



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box 70 McLouth, KS 66054-0070
 888-796-6111
 www.ljec.coop

**LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

The Powerline

**Leavenworth-Jefferson
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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Happy Holidays
Office Closed Dec. 24-25 & Jan. 1



LJEC wishes our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our offices will

be closed December 24-25 and January 1 in observance of these holidays.

FROM THE MANAGER

Reflecting This Holiday Season

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us. It is such a busy time of year for all of us, but I wanted to take a few moments to reflect and rejoice this season about the year we've had in 2015.

FEMA Settlement

One of the biggest highlights of 2015 was winning our Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Appeal. During the 2007 ice storm, FEMA denied more than \$213,000 in appropriated funding. This is a significant amount of money that we were counting on to help pay for replacing the damaged conductor, so the board and I felt it was absolutely necessary to continue to pursue what was appropriated to us for this work. This appeal process has been quite time consuming, and we are elated to have that come to an end.

Capital Credits

LJEC retired capital credits in 2015. Our members were paid \$463,226 this year.

Upgrades and Maintenance

Our line department has been actively working on multiple system upgrade projects throughout the year. These upgrades include pole replacement, and substation updates. These projects help keep our service reliable and working as efficiently as possible to keep up with our members demand.

Co-op Alliance

Another progressive move forward has been

working with Kaw Valley Electric in the co-op alliance. We have spent a considerable amount of time evaluating operating systems, protocols, and practices to identify the best practices moving forward. We are confident in the efficiencies we have found to-date, and are excited about moving forward and making changes for the benefit of both locations.

One of those changes has been implementing managed inventory at LJEC. With the help of Kaw Valley Electric and Kriz-Davis, we are moving to a system that will improve efficiency and provide cost savings.

As we look to 2016, we will continue working with our alliance partner, Kaw Valley Electric, as we move toward consolidation and the membership vote on April 19, 2016. We have realized even greater savings since the consolidation was announced just over a year ago. The original projected savings amount of \$13.5 million has increased to \$18 million in savings, assuming a consolidated state in April. That increase of projected savings is due in large part to the efforts of the outstanding staff at both co-ops.

As you can see, we have a lot to reflect on this holiday season, and many positives coming in 2016. On behalf of the entire staff at LJEC I want to wish you a very happy holiday and blessed new year! If you have questions, feel free to contact us at our office in McLouth at 913-796-6111, or email us at info@ljec.coop.



Steve Foss

LJEC Welcomes Bristol & Frye to Co-op Family

LJEC recently added two members to our tree trimming crew.



Tanner Bristol

TANNER BRISTOL, is the newest employee at LJEC. Bristol began working with the LJEC tree crew earlier this fall. Bristol is a Jefferson County native.



Mathew Frye

MATHEW FRYE, started working at LJEC earlier this summer. Frye comes to LJEC from Wright Tree Service where he was employed for the past nine years. A graduate of Jefferson West High School, Frye has lived in the Ozawkie area his entire life.

LJEC welcomes Bristol and Frye to the cooperative family!

Find Help Paying Your Utility Bills

The following agencies have been known to assist people who may need help paying utility bills. LJEC is not affiliated with any of these organizations. Contact information is provided as a courtesy to you, our members.

- ▶ **AMERICAN RED CROSS**
 - ▶ Topeka: 785-234-0568
 - ▶ Leavenworth: 913-682-6222
 - ▶ Atchison: 913-367-5355
- ▶ **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES**
 - ▶ 913-651-8060 in Leavenworth Co.
 - ▶ 913-433-2039 in Jefferson Co.
- ▶ **DISABLED VETERANS**
 - ▶ 1140 Spruce, Leavenworth, 913-758-1140
- ▶ **DOORSTEP TOPEKA**
 - ▶ 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., 785-357-5341
- ▶ **EMERGENCY SERVICE COUNCIL**
 - ▶ Douglas Co. only, 785-842-0440
- ▶ **GIFT OF WARMTH - KCMO**
 - ▶ 816-285-2796
- ▶ **GOD'S STOREHOUSE**
 - ▶ Food only
 - ▶ W. End Main St., Meriden, Saturday 8 a.m.
- ▶ **GOOD SHEPHERD THRIFT SHOP**
 - ▶ 304 E. 4th Street, Tonanoxie, 913-845-3964, *Jefferson and Leavenworth Counties only 9 a.m. to noon, closed Thursday). Must have a copy of a bill.*
- ▶ **JEFFERSON CO. SERVICE ORGANIZATION**
 - ▶ 401 Liberty St., Oskaloosa, 785-863-2637
- ▶ **JEFFERSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
 - ▶ 1212 Walnut, Oskaloosa, 785-863-2447
- ▶ **KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE**
 - ▶ 785-357-4763
 - ▶ Must have children living in the house
- ▶ **LEAVENWORTH ASSIST CENTER**
 - ▶ 426 Miami Street, Leavenworth, 913-682-7873
- ▶ **LET'S HELP**
 - ▶ 200 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, 785-234-6208, By appointment only
- ▶ **NORTHEAST KANSAS COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (NEK-CAP)**
 - ▶ Hiawatha courthouse: 785-742-3934
 - ▶ Hiawatha central office: 785-742-2222
 - ▶ Atchison: 888-292-7480 or 913-367-1207
 - ▶ Holton: 785-364-3266
 - ▶ Topeka: 785-235-9296
- ▶ **PENN HOUSE**
 - ▶ 1035 Pennsylvania St., Lawrence, 785-842-0440
- ▶ **RIVERSIDE RESOURCES**
 - ▶ 700 N 3rd St., Leavenworth, 913-651-6810
- ▶ **SALVATION ARMY**
 - ▶ 926 Commercial, Atchison, 913-367-1207
 - ▶ 600 Walnut, Leavenworth, 913-682-6253
 - ▶ Topeka, 785-233-9648
- ▶ **SRS - SOCIAL REHABILITATIVE SERVICE LIEAP - LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
Available January-March
 - ▶ www.ks-energy-assistance.com/lieap
 - ▶ 800-432-0043
 - ▶ South 59 Highway, Oskaloosa, 785-863-2223
 - ▶ 515 Limit, Leavenworth, 913-651-6200
 - ▶ 500 Van Buren, Topeka, 785-296-2500
 - ▶ 1901 Delaware, Lawrence, 785-832-3700
- ▶ **ST ALOYSIUS CHURCH**
 - ▶ Jefferson Co. Only, Meriden, 785-484-3312

LJEC Cold Weather Policy—Effective Nov. 1-March 31

As a LJEC member, it is important you are aware how unpaid heating bills are managed.

The original Cold Weather Rule (CWR) was established by the Kansas Corporation Commission and restricted electric disconnects from November 1 through March 31, when temperature forecasts were for 35 degrees or below.

Since 1996, individual Kansas electric

cooperatives have been responsible for establishing CWRs appropriate for their cooperative. At that time, the LJEC Board of Trustees opted to eliminate its CWR.

While temperature is no longer the governing factor, it does remain an important factor in disconnecting for nonpayment of accounts.

Past due accounts are addressed on

a monthly basis so that a large unpaid balance for winter heating costs is not carried forward to the summer cooling season.

If you find yourself in circumstances where you are unable to pay your full heating bill during the winter months, please call the LJEC offices immediately at 888-796-6111. Postponing contacting LJEC could result in disconnection of your electric service.

Think About It: Safety When Using Backup Generators

As we look toward the winter months it is time to start thinking about a standby or backup generator system for your home. Although LJEC works hard to keep your power on all winter long, winter storms can sometimes have devastating results to the area – leaving your family without power for an extended period of time.

If your household requires medical or life support devices, or you require power to house or feed livestock, or perhaps you have temperature sensitive materials on your farm, you may consider purchasing a generator for your home.

There are two types of generators for homeowners to choose from: portable and standby.

- ▶ **PORTABLE GENERATORS** are usually gas powered and can be moved around. You can power your home by plugging appliances into it.
 - ▶ **STANDBY GENERATORS** are installed directly to the house and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.
- Begin by identifying your basic electrical needs in the



Remember to install a transfer switch before operating a generator to keep our lineman working on power lines safe.

event of a power outage and calculating the number of watts needed. You will want a generator that produces more power than all the equipment combined plus the initial surge when it is turned on.

You may want contact the cooperative to determine your needed power usage. Your needs will determine the type, and wattage that makes the most sense.

Typically, the recommended size is greater than 6,500 watts because there is less sensitivity to voltage fluctuation and more control. However, generators of with a minimum of 8,500 to 10,000 watts are best.

One important aspect of a generator is a transfer switch. This is often an extra charge, and is installed and connects the generator to your circuit box.

The switch also eliminates cumbersome extension cords, and protects the generator and appliances once power is restored. The transfer switch also is key in safety and will keep lineman working on power lines safe.

For more information on generators, or to determine if a generator is a good fit for your home, contact LJEC at 913-796-6111.

2016 Youth Tour Contest Application – *Deadline: February 15, 2016*

If you are a high school junior and your parents or guardians are LJEC members residing in the coverage territory you are eligible to apply. LJEC will send one student to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 9-16, 2016, and two students to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, July 16-22, 2016.

When you mail in the application below you will be sent an official packet. Applicants will complete a quiz and personal interview at the LJEC offices on Sunday, February 28, 2016. For more information contact Sarah Farlee at sarah.farlee@ljec.coop, or call 913-796-6111.

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

High School: _____

Email Address: _____

**Please provide an address that is checked often, as materials and requests will be emailed to the provided address.*

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2016 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative.

Signature of parent/guardian (must be an LJEC member residing in the coverage territory)

Return application request to:
LJEC
Attn: Sarah Farlee
507 N. Union, McLouth, KS 66504

This form is a request for an official application packet. Request forms are due 2/15/16.
You will be notified of application process details upon receipt of this request form.

Alliance Question of the Month

Where can I find more information about the consolidation?

Visit www.voteyesApril19.com to find the latest information. There we will post resources, as well as important dates and locations where we will share information with members throughout the coverage territory. Contact us if you have questions or concerns regarding the consolidation vote on April 19. We are happy to discuss this important step in the stability of rates.

Do you have a question you'd like us to address regarding the alliance? Feel free to submit your question to info@ljec.coop.

FUN FIVE

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Bridgett McGhee

Office Service Specialist
16 years at LJEC



Bridgett McGhee

Q: If you could have a super power, what would it be?

A. The ability to heal.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do on a Sunday?

A. Sunday morning coffee with girlfriends.

Q: What is one thing most people don't know about you?

A. I was born in Bangor, Maine.

Q: Do you collect anything?

A. I collect elephants.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A. The people I work with.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Steve Foss, General Manager

Christopher Parr, Assistant General Manager

Tanner Bristol	Jennifer Ping
Jeremy Cameron	Jacob Pineau
Shannon Crouse	Bobby Riedel
Traci DePriest	Jonna Shoemaker
Sarah Farlee	Rick Smoots
Ron Forshee	Tim Smoots
Mathew Frye	Jerry Terry
John Hamm	Randy Wager
Rob Hannigan	Jeff Werner
Adam Hernandez	Gary Willits
Paul Herring	Scott Wright
Jim Holwick	Eric Wylie
Rita Hughes	
Jerry Ireland	
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John Malone	Larry Meadows
Bridgett McGhee	Jeanine Murphy
Danny Mehrhoff	Ralph Phillips
Tom Mitchell	Bill Pohl
Kathleen Norris	Marty Shaw
Ken Ottensmeier	Larry Stevens
Zane Peak	John Wine, Jr. - <i>Legal Counsel</i>

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative