



**FREESTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

The Outlet

FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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NOTICE

It's **NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH** and we want to thank YOU for being a member-owner and allowing FreeState to power you! Learn more in this month's issue.

FROM THE CEO

The Cooperative Difference is YOU

October is Cooperative Month! We are excited to show you some of the ways the cooperative difference is exemplified through each one of you.

This month, we're showcasing some photos from our Crew at the Zoo member event held in August. What a turn out! Although we had a little (welcomed) rain, we didn't let it dampen a roaring good time. Crew at the Zoo is just one event where we say thank you. Our next big event will be our annual meeting in April, and we hope we will see you all there!

FreeState is a not-for-profit electric cooperative. When we make more money than we need to serve our purpose, it goes right back to our members in the form of capital credits. Instead of profits in shareholders' pockets, we return that money to our members because profits do not dictate our business. You — our members — do. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, and we accomplish this in a way that is beneficial to every member.

Your neighbors and fellow members govern the cooperative. Elected trustees are members, just like you. The staff at the co-op are the same friends and neighbors you've known for years. We all take pride in serving you because many of our employees are also members. They live and work and serve their communities right alongside you.

We understand that you don't have a choice regarding your electricity provider, but you have a choice in how you engage with the cooperative. You are a member-owner. You aren't just a customer. You are more than an account number. You own a portion of the utility that powers your life. Your neighbors powered by municipal entities or investor-owned utilities can't say that.

We invite you to have a conversation with the board and the staff behind the scenes — because we all work at your cooperative. Your membership matters to us. YOU matter to us.

As always, if you have questions about this content, we encourage you to contact us at 800-794-1989 or email customerservice@freestate.coop.



Chris Parr

You are a member-owner. You aren't just a customer. You are more than an account number. You own a portion of the utility that powers your life.

POWERING YOU

with



Over 1,200 FreeState members gathered at the Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center on Saturday, Aug. 26, for the third annual Crew at the Zoo member appreciation event.

This event exceeded our expectations! We had so much fun and we were also able to meet brand new members, welcome them to the co-op, and showcase how FreeState powers your life and how the cooperative difference is all about you.

Area community organizations and FreeState staff were ready to break down the path of electricity as members made their way about the zoo. Additionally, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Kansas collected pop tabs from FreeState's "Sippin' All Summer" challenge.

"We were so excited to bring back this award-winning event," said Sarah Farlee, Director of PR and marketing. "And we brought in new elements. This year we saw over 1,200 members and really enjoyed meeting our members at the Topeka Zoo. It was important to us to provide an event that was fun for all ages and would be an opportunity for families to spend time together."



Members see what they'd look like as a FreeState lineman.



FreeState staff gear up to serve members with a smile.



Members' first stop was to grab a FreeState tote bag before heading to other booths.

PHOTOS BY SHANA REED



Brent Edgcomb (left) talks with members about the importance of energy efficiency.



Despite a brief rainstorm, members showed up ready for a fun-filled day.



The team from Kansas Energy Program led interactive activities for members to learn more about energy.



FreeState appreciates all of our members — even the littlest ones!



Activities kept all ages engaged and made learning about the path of electricity fun.



Members escape the rain to peek inside the newest giraffe exhibit.

POWERED UP *for Awareness*

FreeState is committed to breast cancer awareness and serving as an inspiring example for others in the communities we serve.

In July, FreeState gifted the Race Against Breast Cancer (RABC) with \$25,174 to help fund RABC's no-cost mammography program. The program aims to provide vital mammography screenings to individuals in medical and financial need across nine counties in northeast Kansas.

We know the fight does not stop there. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and **FREESTATE CREWS WILL "POWER UP" TO JOIN THE FIGHT BY WEARING PINK HARD HATS.** Breast cancer is a formidable adversary that affects not only those diagnosed but also their families, friends, workplaces and communities.

Breast cancer is commonly associated with women, but it is crucial to recognize that men can also fight this disease, albeit at a much lower rate. However, studies have consistently revealed that men generally have a lower level of awareness regarding breast cancer compared to women.

This month our social channels will highlight breast cancer awareness and educational pieces surrounding perceptions of masculinity and associated stigma, insufficient education on risk

factors and symptoms, and limited integration of male breast cancer awareness.

Breast cancer is a pressing public health concern, and it requires the concerted efforts of organizations, businesses and the community to combat its impact effectively.

Empowering individuals and families to fight and run the race is the cooperative difference. So let us remember that under every pink hard hat, and in each life affected by breast cancer — there lies a story.

Let's make this October a month of empowerment, education and empathy. Together, we are not just keeping the lights on — we're lighting up lives with hope and love. Thank you for being a part of the "Powered Up in Pink" initiative. Together we can spark change and make a positive impact.



October is Cooperative Month!

The difference is YOU

What is the cooperative difference? It's local. It's trusted. It's member-driven. You are more than a customer, you are a member-owner!

At the end of Co-op Month, we will give away an ice cream maker and a cold brew maker. **SIGN UP BEFORE OCTOBER 31 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!**

Scan the QR code to the right to enter and follow along on our social channels to learn more about your cooperative.



Scan me

