

March
2004



Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative

LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St., Dighton, KS 67839
Phone 620-397-5327

Lane-Scott Offers Trips for Area Youth

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative will be offering up to four free trips for youth of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. members. These trips will be to Washington, D.C. and Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

The Board of Directors of Lane-Scott feels that education of our youth about the operation and structure of cooperatives is important to their future. The youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow and the more they are aware of how the cooperative works the better off our country will be. With this in mind, up to two youths will be selected to attend the Washington D.C. "Government in Action" trip and up to two will be selected to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The staff at Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative will make these selections.

This trip is open to any sophomore or junior whose parents are members of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative. To qualify for this trip you must submit a 200-word essay on "How the services from Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. have made our life better." The essay must be in our office by March 15, 2004. The winners will also be asked to present a short talk on their trip at the Lane-Scott Annual Meeting in July.

Last year Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative sponsored Heather Delaney, daughter of Neal and Diane Delaney of Ness City and Kiara Steffens, daughter of Earl and Kathy Steffens of Dighton for the Washington D.C. trip. Rane Nolan, son of William and Marian Nolan of Scott City and Megan Roemer, daughter of Randy and Beverly



I want to know...

What are YOU doing this Summer?

How about joining other young people for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 10-17, 2004, to experience "Government in Action" have fun, and experience the nation's capital!

Your electric cooperative is sponsoring the trip for area high school students, coordinated by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

For complete information and registration see the contact information below!



Roemer of Healy were selected for the Steamboat Springs trip.

The dates of the trips are June 10-17, 2004 for Washington, D.C. and July 17-23, 2004 for the Steamboat Springs Tour. Parents help your children to understand what a good opportunity this is and encourage them to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about either trip, please contact our office and ask for Earl Steffens.

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Newsletter

Telephone 397-5327

Owned & Published by

The Lane-Scott Electric

Co-op, Inc.

P.O. Box 758

410 S. High St.

Dighton, KS 67839

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In Case of Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call Dighton, 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

After Hours & Weekends Call:

1-800-407-2217

24-Hour Electrician Emergency Service

If you are without electricity, or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day. To request after-hours electrician service, call the following number:

1-800-407-2217

Lane-Scott Electric - Meet the Employees



Kathy Lewis

Kathy Lewis, Manager of Financial Services began working for Lane-Scott Electric in January of 1991 as a billing clerk. After three years as billing clerk she was promoted to her current position.

Kathy has been a member of the REC Accountants Club for the past nine years. Kathy has attended several courses which include Computer Technology, Insurance and Benefits, and Human Resources to continue her education.

Kathy has been a City Councilwoman for seven years and is currently serving as a Director on the Lane County Senior Living Foundation. She and her husband Mark, and children Jenna and Lake enjoy camping, boating, and water skiing. Kathy remembers as a kid going to the Lane-Scott Annual meeting after it had rained and standing ankle deep in water while waiting in the serving line. She remembers it being a lot of fun, but she is sure the adults didn't think it was much fun at all.

Kathy says, "I'm proud to be a part of the team here at Lane-Scott; we are a progressive company and strive to stay on top of what is happening in our industry. I'm privileged to work with such a great group of people."

Lane-Scott Taxes

Vendor Number	County	Total 2003 Tax	1st Half Due 12/20-03	2nd Half Due 5/10/04	2002 Tax	2001 Tax	2000 Tax	%of increase From 2002/2003
24	Finney	\$15,461.88	\$7,730.95	\$7,730.93	\$10,608.38	\$8,734.50	\$7,584.09	45.75%
28	Gove	\$5,721.24	\$2,860.62	\$2,860.62	\$4,058.32	\$2,846.70	\$2,310.56	40.98%
33	Hodgeman	\$17,556.06	\$8,778.03	\$8,778.03	\$11,775.08	\$9,431.18	\$7,706.96	49.10%
46	Lane	\$140,618.66	\$70,309.33	\$70,309.33	\$98,371.76	\$80,859.88	\$63,967.84	42.95%
50	Logan	\$597.68	\$298.84	\$298.84	\$435.04	\$334.72	\$249.50	37.39%
56	Ness	\$56,821.80	\$28,410.90	\$28,410.90	\$42,682.00	\$32,302.82	\$27,475.16	33.13%
68	Scott	\$29,402.64	\$14,701.32	\$14,701.32	\$21,362.64	\$15,284.83	\$12,329.30	37.64%
Total		\$266,179.96	\$133,089.99	\$133,089.97	\$189,293.22	\$149,794.63	\$121,623.41	40.62%

Prepare Your Central Air Conditioner for Summer

Spring is a good time for maintaining your air conditioner. If you keep the coils of your air conditioner clean, it will improve your comfort and reduce your electricity costs this summer.

Start by inspecting the outdoor condensing unit. The large outdoor coil – it looks like a car radiator – is where heat is dissipated from your home. The fan in the condensing unit has to move a whole lot of air through the coil, so make sure that there are no airflow restrictions around the condensing unit. Cut nearby grass, shrubs, and tree branches so they are at least 3 feet away at the sides and 5 feet away overhead.

Most condenser coils are loaded with pollen and dust even when you can't see it. The longest a condenser should go without cleaning is 2 or 3 years. If your cooling season is 4 months or more, annual cleaning is an excellent idea. Turn off the power to the unit,

and remove any visible grass and lint from the fins and/or louvers with an old hairbrush or whisk broom. Then put on a pair of rubber gloves and spray biodegradable outdoor coil cleaner into the coil. Wait five or ten minutes and flush the coil with a gentle water spray.

Your indoor coil might also need cleaning, even though you can't easily see it. If your air conditioner's filter or blower is dirty, then your indoor coil is probably dirty, too. Cleaning the indoor coil is usually a job for professionals, unless you have easy access, as with a central heat pump. To help keep your indoor coil clean, make sure your filter fits well, is easy to change, and that you change it regularly. Have your air conditioning contractor make improvements to the filter, if needed, so it is easy to get to. Change the filter often to help keep your indoor air conditioner coil clean and reduce energy consumption.

OPERATIONS

1-29-04

This past month we have continued to change out poles in the Finney county area. As construction has slowed we were able to stay on this project for most of the month. We have several connects that we will be building to in the near future. These are oil and irrigation wells. We are waiting for them to tell us they are ready. We have been fortunate with only minor problems on outages. We were able to miss the ice that some of the other parts of the state got.

We will be finishing up projects over the next few months that are time consuming and have been put on hold with all the other work we have done. We will be changing out by-pass switches and arresters in the Dighton low voltage substation, finishing our fault indication equipment in the city subs, and installing our new Nova reclosers in the Manning and Dighton substations.

This summer we will be installing the equipment in all of our substations to give us the circuit information needed for our next construction work plan. We hope to get all the other projects mentioned done before this equipment gets here as this will be a major undertaking.

Our next area to install automatic read meters will be in the Finney county area. This will free up one meter reader to read the book our people are now reading.

Over all I feel we had a very productive year as we were able to do many of the 300 projects in our construction work plan and prepare for the next one. If you ever have questions give me a call or stop by and visit

Manager of Operations
Stan Bray

Safety Earns Award



Bruce McAntee safety director and Stan Bray director of operations accept No Lost Time Accident Award on behalf of all Lane-Scott employees. This award represents 206,152 man hours without any lost time. Lane-Scott employees take pride in their efforts toward safety and always keep it number one on their list.

Using Power Tools Safely Keeps You from Harm

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has some guidelines for power tool safety.

Power tools are often used out of doors or in a garage or shed where the door should be open for adequate ventilation, especially when sanding. Power tools require skilled use. Operators should not only read but also memorize the product instruction manual. Power tools should never be used when children are in, or even near, the work area.

Power tools should always be:

- Held by the insulated gripping surface to avoid electrical shock.
- Used with safety goggles and other safety gear: a face shield, dust mask, hardhat, ear protection, gloves or safety shoes as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Used with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), either permanently installed or a plug-in type.
- Plugged into a three-pronged outlet known to be grounded, unless they are double insulated.
- Used with a three-wired extension cord, if needed.
- Used in a dry area away from explosive fumes (gasoline or naphtha), dust or flammable materials.

Power tools should never be:

- Used while wearing loose clothing or jewelry that can get caught in a moving part.
- Used near live electrical wires or water pipes, especially when cutting or drilling into walls where they could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
- Used after they have tripped a safety device such as a GFCI. Take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
- Used when you are upset, angry or in a hurry.
- Used without guards or with an extension cord longer than 100 feet.

Other outdoor electrical products such as fans, bug killers, holiday or party lights, heaters, music systems, power paint rollers, barbecue spits and many more each have manufacturer recommended precautions included in the instructions that are packaged with them. Take time to read and follow instructions. Here are a few reminders:

Power washer—This product uses water with electricity. Make sure you read the directions carefully.

Barbecue grill—Read directions to find out if it can be stored outdoors or used on an apartment balcony, patio or deck. Also check with your apartment building manager for use rules and/or local ordinances or regulations.

How Electrically-Savvy Are You?

What you don't know about electricity can be shocking! In addition to safety issues, a basic understanding of electricity can help you select the best electrical devices for your home and reduce your energy bill as well. The Leviton Institute helps you test your knowledge with the following true/false quiz on electricity.

1. Dimmers simply absorb energy from light bulbs and don't save you any money.

False. Dimmers don't absorb power. They control the amount of time a bulb is on and off 120 times a second, but your eye can't see this. A dim setting limits the time the bulb is on. A bulb dimmed to 50% uses approximately 25% less power and lasts approximately 20 times longer, saving both on lighting energy and bulb replacement costs.

2. Dimmers cannot be used to control ceiling fans.

True. Dimmers can damage fan motors. Only fan speed control units can be used with ceiling fans. They are usually available with the same styling and features as dimmers but are safe for fan motors.

3. GFCIs offer the same protection that circuit breakers do.

False. Circuit breakers are designed to trip when a severe short causes high levels of electrical current to flow through your wires. GFCIs provide protection from ground fault. This can occur when current leaking from a damaged appliance travels to ground through a person touching the appliance. Ground fault current can be lethal, but is typically not high enough to trip a breaker. A GFCI is designed to trip when it senses a relatively tiny amount of ground fault current.

4. A 1200-Watt appliance draws 10 Amps of electrical current.

True. Light bulbs and appliances are rated in Watts, while electrical wiring is rated in Amps. Divide the Watts by 120 (the household voltage) to arrive at the amperage rating. In this case, 1200 Watts divided by 120 Volts equals 10 Amps.

5. Only a licensed electrician can test a GFCI.

False. Using a simple procedure you should test your GFCIs monthly. Plug a lamp into the GFCI and turn it on. Press the Test button—the GFCI should trip causing the light to go off. Press the Reset button on the GFCI and the lamp should go on again. This confirms that the GFCI is working properly. If the GFCI does not trip (shut off the light) when you press the Test button, there is an electrical problem and you should contact a licensed electrician.

6. 12-gauge wire is rated to carry more electrical current than 14-gauge wire.

True. The larger the diameter of wire, the more electrical current it can carry. What is sometimes confusing is that the larger the diameter, the smaller the wire gauge. For example, 14-gauge wire is rated for small electrical tools and appliances, but larger power tools require 12-gauge wire.

7. If a plug keeps falling out of a receptacle, use pliers to spread the plug blades farther apart.

False. When a receptacle no longer holds a plug firmly in place, the half-inserted, live plug is a serious shock hazard, especially for children. When a receptacle is old or worn out by excessive use, its contacts no longer properly grip a plug. Any receptacle in this condition must be replaced.

8. Surges can enter your electronic equipment through phone and cable connections.

True. Surges that can damage your PC, television, video recorder and answering machine can enter through phone, data line and cable connections. Use surge protective power strips that not only provide the maximum amount of powerline protection, but also offer protection for phone, data and cable lines. These multi-purpose surge strips are available in home centers, electronic stores and a variety of retail outlets.

Source: Leviton Institute

Life Support System Notification

Although no electric utility can guarantee uninterrupted service, we would like to maintain a life support system list of members to be notified prior to any planned outage for maintenance or construction work. If someone in your home is on a life support system (breathing or dialysis machine, heart monitor, etc.) the information should be registered with us.

During unplanned outages we will do everything possible to restore your power on a priority basis. However, since an unplanned outage is caused by emergency situations, restoration of power is determined by the nature and size of the outage. We recommend that you have emergency backup equipment available for the life support system.

Once we are notified, a representative will visit to verify your situation and place a medical alert tag on the meter.

