



LEWIS COUNTY REC

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Lewistown, Missouri 63452

www.lewiscountyrec.coop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

November 2024

From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services



“Perhaps no custom reveals our character as a Nation so clearly as our celebration of Thanksgiving Day,” President Ronald Reagan. I must agree with the late President that our celebration of Thanksgiving is a true testament to the character of our population. Each year in November we take time to celebrate family and the many blessings that we have in our lives as Americans. The electrification

of Rural America and the cooperative form of doing business being one of those blessings. FDR said it best in the 1940’s when he said, “Brother’s and sisters, I want to tell you this, the greatest thing on Earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house.” Think forward now to current times. Can you imagine life without electricity? The struggles and hardships that our ancestors had to experience to perform the daily tasks of providing for their families and running a household. At this time of Thanksgiving and Veteran’s Day let’s reflect on the struggles, and hardships that our forefathers had to endure to get this country to where it is today. Many of them never dreamed of the constant comfort we have from climate control in our homes and offices, the ease of doing dishes, bathing, and doing laundry with hot running water, the technology (both good and bad) that keeps us informed of events that are taking place across the world, the technology used on farms across this nation to help feed mouths around the world, or the technology of modern medicine that would not exist without electricity.

That electricity would not stay flowing without the team, the cooperative family, that works hard all hours of the day and night to keep the power flowing to your homes, businesses, and farms across Northeast Missouri. When you are sitting around your table this Thanksgiving be mindful of the electric cooperative family that may be called away from their family feast to go to work restoring power. Power outages do not recognize holidays and many of these individuals get pulled from their family gatherings to make sure you have power at your family gatherings, and for that I know I am forever grateful. Here at Lewis County

REC, I am thankful for our cooperative family, which I feel like go above and beyond the call of duty to answer the call when power needs restored. They are not stopped by torrential rainstorms or blizzards with subzero temperatures and white out conditions, they answer the call no matter what the conditions to restore power to keep life flowing smooth and comfortably for our members.

I am thankful for the cooperative business model and way of doing business that might not exist if it weren’t for those members of our Armed Forces that have fought for our freedoms as American’s. As we celebrate Veteran’s Day this year, take time to remember those individuals that, in some cases, gave all they had, their lives, to ensure our freedoms, so that we can all have the freedoms and liberties to live in a nation where we can have electricity. Where when we see a need, much like the early pioneers of rural electrification, we can form a cooperative and make it happen. Take time to thank a Veteran for their service to our country this month. I salute all Veteran’s for your service to our county!

As you gather this month and give thanks, remember that we here at Lewis County REC are also thankful for YOU, our members. Your participation in our cooperative is what makes us strong!! In 1936 when Lewis County REC was formed, I would be willing to wager that the initial organizers could not imagine what this organization would be in 88 years. We have climbed mountains and continue to climb mountains to keep advancing Northeast Missouri and our members.

I am thankful for the members of our team, (our cooperative family) that are where the rubber meets the road in keeping the power on. I have listed every member of the team in this edition, as well as their years of service to you the members. If you see any of those individuals out and about please take time to thank them for their service. Last month, I introduced our Board of Directors, I am thankful for their leadership and fore site to make those hard decisions involving the direction your cooperative is moving. Those individuals do not make those decision lightly. They know every decision that they make will have an impact on the member at the end of the line. And finally, I am thankful for this organization that has provided me with a fulfilling career where I can serve our membership. From our cooperative family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving. The greatest blessing we have in life is not the food on our table, but the people around it!

Please follow us on Facebook to keep up to date on what is going on at Lewis County REC, as well as, learn about safety and energy efficiency.

We are Thankful for the Members of Our Team

EMPLOYEES:

Kevin Cottrell, Lineman, 40 Years of Service
David Cox, Lewis County Area Lineman, 36 Years of Service
Theresa Simmons, Mgr. of Admin & Finance, 35 Years of Service
Greg Sutterfield, Clark County Area Lineman, 30 Years of Service
Jack Crist, Lewis County Asst. Area Lineman, 28 Years of Service
Adam Schaller, Clark County Asst. Area Lineman, 26 Years of Service
Staci Mesmer, General Manager, 24 Years of Service
Travis Mathes, Mgr. of Member Services, 24 Years of Service
Terry O'Brien, Field Engineer, 23 Years of Service
Jason Daniel, Knox County Area Lineman, 21 Years of Service
Jason Hall, Work Order Clerk, 18 Years of Service
Rustyn Carter, Lead Lineman, 16 Years of Service
Brandi Austin, Consumer Records, 14 Years of Service
Kendall Hawkins, Operations Manager, 14 Years of Service
Ryan Strubinger, IT Administrator, 14 Years of Service
Joe Lay, Lead Lineman, 13 Years of Service
Shannon Killday, Knox County Asst. Area Lineman, 9 Years of Service
Ryan Waterman, Lineman, 6 Years of Service
Ryan Booher, Lineman, 5 Years of Service
John McCutchan, Lineman, 4 Years of Service
Kindy Bergman, Billing /Data Analyst, 4 Years of Service
Dennis Shoup, Warehouseman, 3 Years of Service
Scott Gamm, Safety and Training Coordinator, 2 Year of Service
Derek Howes, Lineman, 2 Year of Service
Colt Jennings, Lineman, 1 Year of Service
Carson Orr, Lineman, 6 Months of Service
Laura Schad, Accountant, 4 Months of Service



**We will be closed on
November 11th in
observance of
Veteran's Day.**

We will be closed on November 28th and 29th in observance of Thanksgiving. We are incredibly grateful for your membership and our team that work hard to keep the power flowing in Northeast Missouri. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485 • (LOCAL) 215-4000 • 24 HOURS A DAY

Before calling, check your breakers or fuses and check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

**When calling please give the following information:
Your name • Meter number and/or location number (if known)
Cell Phone or Telephone Number affiliated with the account**

CALL DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30-4:00) FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES