



LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Powerline

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Prepay Service Helping LJEC Members

Food, Gasoline. Even cell phone minutes. We pay for those things and a score of other goods and services before we actually use them. Last summer, LJEC launched our prepaid service – a program that, in a nutshell, is pay-as-you go electric service.

How could prepay service benefit you?

This program offers a great solution for a wide cross-section of the LJEC membership. Perhaps you're facing financial difficulties, move frequently, own rental properties or simply want to take a more active role in controlling your bill.

Members who struggle to pay one bigger monthly bill can fall further and further behind. Especially when having to pay disconnect and reconnect fees. With prepay, these fees are eliminated, saving the member up to \$100.

In addition, members who prepay generally use less energy than folks on traditional billing arrangement, because they're more aware of how much power they're consuming.



Prepay can help both new and current members more accurately budget their electric bills.

Prepay requires only a small deposit and eliminates late fees, disconnect and reconnect fees.

Prepay can also help members plan more accurate monthly budgets and provide an option to make smaller, incremental payments, rather than one large monthly payment.

In addition, members who prepay generally use less energy than folks on traditional billing arrangement because they're more aware of how much power they're consuming on a daily basis.

"Members can take a more active role in conservation with

smart hub

Prepay members can track their account balance and usage data through SmartHub, LJEC's online bill pay system.

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Calendar of Events

► **SUNDAY, MAY 11–**

Mother's Day

► **MONDAY, MAY 26–**

Memorial Day. LJEC office closed.

Tip of the Month

Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your landscaping plan can help reduce cooling costs.

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prepay,” said Shannon Crouse, LJEC’s new Energy Use Supervisor. “Monitoring daily usage through our SmartHub application is important. That information and knowledge translates into increased awareness of consumption habits. Prepay also helps those that may be having financial difficulties since smaller payments can be made over a period of time versus one larger bill.”

Here’s how it works:

- ▶ Each day, the previous day’s kWh use, estimated purchased power adjustment (PPA), prorated service and device charge plus applicable tax are calculated and deducted from your credit balance.
- ▶ Payments can be made online, on

the phone or by visiting the LJEC office during regular business hours.

- ▶ Low balance alerts are sent via e-mail or text message (standard rates apply).
- ▶ Service is disconnected when the credit balance reaches \$0.
- ▶ Make a payment to reestablish a credit balance to reconnect service.

Prepay works for current and new members

Current LJEC Members—To get started sign our prepay agreement and make an initial payment of at least your past due amount (if applicable).

Current amounts owed can go to an arrangement that you’ll pay down over time.

- ▶ Provide a valid phone number and e-mail address

▶ Any deposit you have on file over \$30 can be applied to what you owe.

▶ Disconnect, reconnect and collection fees, if applicable, are waived. This could be a savings of up to \$100!

▶ Track your usage through SmartHub, LJEC’s online bill-pay system.

▶ Make payments (\$30 minimum) at convenient times for you and your schedule.

▶ Low account balance notifications are sent via e-mail or text message (standard rates apply)

LJEC is offering prepay as an option to standard service. The cooperative is always researching the programs and services that could benefit our members. If you have questions contact our office at 888-796-6111.

Drinkard, Ernzen & Parsons Win Trips of a Lifetime



Leah Parsons, DC Winner

LJEC recently held our annual Youth Trip Competition. Students vied for a spot on one of two trips sponsored by the cooperative, one to Steamboat Springs, CO, the other to Washington, DC.

Students competed on their general knowledge of electric cooperatives and history, as well as taking part in a personal interview conducted by former trip winners, Mark Heim (1986, Washington, D.C.) and Sonya (Coppinger) Benortham (1991, Colorado).

Home-schooled junior **LEAH PARSONS**, won the competition; **TAMARA DRINKARD**, a junior at Valley Falls High School, was second and Lansing High School junior, **MADISON ERNZEN**, finished third.

Parsons will travel to Washington, D.C., for a week in June for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. She will start her trip with a tour of the Kansas State Capitol then travels to Washington, D.C., where she will meet with our elected officials. She will also visit numerous historical sites and memorials during his trip. Parsons will join more than 1,600 youth from other electric cooperatives around the country.

Drinkard and Ernzen will both attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in July to Steamboat Springs, CO.

Attendees include students sponsored by electric cooperatives from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Students are assigned to small breakout groups that work together to form a working “candy cooperative,” as well as participate in a transmission line competition out of craft supplies. There are numerous leadership exercises and programs presented throughout their week-long trip. Students also tour the Trapper Coal Mine and Craig Power Generation Plant, as well as visit Steamboat Springs.

LJEC began sponsoring the Washington, D.C., trip in 1962 and the Colorado trip in 1978. Since that time, 80 local students have benefited from this program. The cooperative is proud to support initiatives that directly impact the youth in our local community.



Tamara Drinkard, Camp Winner



Madison Ernzen, Camp Winner

Heinen Wins Power & Hope Award



Joe Heinen (center) proudly displays Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council's Power & Hope Award. From left Karla (Heinen) Meyer, daughter; Linda Heinen, wife; Joe Heinen, former LJEC assistant manager; Bruce Graham, KEC CEO; and Steve Foss, LJEC manager.

JOE HEINEN, LJEC's recently retired Assistant Manager, has received the Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council's Power & Hope Award.

This award is presented to a nominee who makes a difference at the co-op and in the community, by Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), the statewide organization for electric cooperatives in Kansas.

Heinen is dedicated to not only LJEC, but his country, his community and the cooperative movement.

He is a U.S. veteran serving in the Army Reserves from 1968-1974. During his time in the military, he also received the Citizen-Soldier Award, which is awarded to a soldier who demonstrates outstanding performance in both civic and military duties.

He served LJEC faithfully for almost 42 years and retired in April 2014. He served on the LJEC Board of Directors for 20 years, then an additional 21-plus years as an employee. His entire career at LJEC, whether as a board member or employee, was dedicated to making decisions that were in the best interest of the members.

A tireless supporter of the community, he is the Chairman of the

newly-formed Valley Falls Community Trust Fund, a fund dedicated to raising and funding projects for the betterment of the local community. He serves on the Board for Rural Water District #3 and is currently their Secretary/Treasurer.

In addition, for the last 25 years, he has been instrumental in the ongoing care of the once abandoned, Pioneer Cemetery (established in 1855 just west of Valley Falls). He has been actively working to bring new signage to the cemetery and establish a history board to honor those buried there.

Winning the Power & Hope Award came with a \$500 donation to his charity of choice. Heinen has donated his prize to the continued development of the signage and history board at Pioneer Cemetery.

"It is an honor to receive this award," Heinen said. "I like serving people and don't require recognition for it, it's what I do."

Make sure to congratulate him when you see him, not only on this award but his recent retirement. He has been the very definition of a dedicated cooperative employee—always putting the member first.

LJEC Welcomes Crouse to Staff

We would like to welcome LJEC's newest employee, **SHANNON CROUSE** of McLouth.

Crouse comes to us from Westar Energy where he worked for 16 years. He started as an electrician then moved to the Planning Department. He also served as an Instrument and Control Technician and Electrical Supervisor, working at both the Lawrence and Tecumseh power plants.

He will serve as LJEC's Energy Solutions Supervisor. He will have wide-ranging responsibilities from trouble-shooting a member's high bill to managing efficiency programs and services for the cooperative. In addition, he will assist with the management of LJEC's metering system.

He is looking forward to meeting the LJEC members.

"After working on the generation side of the business, I'm excited to work on the member side," Crouse said. "I've had the opportunity to work with numerous LJEC employees on projects for my own home over the years and have always respected and admired the way the cooperative treated their members. I'm happy I've been afforded the opportunity to now serve the members of LJEC."

Crouse and his wife, Janice, live in rural McLouth and have six children: Danny, Zach, Derrick, Jesse, Faith and Emma.

Please welcome him when you see him out in the community.



Shannon Crouse

Practical Pointers for National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and LJEC is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. This year's campaign, "Back to the Basics," challenges consumers to make home electrical safety assessments a priority.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average home today has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, at least one digital camera, one desktop computer, and two cell phones.

Many homes and their electrical systems were built before most modern-day home electronics and appliances were even invented. Today's increased demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.

LJEC offers the following tips to help identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family, and your home:



Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

- ▶ Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- ▶ Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- ▶ Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- ▶ Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.

▶ Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.

▶ Check outlets for loose-fitting plugs. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children at home, install Tamper Resistant Outlets (TROs) or cover unused outlets with plastic safety caps.

▶ Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.

▶ If there are electrical issues in your home, make sure to call a professional to make the repairs.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees, and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.

23rd Annual McLouth BBQ Blowout June 6-7 in McLouth's Prairie Park

Get a dose of hometown goodness and family fun at the 23rd Annual McLouth BBQ Blowout coming up June 6-7 in McLouth's Prairie Park. This is event sanctioned by the Kansas City BBQ Society and has been proclaimed the Kansas State BBQ Championship by Kansas Governor, Sam Brownback.

Teams will compete for trophies and ribbons in numerous categories with over \$6,000 in prize money to be given away. The winner of this event also qualifies for the American Royal BBQ.

There are plenty of family friendly activities such as kids' rides, remote control airplanes, vendors and more. Concessions will be available including breakfast with homemade pancakes, and biscuits and gravy, as well as homemade pies and much more!

Admission and parking is free and free BBQ samples will be available during the morning with judging starting at Noon. Questions can be directed to event coordinator, Cliff Weeks at weeksc65@gmail.com.

Visit www.mclouthbbq.com

