



From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

Is it just me, or do you feel like the past 12 months have flown by? It doesn't seem like we should already be talking about Annual Meeting again this year, but it is again that time. You have seen our advertisements saying that we are having a Hybrid-Annual Meeting this year and I am sure several of you are wondering what that entails. The board of directors has given careful consideration to not only our members well-being and health, but their ability to take an active role in the cooperative. With that said, our Annual Meeting will look quite a bit different this year. We will offer a drive-thru venue from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at our office on August 5th. This will be executed just like last year, but this year we have added an in-person business meeting at 6 p.m. in our warehouse for anyone that chooses to hear the reports of the CEO/General Manager, President of the Board, Secretary/Treasurer, and election results. Each of you attending the drive-thru meeting will receive copies of these reports, as well as, the financials when you register, so it is totally your decision if you choose to attend the in-person session.



The board has also chosen to add an absentee opportunity for members to vote and receive printed reports this year. Members will be able to come in to the office and vote absentee July 28th-August 4th from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Members will receive the same printed information as those attending the drive-thru meeting. All members that register, whether at the drive-thru or absentee will receive a \$20 bill credit attendance prize. Members that bring their registration from the Rural Missouri Magazine will also be entered into a drawing for an additional bill credit. If you do not bring your registration card you will still be able to register just as you have in the past.

I know many of you miss the fanfare of our Annual Meeting, but with the current environment we feel this is the best option to offer. The board of directors did not make this decision lightly. It was a tough decision, but it is always better to error on the side of caution than to look back with regret. This venue will allow every member that chooses to take part in the business of their cooperative to do so. The in-person portion of the business meeting held at 6 p.m. on August 5th will also be livestreamed on nemonews.net for anyone that chooses to watch the meeting from the comfort of their home. We want you to be able to take part in the Annual Meeting, and thanks to the board of directors, you have many options. I hope you will take time to participate this year and help continue the success of your cooperative. Next month's edition of Rural Missouri will have information on the election. If you have any questions, as always, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Until next month stay safe and healthy.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, therefore in accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may

be available in languages other than English.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is the CEO/General Manager. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaintfilingcust.html> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov.

Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity employer.

Seven Cooperative Principles

Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Mark your calendars for Lewis County REC's 83rd Annual Meeting Thursday, August 5, 2021 at Lewis County REC's office, Lewistown, MO. Absentee Voting will take place July 28th -August 4th at the Lewis County REC Office. Drive-thru meeting will be held from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. on August 5th. In-Person Business Meeting 6 p.m. in the Lewis County REC Warehouse.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

This summer give your electric bill a vacation when you head out on a trip. Adjust your thermostat to a higher setting or turn it off altogether. If your trip is a long one, consider cleaning out the fridge and turn it off. Be sure to shut off those energy phantoms such as TVs, cable boxes and Wi-Fi routers. You can also turn off the water heater, but leave a reminder to turn it back on or risk a cold shower on your return!

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