



From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

Happy New Year everyone! When we say we live in a “Connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smart phones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of Lewis County REC, there’s so much more to being part of our connected community. Each of you will be receiving a questionnaire in the mail from us the first part of January. Please, take time and fill out the questionnaire, and return it to us to help keep the lines of connection and communication with each of you open. If you return the questionnaire you will be entered into a drawing for one of 30-\$100 energy credits to be given away.

As member of Lewis County REC, you help to power good in our local communities through initiatives like allowing us to round up your bill to the nearest whole dollar and donate it to the Lewis County REC Cares Foundation. This past year the Foundation has made numerous donations throughout Northeast Missouri to organizations in need of funding for various no-profit projects. The Foundation has helped purchase playground equipment, make needed repairs, feed the elderly, and purchase new honor guard jackets, just to name a few projects. If you have not already signed up to be a part of the round-up process you can simply check the box to participate on the questionnaire, or call the office and we will happy to get you signed up.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve and by filling out, and returning, the questionnaire you are assisting us in maximizing the value you get from your membership in Lewis County REC. Telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses are constantly changing, and it is vital that we have the most up-to-date information for each of you. Lewis County REC relies on data from nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve.

Updated contact information can even speed up the power restoration process during an outage. That’s because when you call to report and outage, our after-hours automated system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage-management system predict the location, making it easier for Lewis County REC line-crews to correct the problem.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can -whether that means stopping by the office to pay a bill in person, attending our Annual Meeting, visiting our website or simply downloading our mobile app. Lewis County REC exists to serve you, our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local communities, we’re better prepared to answer the call.

Here’s hoping 2021 is full of health and prosperity for each of you. We look forward to connecting with you in 2021.



Deb O’Brien Retires



Deb O’Brien has served as Lewis County REC’s Office Manager and Chief Financial Officer for the past 22 years. Deb is originally from Perry, Missouri and relocated to the Lewis County area in 1998 after accepting her job at Lewis County REC. Deb reside in Maywood with her husband, Willie. They have 3 children: Laura (DJ) Scott, David (Audrey) Kuhne,

and Dan Kuhne. They also have 2 grandsons: Braxton and Bryson Scott.

When asked about her career at the REC Deb said, “I’ve enjoyed everyone I have had the opportunity to work with from my co-workers to the members. It’s been a quick 22 years with an incredible amount of changes.”

Deb and Willie enjoy traveling and are looking forward to spending time with children and grandchildren.

Congratulations on your retirement Deb, and thank you for your years of dedicated service!

Angie Hudson Retires



Angie Hudson has served in a number of capacities during her 12-year career at Lewis County REC and most recently has served as the cashier. Angie is originally from Lewis County and currently reside in LaBelle, Missouri with her husband Kim. Angie and Kim have 2 daughters, Emily Hudson, Lydia Hudson, Shane Hudson, and Amanda (Charles) Harris. They also have 3 grandchildren, Jace, Putnam, and Katie.

When asked about her career at the REC Angie said, “I would like to thank everyone I have met and worked with over the past 12 years. I will always appreciate the experience and knowledge I have gained during my time here. Lewis County REC truly has the best members and I will sincerely miss my daily interactions with all of you.”

Angie is excited to follow her love for quilting and is opening a long arm quilting service in LaBelle.

Congratulations on your retirement Angie, and thank you for your years of dedicated service!

Energy-efficient resolutions for 2021

If you're a budgeter and resolution maker, now's the time to plan for 2021. Here are a few idea starters for energy-efficiency resolutions.

Pick the low-hanging fruit first – If this is your first attempt at improving efficiency and your budget is small, start with these ideas:

- Sign up for a home-energy audit. It may be free through your cooperative or a community-action organization.

- Pull curtains and drapes on south- and west-facing windows during summer to block heat but open on sunny winter days.

- Each time a light bulb goes out replace it with a light-emitting diode that is up to 75 percent more efficient than old incandescent bulbs.

- Set your thermostat for 78 degrees in summer and 68 degrees in winter. Adjust temperatures by 5 to 10 degrees at night.

- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors, particularly if yours is an older home. The materials are very affordable and easy for a novice do-it-yourselfer.

- Set your water heater at the recommended 120 degrees.

- Plug electronics into power strips that can easily be turned on and off.

- Replace furnace filters monthly during use.

Tackle relatively low-cost improvements next – These ideas cost more but are still affordable:

- Add insulation in your attic if what you've got isn't doing the job. Check your cooperative for possible rebates.

- Buy a programmable thermostat and automate temperature control. Check your cooperative for possible rebates for smart thermostats.

- Add plastic film or sheeting to single-pane windows to further seal leaky frames.

- Plant a tree for shade on the south or west side of your house.

- Install ceiling fans and/or buy portable box fans that can make a 4-degree temperature difference just by circulating air.

Budget for the big-ticket items – Few households can afford multiple expensive improvements in a single year. Prioritize and plan your purchases over several years, including:

- Replace aging appliances with ENERGY STAR-rated ones, such as refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers, dishwashers. Look for deals in your area for no tax holidays, typically the third week of April.

- Invest in energy-efficient windows, starting on the north side of your house.

- Alternatively, invest in interior or exterior storm windows and doors.

- Upgrade your heating and air conditioning units if more than 15 years old.

- For a new roof, consider light-colored shingles or metal to reflect heat versus absorbing it.

- Research whether a ground-source heat pump or air-source heat pump makes sense for your home and property.

Engine Block Heater Efficiency

With the frigid temperatures several of you are probably plugging those engine block heaters in. You can save yourself money by purchasing a timer and setting it to turn the block heater on 2-3 hours before you are going to need to start your engine. Letting block heaters run continuously uses several kilowatts and will cause sticker shock when you get your electric bill. Timers are relatively inexpensive and are available at any of the local hardware stores. Keep warm and stay safe.

Lewis County REC offers rebates to their members on:

Electric Vehicles: \$1,000 rebate toward the purchase of a 2019, 2020, or 2021

Electric Vehicle Home Charging Stations: \$500 bill credit for a Level 2 Charger

Electric Water Heaters: \$250 bill credit

Ground Source Heat Pumps: \$750 per ton rebate

Air to Air Heat Pumps: \$200 per ton rebate

Dual Fuel Heat Pumps: \$150 per ton rebate

For more information, contact Travis, 573-215-4000.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Even in January the sun can help warm your home. Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally provide heat. Just be sure to close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows. It may be possible to lower your thermostat when taking advantage of this natural heat source.

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