A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
P.O. Box 758
410 S. High Street, Dighton, KS 67839
620-397-5327
www.lanescott.coop

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative

LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Connections

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Larry Jasper
President
Dick Jennison
Vice President
Paul Seib
Secretary
Richard Sorem
Treasurer
Eric Doll
Trustee
Ed Gough
Trustee
Harold Hoss
Trustee
Craig Ramsey
Trustee
Bruce Wilkens
Trustee

Staff

Earl Steffens
General Manager
Dow Morris
AssistantManager
Vic Torson
Manager of Electrical Operations
Katherine Lewis
Manager of Financial Services
Bob Venters
Resale Manager

In Case of an Outage

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

24-Hour Electrician 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.

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative

Annual Meeting Notice

Lane County Fair Grounds

Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

Check the July issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine for complete details.

Please plan to attend.

Ladies & Gentlemen, start your engines

Dylan Linenberger (green helmet) prepares to drive the number 40 car for Dighton High School at the Scott City Race on April 8 in Scott City.

The Scott City Airport was the site for the annual Touchstone Electrorally Race held on April 8 in Scott City.

Nineteen cars representing nine high schools were competed in the race. This race was the first of three scheduled Kansas Electrorally state races this spring.

Area high school teams design and build a one-person electric vehicle to compete for total number of laps within a one-hour period. A car is usually constructed with aluminum frames and light weight wheels, powered by two 12-volt batteries. Construction specifications are within the rules of the Electrathon America handbook.

Designed for endurance, efficiency, and safety, speeds often exceed 30 miles per hour. Courses vary in distance, which usually include curves and corners. Along with constructing a car for competition, a notebook of minimum required information, is completed by the team and presented to judges for grading.

Points are acquired by positions won by racing and also grading of the notebook for the end of year placing.

"We are proud to be a sponsor of this program," said Earl Steffens, General Manager. "Even though winning a race is the goal, the knowledge and experience gained from building and competing with these cars is the most valuable."

Teams collect sponsorships from local merchants and organizations to cover their expenses. Team members do the fund-raising and seek donations to build their cars, which involves after hour projects.

For more information about the electric car program in Kansas visit *www.kansaselectrorally.org*.

Play up outdoor electrical safety to children

Warm, sunny days beckon the child in all of us to head outside and play. Lane-Scott Electric recommends that families review and stress to children to follow simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play.

"Help keep your kids out of harm's way when they play outdoors," said Bob Venters, Lane-Scott's Director of Member Services. "Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Make them aware of overhead power lines and electrical equipment, and emphasize they should never climb or play near them."

Lane-Scott Electric recommends that children be taught to follow these rules:

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact Lane-Scott Electric for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- Don't play on or around electrical equipment.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can be deadly. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call Lane-Scott Electric instead.

When designing an outdoor play area for your children, do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing and using outdoor outlets with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them. Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets.

"Water always attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix," warns Venters. "Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player, or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from hot tubs, pools, ponds, puddles and wet surfaces.

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report to an adult any fallen or dangling wires.

Electric co-op members: 42 million strong

The Our Energy, Our Future™ campaign helps unify electric co-op members across America

When electric cooperatives began to spread across America 75 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made the point that electricity in this country was no longer a luxury. It had become, as it is today, a necessity.

In these difficult economic times, a lot of Americans are struggling to make ends meets. As not-for-profit, consumer-owned and controlled electric co-ops, we want to make certain that each and every citizen in this country can continue to receive affordable electric power. We want to make certain we don't step back from the commitment that FDR made.

Congress is currently working to address issues related to climate change and debating federal mandates regarding renewable energy development and energy efficiency. Even if Congress doesn't act, the U.S. Supreme Court has given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a green light to put new rules curbing emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants in place.

As a result of these efforts, there's little doubt electric bills are going to rise. The only question is whether higher electric bills will be kept affordable.

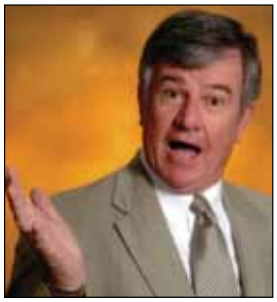
Electric co-ops are dealing with a very different situation than

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Energy commandment no. 2: "Thou shalt invest"

BY DOUG RYE

There are a lot of things happening in our country today that I do not understand. I don't understand how wealthy corporations now have to have billions of dollars from the taxpayers to stay afloat. And I could mention many other things I simply don't understand.



> For an investment of less than $100 and a few hours of elbow grease, you might well reduce your average monthly utility bill by $10, $20, $30 or more a month.

It is better that I stay with the things I do understand. I know that making energy improvements is the best investment in the country today. I know that it is the only thing in your house that will save you money month after month and will have a payback. I also know that your home will be more comfortable as a result of these improvements.

Last week Mr. Tom Hunt, who is my co-host on the *Home Remedies* radio show, said he is saving $50 per week on the cost of gasoline compared to a few months ago. He said that added up to $200 per month. "What if we took that $200 per month and made energy improvements to our house?" he said. I responded: "Tom, you are a genius."

Well, folks both Tom and I don't need these commandments because we built our houses to be super efficient from the beginning. So, please remember that these columns are for you and we, like your electric co-op, want to help you.

Energy Commandment No. 2: "Thou Shalt Invest." Whether it is $5 per month or $200 per month, start setting some money aside for energy improvements. It is perfectly all right to do the least costly items first. For $20, you can buy and install several compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). For $40, you might buy all the caulk you need to seal up air leakd.

Now open your mind and think of this. For an investment of less than $100 and a few hours of elbow grease, you might well reduce your average monthly utility bill by $10, $20, $30 or more a month. Where else could you invest $100, get your money back in three to 10 months and continue getting that savings forever?

So start putting that money aside now, continue reading this column and you will be a genius of energy efficiency, just like Tom.

Doug Rye, is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.

we have in the past. Electric bills will go up because of the climate change and energy policy decisions of U.S. senators and representatives on Capitol Hill — or worse, unelected federal bureaucrats. Higher electric bills will become the norm as we are all forced to comply with these government mandates.

At Lane-Scott Electric, we're talking to our members of Congress, trying to convince them to work with us to make sure that we not only deal with climate change, but do so in a way that keeps electric bills affordable. To accomplish this goal, we need your help.

Nationwide, 42 million consumers are served by electric cooperatives. If every co-op consumer contacted their senators and representatives, we could make a real impact on the final shape of any energy or climate change legislation.

Over the last year, electric co-op consumers have made their voices heard on keeping electric bills affordable through the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign. More than 1.6 million messages have been sent to Congress so far — you can add to that list by visiting *www.ourenergy.coop.*

Make certain that those who lead us in Washington, D.C., hear from you today.

Lane-Scott Jr. Board learns about electrical generation

On April 11, three members of the Lane-Scott Electric Jr. Board of Trustees took an educational trip to the Cimarron River Power Station near Liberal to learn about how power is generated for Lane-Scott Electric.

From left: John Clarke from Ness City High School; C.J. Shaffer from Dighton High School; Shane MacNair from Jetmore High School; and Tharn Pepper, Cimmaron River Power Station employee.

Don't let the air out!

Get back to efficiency basics with weatherization

Children running in and out of the house on a hot summer's day may hear a common warning: '"Don't leave the door open – you'll let the air out!" But how many adults do the same thing without realizing it?

While you may not leave your front door open, air leaks in the attic and basement let valuable air in – and out! – of your home.

The U.S. Department of Energy's EnergyStar® program advises addressing air leaks and ductwork in your home before investing in a new heating and cooling system; sometimes, those are the real sources of problems rather than your equipment.

If air leaks are generally hidden, where do you start?

Most leaks occur in the basement and attic. Starting in your basement, look for gaps and cracks where your cement or block foundation meets the frame of your home. Joists (building supports which are smaller than beams) between the floor and the foundation (called rim or band joists) create cavities, small empty spaces that are hard to insulate and may leak. Not all of the gaps are visible, so EnergyStar® suggests sealing the top and bottom of cavities around rim joists. Use caulk to seal cracks that are 1/4 inch or smaller; spray foam works best to fill gaps from 1/4 inch to about three inches.

It's also a good idea to seal gaps between the basement ceiling and the floor above, like holes for wiring and water pipes.

In the attic, there are many small areas where air may come in, but focus on large spaces. For example, if your home has dropped soffits – part of the ceiling that has been lowered for lighting design – be sure they've been properly sealed. These design elements, common in bathrooms and kitchens, are often built before your home's drywall is installed, leaving part of your wall open to air from wall or floor cavities.

Even though there may be insulation covering dropped soffits in your attic, be sure all cavities around the soffits have been properly plugged. To do this, place fiberglass insulation inside plastic garbage bags and stuff it tightly into any cavities.

Pay attention to dirty insulation; it's a big clue that air is moving through the area. And just like the basement, be sure to seal gaps between the attic ceiling and the rooms below, including holes for wiring, lighting, and the attic door.

Weatherizing your home will save you money down the road – an average of $358 each year according to the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program – but some people may not be able to pay for improvements. As a result of the federal stimulus package, families with household incomes below 200 percent of the national poverty level are eligible for up to $6,500 in energy efficiency improvements. For a family of four, that's an income limit of $44,100.

For members who are not eligible for the program, the stimulus bill provides a homeowner efficiency tax credit of up to $1,500, or 30 percent, of the cost for upgrades, including insulation that meets the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.

There are many more ways to protect your home, including weather stripping doors and windows and sealing ducts. For step-by-step instructions on how to weatherize your home and start saving money today, visit the EnergyStar® website at *www.energystar.gov.*