



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Annual Meeting Reports on the State of the Cooperative

Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC) held its 71st Annual Meeting of the membership at Lake City Community Church on Saturday, March 21, 2009. The annual meeting reported on the “State of the Cooperative” and elected members to the KEC Board of Directors. The Touchstone Energy hot air balloon was also at the meeting and KEC members were able to take tethered rides.

At the meeting Board President Ed Gossett introduced new General Manager Doug Elliott to the membership. Gossett reported on how KEC has maintained efficient operations enabling the Cooperative to hold rates steady since 2006, even during these volatile times. However, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has announced its intention to increase KEC’s wholesale electric rates in October 2009 and anticipates another rate increase in late 2010. These increases are due to BPA’s dramatic increase in costs associated with providing generation and transmission services. Gossett explained it will be necessary to raise rates as a result of these increases. That amount will be more clear in the coming months.

Elliott shared his background with the membership and reported on the many energy efficiency rebates offered to KEC members and the importance of conservation. He also reminded attendees about KEC’s Co-op Connections Card Program and the savings available to them. This program gives KEC members discounts at more than 100 local businesses and 50 national businesses. [1270522]

Board Member Donna Boekel, Rathdrum, retained her board position for District 2 and Wally Jacobson, Hayden, retained his board position for District At-Large. Bill Swick, Worley, was elected by the membership to serve as District 4 director. He replaces Dale Pierce, who served as a director for nine years.

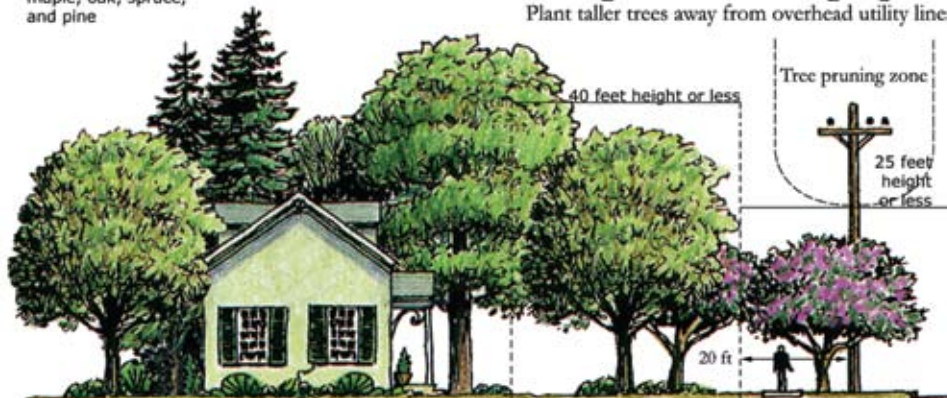


KEC member Hazel Raeder, Post Falls, 84, takes a ride in the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon. She said she had always wanted to go on a balloon ride and “it was fantastic!”

Tall trees, such as: maple, oak, spruce, and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



Medium trees, such as: washington hawthorn and goldenrain tree

Small trees, such as: redbud, dogwood, and crabapple

IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the General Manager
PAGE 2

Operation Round Up®
PAGE 3

Co-Op Connections Card Pharmacy Discounts
PAGE 4

A Message from the General Manager



It is an honor to be selected to serve as the General Manager of such a fine Cooperative. Let me begin by giving you a very brief overview of my background.

I earned a degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern Illinois University in 1992. I began my career with electric cooperatives working for Warren RECC located in Bowling Green, Ky. I served them in several engineering capacities for 13 years. During that time, I earned a master's degree in Business Administration from Western Kentucky University. Shortly thereafter, I accepted a position with Coastal Electric Cooperative located just south of Savannah, Ga., as Vice President of Engineering and Operations.

While working for Warren RECC and Coastal Electric Cooperative, I had the opportunity to help both with power supply planning in ways that are very congruent with the power supply decisions that Kootenai Electric Cooperative will soon be making.

In the 16 years I have worked for electric cooperatives, I have encountered few as fine as KEC. Its Board and staff are extremely talented and professional. Its electrical system is top notch and the area it serves is called home by some of the most genuine and wholesome people I have met. When your Board offered this opportunity to me, my family and I didn't have to think long.

I'm a native of Wisconsin, have a beautiful wife to whom I've been married 17 years, three teenage children, and a boxer puppy with a face that only a mother could love! They are looking forward to joining me as soon as the school year is over.

I look forward to serving you in the future.

Doug Elliott
KEC General Manager

Kootenai Electric Trust Awards \$1,000 Scholarships

Kootenai Electric's Trust Board awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 10 KEC members. The following students were selected:

1. **Alexandria Middleton**, Worley
2. **Hanna Thomas**, Medimont
3. **Cierra Olmstead**, Spirit Lake
4. **Estrella Atkinson**, Coeur d'Alene
5. **Christine Woeller**, Coeur d'Alene
6. **Marshall Myhre**, Harrison
7. **Sandra Christensen**, St. Maries
8. **Carissa Larsen**, Hayden
9. **Dakota Amy**, Harrison
10. **Kalan Kelly**, Post Falls

The Trust Board has awarded 30 scholarships since 2007 and plans to offer the scholarship program again early next year. [1759762]

Showerhead Giveaway

KEC members with electric water heaters: get your free showerhead! Visit our office or visit our website to get your showerhead. One per member household. Offer good while supplies last.

Safety Reminder

If someone comes to your door or is on your property and claims to be a KEC employee always ask for identification. KEC employees carry identification and drive marked vehicles. If you ever have a concern about someone claiming to be a KEC employee please call our office at 208.765.1200.

Opt-In For Your Community

Operation Round Up® ▶▶▶

The average contribution per participating member is approximately fifty cents (\$.50) a month, or six dollars (\$6) per year.



Boy Scout Troop 911 accepts their grant check. From left: Tyler Drechsel, Brian Wells, Jackson Wells, Justin Drechsel, Kyle Jackson and Morgan Nichols.

Operation Round Up® Distributes 1st Quarter Grants

Kootenai Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up® Trust Board granted their first quarter disbursement for 2009 funds. The Trust Board received 20 grant requests and awarded \$13,351.87 to 11 of the applicants. The following received funding:

- \$500 to a KEC member to assist with medical costs for their infant with a debilitating condition.
- \$1,000 to Athol Elementary to help support a week-long residency tour with the Missoula Children's Theatre.
- \$2,000 to the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation to help the fair-grounds establish a recycling program.
- \$500 to the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy to help purchase books for literature classes.
- \$1,000 to the Lakeland Soccer Club to provide player scholarships.
- \$1,550 to Ramsey Elementary to purchase activity sets for the Physical Education program.
- \$1,725 to the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District for smoke detectors and installation for low-income and elderly residents in need.
- \$500 to the Boys & Girls Club of Kootenai County to help support their nutrition and health awareness classes.
- \$1,000 to the Inland Northwest Blood Center to refurbish an existing mobile donor coach.
- \$1,500 to the Coeur d'Alene Arts and Culture Alliance to support the Music for the Wise program which provides musical entertainment for the elderly.
- \$2,076.87 to Boy Scout Troop 911 of Hayden to help purchase tents and other supplies for activities.

Application Deadline

The next grant applications for Operation Round Up® are due at the KEC office by Monday, May 4, 2009. Applications are available in the office or at www.kec.com. Members who choose not to contribute to Operation Round Up® or who would like to begin contributing may simply "opt-out" or "opt-in" on their bill or contact KEC by phone, letter or email.

Take the Guesswork Out of Your Electric Bill with the Level Payment Plan

The Level Payment Plan is a billing arrangement that averages your annual electric bill into levelized monthly payments. Your meter is still read each month so you will see the actual readings and charges on your bill. Every month your account is reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted due to changes in usage or costs, so there may be minor fluctuations in your averaged amount.

Twelve months' service location billing history and a zero balance are required to begin the Level Payment Plan. Arrangements are subject to credit approval.

Couple Level Payment Plan with SurePay to pay your bill directly from your checking, savings, debit or credit card account (Visa or Mastercard) with an electronic fund transfer. You continue to receive your monthly bill as your receipt, and your bank will pay on the due date.

Call KEC at 208.765.1200 to sign up for Level Payment Plan by May 29.

[1626433]

Save on Prescriptions with Your Card!

KEC Members Saved Over \$5,000 in 2008



By using your Co-op Connections Card you may be able to receive a 10% to 60% discount on prescription drugs at over 56,000 national and regional pharmacies.

In 2008 KEC members used the Co-op Connections Card on hundreds of prescriptions and

saved more than \$5,000.

Locally, you can use your discount at Walgreen's, Shopko, Medicine Man, Fred Meyer, Costco, Safeway, Rite Aid, Kmart, Interlake, Savon, Wal-Mart, Rathdrum Drug, Well Life and Benewah Medical Center.

To maximize the benefits of the pharmacy discount program, here are some tips on how to use the program:

1. Find a pharmacy near you by calling Member Services at 800.800.7616, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST, or visiting the website at www.locateproviders.com. Use code '22203' as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next enter your zip code and the recommended mile radius of 100 to search for providers near you.
2. Please do not call the pharmacy for price quotes. Prices may change from day to day and they cannot be given over the telephone. To look up drug prices by location visit www.rxpricequotes.com.
3. At www.rxpricequotes.com, you will find frequently asked questions, savings examples, a list of participating chains and a Drug Pricing Lookup tool. The Drug Pricing Lookup tool allows you to find the cost of your medications before you visit the pharmacy and look up participating locations near you.
4. Present your Co-op Connections Card along with your prescriptions to the pharmacist. The pharmacy computer system will compare our contracted discount price with the pharmacy's retail price when the prescription is processed. You pay the lower of the two prices directly to the pharmacy at the point of sale.
5. If your pharmacy happens to be selling any maintenance medications prescribed to treat ongoing ailments, such as high blood pressure and arthritis, for less than the contracted price, you will receive the pharmacy's best price.
6. If you experience any difficulties in using the pharmacy program, please call or ask the pharmacist to call our Member Services department at 800.800.7616, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

Pharmacy Discount Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use my Co-op Connections card with my current insurance benefit to reduce my costs?

Your card cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. However, use your card to purchase prescriptions not covered by your insurance plans at a discounted rate.

Does everyone in my family need an individual card?

No. One card may be used by the entire family.

Will I always receive the lowest price?

Yes. You will receive the best price available to you through this program at the pharmacy. On occasion, pharmacies will price a particular medication lower than the discount rate provided by the card. If that occurs, you will receive the lower price.



KEC Credit and Collection Procedure Reminders

As a reminder, KEC does not mail a final notice of disconnect for past due accounts. Past due accounts will have the amount reflected on the subsequent bill with a notation at the bottom stating the account is subject to service disconnection if not paid by the noted due date. We will make payment arrangements for those unable to pay in full. However, the number of times those arrangements can be made is limited. A \$25 collection fee will be assessed for the first time a KEC employee has to go to a house to collect payment. The second time a \$50 fee will be assessed and the third time the fee will be \$75 and the member is required to come to the KEC office to discuss the account. Payment arrangements cannot be made once service disconnection is noted on the bill. Please contact our office if you encounter problems paying your bill.

Win a \$50 Energy Credit

Four KEC account numbers are hidden in this newsletter. If one of these numbers is yours, contact us at 765.1200 and receive a \$50 credit on your bill!

Board of Directors Meeting

The next KEC Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, May 28. The meeting date is subject to change. Confirm with Terry Brown at 292.3211 if you'd like to attend.

[1379624]

Outage to report: **877.744.1055**
Business line: **208.765.1200**
Call before you dig: **811**
Web: **www.kec.com**
E-mail: **kec@kec.com**