



## LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Powerline

### Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative, Inc.

#### Board of Trustees

**Larry Meadows**  
President

**Jeanine Murphy**  
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**Ralph Phillips**  
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**Bill Pohl**  
Trustee

**Larry Stevens**  
Trustee

#### Staff

**Steve Foss**  
General Manager

**Chris Parr**  
Assistant Manager

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is right around the corner! Have you changed your home's air filter? Filters get loaded with more and more particles as they do their job. This actually has the effect of making them more efficient, but it also increases resistance and reduces airflow. Remember to check filters once a month.

### FROM THE MANAGER

## Join Us to Celebrate 75 Years on April 28

I would like to encourage and welcome all of you to attend the celebration of our 75th anniversary of Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative (LJEC). We will serve a buffet-style dinner at the McLouth School Purple Gymnasium at 217 Summit Street in McLouth April 28. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Ballots have been mailed to determine your Board representatives or you may also vote in person at the meeting.

This is an exciting time for LJEC. Aside from being in the business of providing electricity to our members for 75 years, we continue to look for ways to save members money. The current alliance and potential consolidation with Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative will play a major role in our future.

In our communications, we have consistently pointed to a savings, through this consolidation, of

over \$13.5 million over the next 10 years. However, we are confident that the savings can be even larger. We have had unexpected retirements and found

additional efficiencies that we continue to capture to push those savings to even higher levels.

You may ask, "With all these savings, will my bills go down?" Unfortunately, the answer is no. However, they won't go up nearly as fast either. Viewing the financial forecasts of each cooperative we have already moved the expected dates of any rate increase several months down the road. As the savings grow, we will hold rates steady as long as it is financially responsible for us to do so.

We are at your service and look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting. Once again, we will offer a \$10 credit (per membership) to your bill for attending the meeting. There will

be many door prizes to be given away but you must be present to win. If you cannot attend, please don't hesitate to contact our office with your questions or concerns. See you on the April 28!



Steve Foss

We are at your service and look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting.

April 2015						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

# Meet Your Board of Trustee Candidates

## District 1

**TIMOTHY CLAY** (No Photo or biography provided.)

### BILL POHL—

A member of LJEC for 38 years, Pohl resides in the cooperative's northern service territory. He has been on the LJEC Board for 15 years, serving as Board President from 2008-2010. His activities within the community include serving on the Atchison County Fair Board of Directors, participation on the Atchison County ASCS, Farm Bureau, Leavenworth County Farm Cooperative and was elected to the Atchison County Commissioners in 2012. He has seen a lot of changes and growth in his time on LJEC's Board and would like the opportunity to continue his service to his fellow member-owners.



Bill Pohl

several different entities within the financial industry (pay day lenders, auto loans, etc.). He is a member of the National Association of Consumer Credit Administrators, the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators and the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. Lindsley, along with his wife and son, are Tonganoxie residents. He wants to take an active role in the community and the cooperative. He believes his financial background serves as an excellent foundation to ensure decisions being made (such as the potential consolidation with Kaw Valley Electric) are in the best interest of the LJEC members.

### LARRY

**MEADOWS—** Meadows has been an LJEC member for almost 25 years, serving the last nine on the Board of Directors. Before retiring, he worked in heavy construction for 47 years, spending 28 of those as a contractor. He has served on the Leavenworth County Zoning Board, the Tonganoxie Zoning Board and the Leavenworth Area Development Board. He is an active member of the Maple Grove Cemetery Board, the Kansas City, Kansas and Tonganoxie Chambers as well as the American Legion and V.F.W. He would like the opportunity to continue to serve LJEC, helping



Larry Meadows

manage the co-op in the effort to continue to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

## District 6

### MARGARET "LYNN" SAUNDERS—

As a retired teacher of 31 years she is a member of the National Education Association. She is also a member of the Crossroads Cowboy Church and Special Olympics. When she was first married she taught in Hawaii. After a few more stops she moved back to Kansas. She has been a member of the cooperative for 29 years. She has served on the boards of Quail Unlimited and Lakeview Fishing and Shooting Association. Her interest includes trail rides and volunteering with special needs children. "I am interested in the cooperative proving reliable, affordable service to our rural population with consideration to our environment."



Lynn Saunders

## District 4

**CORY LINDSLEY—**Lindsley is a Financial Examiner with the Office of the State Bank Commissioner (State of Kansas), a consumer protection agency. His responsibilities include the review and regulation of



Cory Lindsley

### MARTY

**SHAW—**As a buyer for Trans World Airlines (TWA), Shaw has had the opportunity to meet and interact with people from all over the world. She has been on the LJEC Board for the past 12 years and a member of the cooperative for over 40 years. She has served on the board for Sunny Valley EHU, TWA Heart of America, as well as the Johnson County Young Matrons. She is an active volunteer with Lawrence Memorial Hospital and TWA Clipped Wings. She would like the opportunity to continue to serve LJEC while also promoting the benefits that cooperatives provide for rural America.



Marty Shaw



# Programmable Thermostats Provide Options

Let's start with a little bit of history. Did you realize that the programmable thermostat is more than 100 years old? Honeywell introduced the first programmable thermostat in 1906, naming it the Jewell. It was a simple, clock-powered product that allowed you to establish times for the temperature to go up and down. While crude by today's standards, it was truly a pioneering product.

The basic programmable thermostat offers four programming periods: wake, leave, return and sleep. You set the time of day and target temperature for each period according to the days of the week. The lowest priced models will offer you a 5-2 day option. Here you set the four periods for the workweek (Monday through Friday) and the weekend (Saturday and Sunday). There is also a 5-1-1 day option. This allows different schedules for Saturday and Sunday. Finally, you can buy a model that allows you to program each day of the week individually, which can quickly become tedious.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established recommendations for proper programming,

and over the years, we have seen thermostats that come pre-programmed with their suggestions. Purchasing a pre-programmed model solves that problem. You can override the programming, but it makes for easy setup.

So, what does the EPA suggest? A heating maximum of 68 degrees and a cooling minimum of 78 degrees for when you are home. They estimate you can save 1 percent on your energy bill for every degree of temperature change when away. On average, expect to save about 10 percent on your annual heating bill.

The size of the temperature change to use when away or asleep is another area of discussion. One camp recommends keeping the range narrow on the theory that the home loses too much of its conditioning and the energy saved is lost as the systems work to get back to the proper temperature. Another says systems run more efficiently when set at a rather modest temperature (cooler for heating and warmer for cooling) and left alone.

The EPA's opinion that a 10 to 15 degree change over an eight-hour period provides the best savings, a

change from previous recommendations. A caveat offered by the EPA is that you should not use a programmable thermostat for heat pumps. While fine in cooling mode, they make the heat pump inefficient in heating mode. Specifically designed thermostats are available for heat pumps.

No discussion of programmable thermostats is complete without getting into their "smart" relatives. A smart thermostat can be programmed, but their true appeal lies in the ability to "set and forget" them, allowing software to build a program around the way you live. Their second major appeal is the ability to interact with them via the web or your smart phone. While expensive, more choices are hitting the market, so if this is an intriguing idea, keep an eye out.

Experimentation will help you determine the best solution for your home as each is different due to insulation, weather sealing, system efficiencies and how you operate you it. That being said, a programmable thermostat will definitely save you money. Pick one of Jewell's descendants today, and start saving.

## Unable to Attend the Annual Meeting? You May Still Cast Your Vote

If you are unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting, but would like to cast your vote in matters coming before the membership, please complete the proxy form below.

The proxy form must be completed in its entirety and given to

another LJEC member or to an adult relative living in the same household to present at the Annual Meeting.

Please keep in mind that each LJEC member may only hold one proxy and one vote is allowed per membership.

### LJEC Proxy Voting Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a member of Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative, Inc., an association, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Kansas, do hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to vote in my stead upon the following propositions:

- ▶ The reports of officers, Trustees and committees.
- ▶ The election of three Trustees of the cooperative.
- ▶ All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment of adjournments thereof.

At the Annual Business Meeting of members of said cooperative to be held in the McLouth School Purple Gymnasium, McLouth, Kansas at 7 p.m. on April 28, 2015, or any adjournment thereof, with full power of substitution shall be limited to persons who are also members of said cooperative or as provided in the bylaws of the cooperative.

Witnessed my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of LJEC Member

## Attic Report Card

We **Grade** It. We **FIX** It. **YOU SAVE!**

*The #1 Cause of Energy Loss in a Home:*

**Poor Attic Insulation**

# Does Your Attic Insulation Make the Grade?

**1-855-GRADE IT**

**GRADE MY ATTIC**

*For more information, visit*  
[AtticReportCard.com](http://AtticReportCard.com)

*Enter the promo code LJEC to get your FREE Attic Report Card inspection (a \$99 Value)!*



**We Grade It.  
We Fix It.  
You SAVE!**

*America's Best Attic Insulation Company*

## Have a Planting Season Rooted in Safety



Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, LJEC urges them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. "Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks," says Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council's Safe Electricity program. "Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas."

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators

**If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call LJEC for help.**

near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

"If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call LJEC for help," explains Hall. "If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives."

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).