



LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Connections

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 800-407-2217. Office hours are 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.

FROM THE MANAGER

Town Hall Meetings Scheduled to Discuss Self Regulation

Following last month's article that answered common questions and concerns about self-regulation, I want to remind the members of Lane-Scott about your opportunity to vote by ballot in the month of June and the benefits of voting "yes."

Voting "yes" gives Lane-Scott's member-elected Board of Trustees the decision-making authority to self-regulate the electric rates for Lane-Scott's members, a responsibility that without the approval of self-regulation will be held by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) in Topeka.

A "yes" vote simply means financial savings for our members. It

also means that you trust your fellow cooperative members to set rates for electric service in a way that maintains the reliability and safety of the Lane-Scott system.

Voting "yes" brings the responsibility of rate-making here at home, and removes the costly process of oversight by the KCC. The fact is, KCC oversight ends up costing you more money. The last rate case, which was effective in 2013, cost Lane-Scott's members over \$300,000.

Those individuals you elected

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Ed Wiltse

Self Regulation Timeline

Along with posting self-regulation information on our website at www.lanescott.coop, the schedule below is a snapshot of what we have done to explain the process to our members and the schedule going forward.

- ▶ **February**—An article explaining the self-regulation process and benefits was featured in *Kansas Country Living*.
- ▶ **March**—An article in the *Kansas Country Living* explained the details of self-regulation and its benefit to you as a member of Lane-Scott.
- ▶ **April**—Ads began running on the radio and in local newspapers in your community. An official notice was sent to members explaining self-regulation and inviting them to attend Lane-Scott's informational meetings. A meeting was held on April 21 in Ransom. An article explaining the costs of regulation of the

KCC was in the *Kansas Country Living*.

- ▶ **May**—An article in the *Kansas Country Living* asking you to vote and attend public informational meetings. A meeting was held on May 1 in Dighton. We invite you to attend one of the remaining informational meetings:
 - ▶ **May 6 at 7 p.m.**—Town Hall Meeting, Ness City American Legion, 104 S. Kansas Avenue, Ness City.
 - ▶ **May 12 at 7 p.m.**—Town Hall Meeting, Golden Years Center, 340 Austin Street, Bazine.
- ▶ **June 2**—Ballots will be mailed to the membership. Ballots must be postmarked on or before July 1.
- ▶ **July**—Lansdon & Company, LLC, an independent accounting firm located in Garden City, will tabulate results of the election by July 11. The results will then be reported to the members and KCC.

Essays from Lane-Scott's 2014

Lane-Scott Electric has selected four local youth to attend leadership trips through our annual youth competition for area high school juniors.

This year, students were asked to write an essay that answers the question: "How have the services from Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative made our lives better?"



Regan Foos and Payden Shapland will take the trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital June 12-19, 2014. This photo shows the 2013 Youth Tour delegation.

Each year, Lane-Scott sends two students to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The 2014 winners are **REGAN FOOS** and **PAYDEN SHAPLAND**

They will join 32 Kansas youth and travel

to Washington, D.C., June 12-19. They will join about 1,600 other youth seeing the United States govern-

Below you will find the essays from the winners of this year's competition.



Regan Foos

REGAN FOOS—DC Winner

What is one resource that you take for granted? Have you ever thought about electricity? Electricity could be considered the most valuable resource you use. Every day you use electricity for numerous things. What you might not understand is how much you take having electricity for granted.

In 1879, Thomas Edison made the remarkable invention of the lightbulb. This invention was the start to a new chapter in history not only for the United States, but for the world. Soon, electricity would be available almost anywhere you can think of!

We use electricity for almost everything we do. One of the first things we do in the mornings is get up and turn on a light, which, of course, requires electricity.

What other things can you think of that require electricity? Making a cup of coffee, checking the internet, making breakfast, watching the morning news, heating and cooling your house, or even opening the garage door so you can drive to work? These things wouldn't be possible without electricity. All of these simple things we use every day we take for granted.

In conclusion, without electricity we'd be lost for sure! We wouldn't be given the luxuries we have in life today because of electricity. We should all perhaps be a little more thankful for what we have. You should just take a second to think, what would you do without electricity?



Payden Shapland

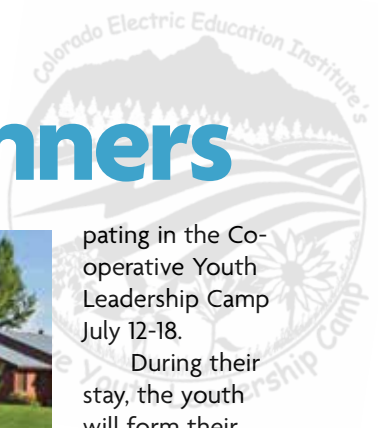
PAYDEN SHAPLAND—DC Winner

Without electricity would Dighton still be here? Many rely on electricity such as farmers, the hospital, and the schools. The farms rely on electricity which is the livelihood of America.

Lane-Scott provides electricity to the farms in Lane County who use it in various ways. They use it for water, fences, and many other farm activities. The farms are a vital source of food and without them there would be a shortage. There are many steps in keeping a farm running and electricity is most important. Without it, there wouldn't be as many animals because everything would be done by hand.

Also, the farming industry is a big part of the small town economy. They pay taxes and help keep our schools running. Electricity lets the iPads be used in the schools which contributes to the learning of future students. Without electricity students would not have as many opportunities to learn. At the hospital they rely on electricity to run certain machines and keep records. Those machines are used to save lives and would not be able to do their job without electricity. Electricity has saved people's lives and that is a reward on its own.

As the technology advances, more and more energy is needed. Electricity is a very important part in the future of Dighton and America. Lane Scott Electric has helped Dighton advance in many different ways.



Youth Competition Winners

ment in action. They will visit their congressmen, various government agencies and sites of historical significance.

The cooperative also sends two students to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

This year's winners are **REBECCA**



Rebecca Harmison and Braden Mishler will travel all-expenses-paid to Colorado to learn leadership skills July 12-18, 2014. The photo above shows the 2013 camp participants.

HARMISON and BRADEN MISHLER

They will join approximately 100 youth from a four-state area partici-

pating in the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 12-18.

During their stay, the youth will form their own mock cooperative, become acquainted with energy challenges, visit sites around Steamboat Springs, Mt. Werner, and tour

one of the largest electrical generating plants in the Rockies.



Rebecca Harmison

REBECCA HARMISON—

Camp Winner

Close your eyes and imagine coming home from work, walking into your house, which is dark and cold, instead of flipping a switch to have light you have to scratch a match to light a lantern. Instead of having a warm house from an electric heater you have to start a fire in a fireplace. If you are thirsty you have to go to the creek or pump water from a well instead of turning on a faucet.

Now, open your eyes and look around. With the advancements from our Lane-Scott Electric Company who set electrical poles and strung the wires, we have the pleasure of walking into a well lit, warm house when coming in after dark and getting a drink when thirsty.

Affordable electricity has advanced the accessibility of entertainment with cable or dish TV and education with the use of the internet and computers. Lane-Scott Electric has made my life better when there is a problem and the electricity goes out with quick repairs. They are able to improve the ability to use electrical appliances by making sure the right amount of electricity is coming into your house.

My life has been easier through the service of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative and I appreciate it.



Braden Mishler

BRADEN MISHLER—Camp Winner

Electricity has helped to make me realize what I want to do in life, and it provides a way to do it. The passion that has been fueled by Lane-Scott's electricity is a career in agricultural unmanned aerial systems.

My uncle had always had an enjoyable radio control airplane hobby, and he finally let me fly one. When this happened, I realized then and there that I would love to fly these electric planes for a living. This love of these electric airplanes has fueled my desire to study in the unmanned aerial systems program at K-State.

These planes, or drones as they are sometimes called, have many purposes in everyday life in Western Kansas. These drones have the ability to change agriculture and my life forever. Many have special cameras that tell farmers where to fertilize more or less, thereby saving them time and money. Also, they can be used to check pipelines, water, and cattle herds, saving time and money compared to conventional means. They can also carry spray tanks to spray draws or creek bottoms where a conventional sprayer would not have the ability to go.

These wonderful electric machines have changed my life forever, and, with the help of the electricity from Lane-Scott powering them, they may forever change the way we view agriculture in Western Kansas.

**I THOUGHT I WAS
TIGHT WITH MY
MONEY. NOW
I'M AIRTIGHT.**



All it took was a tube of caulk and half an afternoon. Now, I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks around the house. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



**Touchstone EnergySM
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**

Town Hall Meetings Scheduled to Discuss Self Regulation *Continued from page 16-A* ▶

to serve on the Lane-Scott Board of Trustees understand that it is their responsibility to work on your behalf to keep electric utility rates as low as possible. Remember, they are your neighbors and fellow Lane-Scott members, so any increase in electric rates impacts them in the same way it impacts you.

Longtime members of Lane-Scott may recall that the members of Lane-Scott voted to self-regulate in 1994. As I've mentioned in previous Kansas Country Living articles, that vote occurred after the Kansas Legislature in 1992, decided that the democratic business model of electric cooperatives, which gives each member a vote, provides oversight for rate issues. Therefore, the Legislature

chose to allow electric cooperatives to self-regulate if the majority of the members elect to do so.

Lane-Scott members are being asked again to decide whether they would like to continue to be self-regulated. In 2005, Lane-Scott and five other Sunflower member cooperatives formed Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC, to acquire Aquila's Kansas Electric Network; the recent transfer of Mid-Kansas members to Lane-Scott now necessitates another vote by all members on self-regulation.

I encourage you to use your voice as a member of Lane-Scott. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions.

Thanks, Ed Wiltse

Pointers for National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Lane-Scott 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.

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

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

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