



Lewis County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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From the desk of Travis Mathes Manager of Member Services



On June 13, 2026, Lewis County REC will mark the retirement of a man whose name has become synonymous with dedication, service, and commitment to rural electrification. After 38 years of faithfully serving the membership of Lewis County REC, David Cox will officially conclude a remarkable career that began on June 13, 1988.

David's story is one deeply rooted in the history and tradition of the rural electric cooperative movement. The Cox family's connection to rural electrification dates back nearly a century. In 1939, David's grandfather, Charlie Cox, set the first pole for Linn County REC in Marion, Iowa, helping bring electricity to rural communities and laying the foundation for a family legacy of service. That single pole represented more than infrastructure—it symbolized opportunity, progress, and a commitment to improving the lives of rural families throughout the Midwest.

That commitment was passed down through generations. David grew up surrounded by family members who dedicated their lives to the electric utility profession. Siblings, cousins, and relatives all answered the call to serve as linemen, continuing the Cox family's proud tradition of keeping the lights on and communities connected.

At just 19 years old, David began his own journey in the industry. After completing lineman school, he interviewed with then Line Superintendent Bill Delaney at Lewis County REC. What started as a job opportunity soon became a lifelong career and a lasting commitment to the cooperative and its members.

Beginning on the line crew, David quickly established a reputation for hard work, dependability, and professionalism. Through the years, he steadily advanced through the ranks, serving as Lewis County Assistant Area Lineman before ultimately becoming Lewis County Area Lineman. Along the way, he earned the respect of coworkers, management, and members alike.

For nearly four decades, David answered calls at all hours, worked through storms and challenging conditions, and helped ensure that the members of Lewis County REC received the reliable electric service they depend on every day. Whether restoring power after severe weather, maintaining critical infrastructure, or mentoring younger employees, David approached

every responsibility with pride and a strong sense of duty.

Beyond his technical expertise, David's greatest contribution may be the relationships he built throughout the cooperative's service territory. His friendly demeanor, willingness to help, and genuine care for the membership exemplified the cooperative spirit that defines Lewis County REC.

As David retires, he leaves behind a legacy measured not only in miles of line maintained or outages restored, but in the trust, respect, and friendships he cultivated over 38 years of service. His leadership, experience, and steady presence will be greatly missed, but his impact on the cooperative will continue for years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management, employees, and the entire membership of Lewis County REC, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to David for his unwavering dedication, leadership, commitment, and friendship.

Thank you, David Cox, for 38 years of outstanding service. Your contributions have helped power our communities, strengthen our cooperative, and uphold a family legacy that has helped energize the Midwest for generations.

Retirements also create opportunities for growth and advancement within the organization. As a result, Jack Crist has been promoted to Lewis County Area Lineman, Rustyn Carter to Assistant Lewis County Area Lineman, and Ryan Waterman to Lead Lineman. We would also like to welcome several new members to our team: Jason Wentz as Warehouseman, and Chase Kirby and Aaron Orscheln as Linemen.

I would also like to remind you that there is still an opportunity to participate in the Annual Meeting by registering and casting your vote at the Cooperative office. Registration and voting will be available July 29 through August 4 during regular business hours. To accommodate members' schedules, the office will remain open until 6:00 p.m. on August 5 and August 6. As a thank-you for participating, each member who registers will receive a \$20 bill credit on their September electric bill.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on August 6 in the Cooperative Board Room. Members may view the meeting via livestream on our website at www.lewiscountynec.org.



Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



One hundred and ten high school students participated in Missouri's 63rd annual Missouri Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20. The local delegates were Lauryn Heinze, Clark County R-1, Elizabeth Ellison, Canton R-V, Brynn Schwieter, Knox County R-1, and Raygan Mayes, Highland. They were sponsored by Lewis County REC.

Youth Tour takes the best and brightest high school students from Missouri's rural schools on an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. The seven-day tour provides an action-filled week for the students, offering them opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, leadership positions, community service and today's pressing issues while having fun touring the many monuments.

"The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students and we're proud to send our best and brightest to our nation's capital to participate," said Chris Massman, vice president of Member Services for the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. "Each of these delegates will meet someone or see something that inspires them, and in some cases will create a path to their future career."

Highlights of the trip include visiting representatives from their congressional districts, touring monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums, Arlington National Cemetery and the International Spy Museum. The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River one evening with the delegations from five other states.

Other events of the week included participation in the Electric Youth Day, during which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together over 2,000 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States. The delegates enjoyed featured speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion.

Since 1958, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students on this trip of a lifetime. For more information about the Missouri Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, please go to www.moyouthtour.com.

WEATHER PROVERBS

- Dry August and warm doth harvest no harm.
- When it rains in August, it rains honey and wine.
- Fog in August indicates a severe winter and plenty of snow.
- At St. Bartholomew there comes cold dew.
- If many meteors in summer, expect some thunder.
- If horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air, rain will ensue.
- The louder the frog, the more the rain.
- Onion's skin very thin, mild winter coming in; onion's skin thick and tough, coming winter cold and rough.