer’s Carmina Soto and Rae Gorman, P.E. teacher Nick Boe, Pioneer’s Vice President of Energy Services Anita Wendt and music teacher Susan McConnell.

Members of Pioneer Electric’s Helping Us Give to Society (H.U.G.S.) program presented the **HICKOK ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM** with a \$1,000 grant on Feb. 7. The school will use the grant to purchase exercise balls for its cardio drumming unit.

“Cardio drumming combines music with exercise for great health benefits,” explained Nick Boe, Hickok Elementary P.E. teacher. “The cardio drumming unit will benefit our first and second grade students by teaching them the importance of a healthy heart at a young age.”

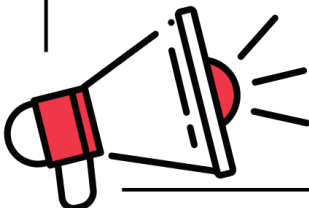
“A rewarding aspect of H.U.G.S. is being able to be a part of a large variety of community projects,” Anita Wendt, vice president of energy services at Pioneer Electric, said. “The funds from this grant will benefit students each year and help them practice a healthy lifestyle.”

Pioneer Electric funds its H.U.G.S. team through recycled materials. Pieces of steel, aluminum and copper taken out of service are recycled and turned into grant funds. More information regarding the program can be found at www.pioneerelectric.coop.

NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE ON APRIL BILLS

On Feb. 27, Pioneer Electric’s Board of Trustees voted to approve a proposed rate adjustment to the single phase, single phase all-electric, three phase and three phase all-electric members.

Pioneer Electric’s Energy Delivery Charge/Demand Charge rate for these members will increase from \$3 to \$3.75, effective March 1, 2024. This change will be reflected on members’ April bills.



WANT TO LOWER YOUR DEMAND?

Find tips on saving energy and lowering demand on our website.



SCAN ME