

**WESTERN
COOPERATIVE
ELECTRIC**

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NEWS

Western's Payment Options



Western's members can now make payments through our Web site or by phone using a credit card or electronic funds transfer.

To pay by phone, call our automated service at 800-330-1025, or call our main office to speak with a Western employee.

Through our Web site, you can also view your account, or enter your meter reading. You will have to set up a login and password the first time you do the online services. You will be prompted to enter your base account number and meter number.

All of these services are available at our Web site www.westerncoop.com.

Nominating Committees to be Announced

The 2010 Western Cooperative Electric Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

Prior to the meeting, the

Western Trustees will appoint Nominating Committees. The Committees' responsibility is to prepare a list of nominations for Trustees in the districts which have terms expiring and present these nominations for election by members at the Annual Meeting. Article IV, Section 4.06 of Western's By-laws states the following concerning nominations:

"At least 60 days prior to the annual meeting, the President shall with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoint a nominating committee of three Members from each of said three Trustee districts, and each of said nominating committees shall nominate one or more Members from its respective district for each trustee to be elected from the district, and within 30 days from the date of their appointment said nominating committees shall report their nominations to the Secretary of the Cooperative who shall cause the list of nominees to be mailed to the Members of the Cooperative at the time the notice of annual meeting is mailed.

Any 15 or more Members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in like manner showing clearly which Committee-nominated candidate(s) are being opposed, not less than 20 days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where

The Trustee Positions for Election are Currently Served by



Donald L. Schultz
District 1:
Graham, Osborne, Rooks, and Sheridan counties



Frank Joy
District 2:
Ellis, Lincoln, Russell, and Trego counties



Charles Luetters
District 3: Barton, Ellsworth, Gove, Ness, and Rush counties

the list of nominations made by the Committees is posted.

The Secretary shall mail to the Members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but no less than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the Trustees to be elected from specific Trustee Districts, and the names and addresses of all nominees, showing separately those nominated by the Committees and those nominated by petition, if any.

The chairman, or the chairman's appointee, at such meeting, after all nominations so made have been duly announced, shall call for additional nominations from the floor, and shall ascertain and announce, after any nominations made from the floor, the particular Trustee District from or with respect to which any additional candidates have been nominated. The Member making a nomination or nominations shall designate the nominee(s) of the Committees and/or the nominee(s) by petition, if any, and/or other nominee(s) nominated from the floor, if any, against whom his nominee(s) shall run.

Notwithstanding the provision contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Trustees after the election of Trustees."

Mehler Celebrates 38 Years as a Lineman

“My Dad was a lineman, and after seeing what he faced, I didn’t think I wanted to follow his footsteps.”

Little did **JON MEHLER**, journeyman lineman for Western Cooperative Electric at the Ellsworth warehouse, know then that he would follow in his father’s footsteps.

Mehler will celebrate 38 years as an electric lineman on February 10.

“One day there was a knock at the door,” Mehler said. “It was the district manager of the electric company at that time. He asked me if I was interested in doing line work.”

Mehler laughed, “I must have said yes.”

During his 38 year tenure at Ellsworth, Mehler has experienced a number of different electric service providers along with name changes.

“Even though I have dealt with many changes, there’s one thing that remains constant for a lineman,” Mehler said. “Repairs and maintenance are always needed on the electrical line.”

How that work is completed has certainly changed. Mehler cites pole claws on digger trucks, as a big improvement.

“Even though we had trucks to lift poles, we still had to use pikes to control the pole.”

Doing work on energized lines was also an improvement. “With today’s equipment we can work in



Jon Mehler, journeyman lineman, celebrates 38-years as a electric utility lineman.

a safer environment and accomplish more in a shorter time,” said Mehler.

When asked about anything he disliked about his job or career, Mehler was quick to respond.

“That’s an easy one,” he said. “Tornadoes and ice storms.”

Mehler is also quick to report about gratifying experiences during his lineman career. One event that remains vivid for him was being a first responder to a vehicle accident.

He and fellow employee, Mike Rust, not only witnessed the accident, but assisted with emergency response. Mehler and Rust felt confident in assisting because of their linemen training in first aid and emergency situations.

Even though Mehler hesitated at-first when choosing to become a lineman, his decision to say “yes” has been both gratifying and rewarding.

Thirty-eight years later Mehler is glad he followed his father’s footsteps and understands the commitment to being a lineman.

With today’s equipment we can work in a safer environment and accomplish more in a shorter time.

Western Welcomes New Employees

Western Cooperative Electric would like to introduce our two new employees Vivian Russ and Gary Yahne.

VIVIAN RUSS is our new customer service representative at the WaKeeney office.

She and her husband, Ed, have eight children. Her family is her hobby.

Being an Oberlin native, Russ is familiar with the challenging weather we sometimes face in western Kansas.

After answering hours of outage calls during a stormy day, following a brief sigh and a moment of silence, she said, “It’s like working with a big family.” When asked about her experience at Western, so far.

GARY YAHNE is employed at the Olmitz warehouse as an apprentice lineman.

Yahne’s previous work experience as a lineman is beneficial as he works with and studies Western’s apprentice lineman program. After work, he enjoys running and exercise.

“I just enjoy my work,” Yahne said.

Western Cooperative Electric welcomes these two to the cooperative family!



Vivian Russ



Gary Yahne