



Lewis County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

573-215-4000 • Toll Free: 1-888-454-4485 • www.lewiscountyreec.org

Lewistown, Missouri 63452 • March 2026

From the desk of Travis Mathes

Manager of Member Services



A S MARCH ARRIVES, WE BEGIN LOOKING AHEAD to spring—longer days, warmer weather, and a welcome break from winter. Along with the change in seasons comes spring storm season, which can bring high winds, heavy rain, and severe weather. We encourage members to stay weather-aware and prepared during this time of year. If outages do occur, please know that our crews are ready to respond as quickly and safely as conditions allow, working around the clock to restore service.

At the heart of everything we do are our members. Providing safe, reliable, and affordable power is the foundation of our mission and the driving force behind every decision we make. From maintaining our lines and substations to investing in system improvements and planning for the future, our focus is always on serving you. As a cooperative, we exist solely for the benefit of our members, and we are proud to serve our community with that commitment at the forefront.

We also understand the importance of budgeting, especially as energy usage can vary throughout the year. That's why we offer Levelized Billing, a program designed to help smooth out seasonal highs and lows by spreading energy costs more evenly across the year. Many members find this option helpful for managing monthly expenses and avoiding surprises on their bill.

Some members have shared concerns regarding our new automated telephone payment system, and we want you to know we hear you. While we understand that adjusting to a new system can be inconvenient, this change was necessary to meet strict industry data security standards (PCI). These standards are in place

to better protect your personal and financial information, and safeguarding your data is a responsibility we take very seriously. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to make improvements that enhance security for our members.

Cooperation is more than a word—it's how we operate. We regularly participate in mutual aid, assisting neighboring cooperatives when storms or emergencies impact their systems. When fellow co-ops call for help, we answer, just as they would for us. However, the recent effort to assist with power restoration in Jamaica shows that here in Missouri, we take that cooperative spirit to a whole new level.

We would like to extend special thanks to Joe Lay, a lineman for Lewis County REC, who recently traveled to Jamaica to help restore power to residents affected by severe weather. This was Joe's second trip out of the country to help bring electricity back to communities in need, and his dedication truly represents the best of our cooperative values. Joe will be my guest on the March edition of Co-op Talk, and I encourage you to tune in and listen as he shares his experience. Thank you, Joe, for your willingness to step up and for taking time away from your family to help others who were struggling.

Above all, we want you to know how much we appreciate your membership. We're keeping our fingers crossed that spring is just around the corner, and we're grateful for the trust you place in us every day. Until next month here's wishing you all a safe and healthy March!

If you ever have questions, concerns, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us—we're always here to help.

Notice to the Members of Lewis County REC

Any person, firm, association, corporation, or body politic or subdivision thereof may become a member in Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative Association (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") by:

- (a) filing a written application for membership therein;
- (b) agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified;
- (c) agreeing to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the Cooperative and any rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors; and
- (d) paying the membership fee hereinafter specified.

provided, however, that no person, firm, association, corporation or body politic or subdivision thereof shall become a member unless and until he or it has been accepted for membership by the board of directors or the members. No member may hold more than one membership in the Cooperative, and no membership in the Cooperative shall be transferable, except as provided in these by-laws.

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the members shall be held within each calendar year beginning in 2015 at such place within the territorial limits served by the Cooperative, as the Board of Directors may determine by resolution duly made at a regular meeting of said Board, for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting as herein provided shall not cause forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

- (a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the district they will be representing.
- (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.
- (c) is in any way employed or has been separated from duty for less than (3) three years from the cooperative or is a close relative of an employee. Close relative shall be defined as grandfather, grandmother, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, wife, husband, niece, nephew, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or first cousin.

Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors shall remove such director from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Nominations. Any twenty-five (25) or more members acting together may make director nominations by petition not less than seventy-five (75) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least five days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates. No member shall sign more than one (1) nominating petition for a candidate seeking election for the same district. The names of incumbents shall be listed first on the ballot. The remaining nominees shall be listed on the official ballot in the order of the receipt of the nominating petition.

Section 5. Director Districts. For the purpose of providing equitable geographic representation of the Board of Directors, the area served shall be divided into three districts. The districts shall be as follows:

- (a) District 1: The counties of Clark and Scotland.
- (b) District 2: The counties of Lewis and Marion.
- (c) District 3: The counties of Knox, Shelby, Adair, and Macon.

In 2026 there will be one director elected in District 1 (Clark and Scotland Counties), one director elected in District 2 (Lewis and Marion Counties) and one director elected in District 3 (Knox, Shelby, Adair, and Macon Counties) all for a term of 3 years to expire in 2029. Petition forms are available upon request and may be obtained by contacting the Cooperative Attorney, Megan Ray, at: mmccord@reclawfirm.com or (417)-227-8405. The Annual Meeting of Lewis County REC will be held on August 6, 2026. All petitions must be submitted by 4 p.m. May 22, 2026.

WEATHER PROVERBS

- If it does not freeze on March 10, a fertile year can be expected.
- When the wind veers against the sun, trust it not, for back 'twill run.
- When sheep collect and huddle, tomorrow will become a puddle.
- Dust in March brings grass and foliage.
- The moon, her face if red be, of water speaks she.
- Rheumatic pains indicate bad weather.
- In March much snow, to plants and trees much woe.