



## From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

Over the years, you've heard me expound on why and how Lewis County REC is different—because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Lewis County REC, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

When Lewis County REC was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Lewis County REC was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We encourage all members to vote in Lewis County REC's director elections every August and we invite all members to participate in the Annual Meeting. Although our Annual Meeting will be offered in a hybrid form this year, we still encourage everyone to take part in their cooperative.

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs, REC Cares Foundation and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Lewis County REC was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and our pledge to you—the members we proudly serve—is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all.



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Your winter fashion sense can save you a lot of money — or cost you a lot. Just as you “dress for success,” so too should you dress for winter's chill, even when indoors. By wearing warm socks, slippers and a sweater, you can drop your thermostat down a few degrees and cut your heating bill down to size while remaining comfortable until spring.

## SAFETY FIRST!

Did you know? You don't have to touch a power line to be in danger. High-voltage electricity can jump to anyone who gets too close. Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and their connections. Consider any downed line to be energized and dangerous.



**Be sure to follow us  
on Facebook for  
up to date information**



*Mark your calendars for Lewis  
County REC's 84th Annual  
Meeting Thursday, August 5,  
2021 at Lewis County REC's  
office, Lewistown, MO. A Hybrid  
meeting will be offered this year.  
Watch in the coming months  
or more information.*

## **DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER**

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal  
and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.

- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.**
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.**
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or  
alter an entrance cable in  
any manner.**



**If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.**

**HAPPY**

*Valentine's day*

**We LOVE our members!**

### **TO REPORT AN OUTAGE**

**CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485  
(LOCAL) 215-4000**

**24 HOURS A DAY**

**CALL THE TOLL FREE NUMBER  
DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)  
FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES**

Before calling:

- Check your breakers or fuses
- 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*