


Western Cooperative Electric NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Local Youth Experience Washington, D.C.

Keith Gustin, Hays, son of Brent and Clare Gustin; and Jake Schlegel, Ogallah, son of Elmer and Myrna Schlegel, were among the nearly 1,500 high school students from across the country who participated in the "Government in Action" Youth Tour held June 12-19, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Keith and Jake were selected as winners in the Western Cooperative Youth Contest held in March.

The Youth Tour has been a joint effort of electric cooperatives, such as Western, their statewide cooperative associations, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for nearly 50 years.

Each year in June, an action-filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues. The group learned about U.S. history and government through visits with Sen. Pat Roberts and Rep. Todd Tiahrt, meetings with youth from other states and tours of the memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Museums, Ft.



Jake Schlegel, left, and Keith Gustin pose for a photo on the steps of the Supreme Court.

McHenry, Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Mt. Vernon.

Keith said he had the experience of a lifetime working with peers from other states and NRECA staff during the Washington stay.

"The Lincoln Memorial was simply incredible to see in person," commented Jake. "It was extremely moving to see all the monuments and memorials."

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for National Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympics medalist and two-time world champion

in wheelchair basketball. Schlappi shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

For more information about Western's youth contest contact Western Cooperative Electric or visit our website at www.westerncoop.com.

Expansion Provides New Offices and Storage

Western Cooperative Electric held an open house for the new headquarters on April 13, 1966, at the current location of 635 S. 13th St. in WaKeeney. After 42 years of growth and expansion, the Board of Trustees approved a 4,080 sq. ft. addition for office space. This addition also includes a full basement for storage and a storm shelter.

“Record retention is vital within our industry,” stated Dave Schneider, General Manager. “Even though we have computers to store a large amount of information, printed copies are essential for auditing purposes.”

“Office space has been limited since adding office employees,” said Janet Geist, Office Manager. “We are looking forward to better serving our member/owners.”

This addition is being constructed by Deines Construction of WaKeeney and QMC Inc. of Quinter. It is scheduled to be completed this fall.



Construction of the Western Cooperative addition is scheduled for completion in fall 2008.

Life-Support During an Electrical Outage

For some electric cooperative members, service is more than a convenience; it is a necessity. Western Cooperative Electric realizes that some homes are equipped with life-sustaining medical equipment that requires a reliable source of power.

Our commitment to you is to provide electric service safely and with as few interruptions as possible. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee uninterrupted power 100 percent of the time. Each year, events — beyond our control — occur and cause power outages.

If your health or well-being depends on electric supply, we offer the following suggestions and strongly encourage you to implement them:

1. Obtain a back-up source of power recommended by the manufacturer of any life sustaining or critical care equipment you may have in your home. For example, battery back-ups or standby generators can provide you with electric power if service from the cooperative is interrupted.

2. Talk with relatives or friends today and devise a plan whereby the individual who relies on this equipment will have somewhere to stay in the event of a major power outage, or even for just a few hours.

3. Let Western know of the situation so we can make a note of the medical need on the account. This way, our representatives will be aware of the condition in the event of an outage or if the account is scheduled for disconnection. The presence of critical medical devices does not exempt service from termination due to non-payment of a bill. Anticipated payment delays should be addressed by contacting Western's office.

Notifying Western of your situation does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service, nor does it guarantee immediate attention to your individual service should the area experience a power outage. It does alert us to the situation. Letting us know your specific needs allows Western Cooperative Electric personnel to better serve you.