



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**WESTERN
COOPERATIVE
ELECTRIC**

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

Holiday Closing



In observance of Memorial Day Western's office will be closed on Monday, May 31.

Have a Safe Holiday!

Happy Mother's Day

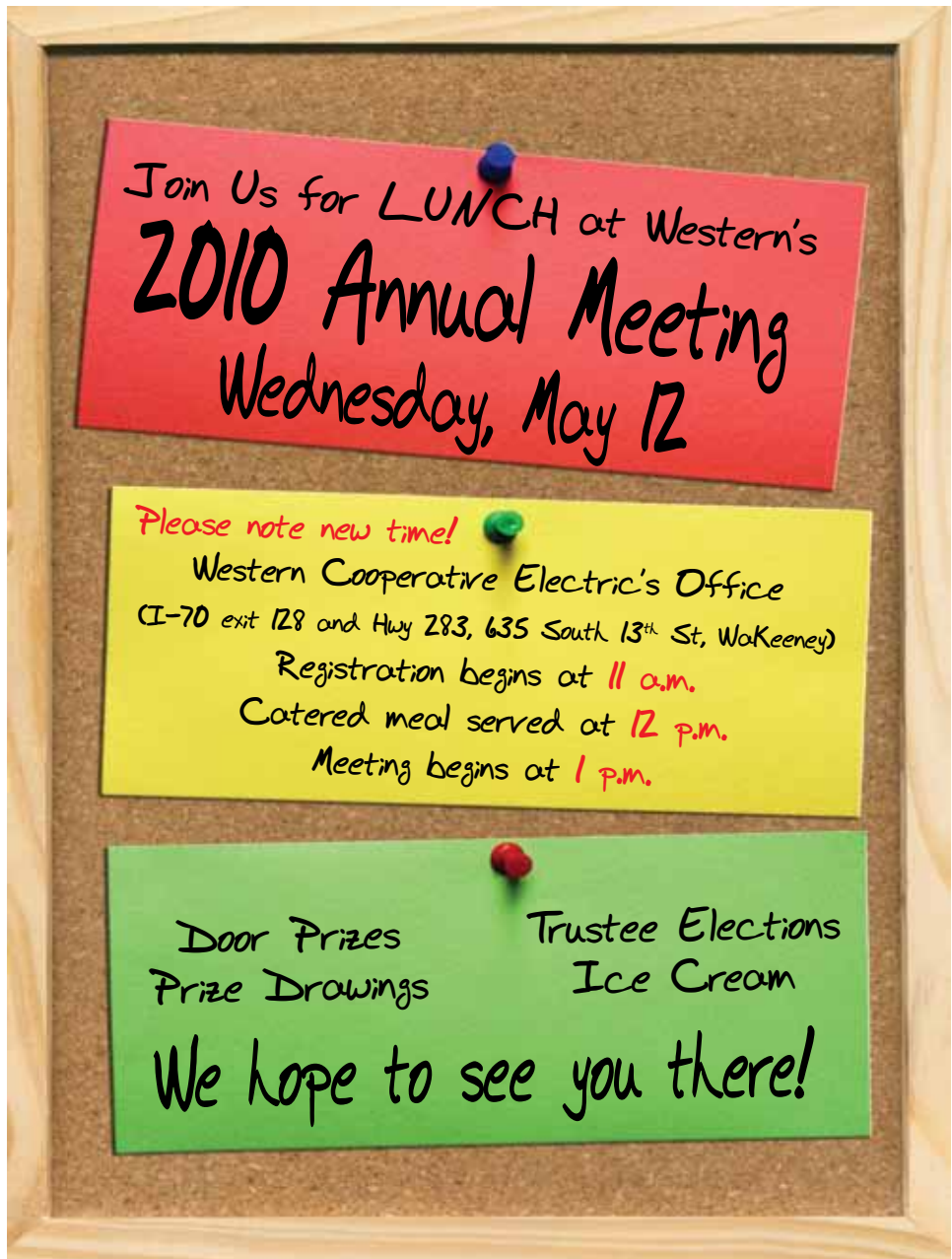


Western would like to wish all mothers a happy Mother's Day on May 9.

Efficiency Tip of the Month



In summer months when AC units work hardest, do energy-intensive tasks, like laundry, during off-peak hours (early morning or late evening).



Join Us for LUNCH at Western's
2010 Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 12

Please note new time!
Western Cooperative Electric's Office
(I-70 exit 128 and Hwy 283, 635 South 13th St, WaKeeney)
Registration begins at 11 a.m.
Catered meal served at 12 p.m.
Meeting begins at 1 p.m.

Door Prizes Trustee Elections
Prize Drawings Ice Cream
We hope to see you there!

Generator Safety

Western's Linemen's Lives are on the Line

The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Western Cooperative Electric, especially during dangerous times. When storms hit our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our linemen to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized, and that proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. Western's linemen place ground chains on the circuit—on both sides of workers—to make sure the line cannot be energized while work's being done.

Even after these measures, our linemen's lives remain in your hands.

Western Cooperative Electric is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives—and their own—in danger.

Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to linemen and your neighbors when used improperly.

Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineman. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can

cause back feeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them—even if the line seems dead.

Western's linemen are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage, or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful to consumers during outages. We urge you to follow these safety guidelines:

- ▶ **Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless**

Common Mistake	Result	Prevention
Attempt to connect generator directly to the electrical system of any building.	You can kill or injure a person repairing service lines. The electricity you generate will back feed through the building's electrical system to the outside utility feed lines. Attempting to connect to the incoming utility service could result in electrocution. If your electric cooperative's line crew is restoring electrical service while your generator is connected to the incoming utility service, you could start a fire or seriously damage your building.	A qualified, licensed electrician must install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch to connect the generator to a building's electrical system. This is required by the National Electrical Code. Connection must meet local ordinances. A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.
Fail to ground the generator's electrical system adequately.	Entire generator could become electrically charged and cause electrocution.	Make sure that the unit is connected to an appropriate electrical ground, in accordance with the National Electric Code. Follow instructions supplied with the generator.
Operate generator in rain, wet, icy or flooded conditions.	Water conducts electricity. If water comes in contact with electricity to the generator's frame and other surfaces, it will cause an electrical shock to anyone touching them.	Operate generator in a clean, dry, well ventilated area. Make sure your hands are dry.
Use worn damaged, undersized or ungrounded extension cords. Contact with worn or damaged extension cords.	Contact with worn or damaged extension cords could cause electrocution. Undersize extension cords could overheat wires or attached items, resulting in fire. Use of ungrounded cord sets could prevent operation of circuit breakers and result in electrical shock.	Inspect extension cords before use and replace with new if required. Use proper size (wire gauge) cord set for application. Follow instructions supplied with your unit. Always use electrically grounded cord sets.
Attempt to fill the fuel tank while the engine is running.	Gasoline and gasoline vapors can become ignited by coming in contact with hot components such as the muffler, engine exhaust gases or from an electrical spark.	Turn engine off and allow it to cool before adding fuel. Make sure there's a fire extinguisher in the immediate area certified to handle gasoline or fuel fires.
Fail to ventilate generator by operating in an enclosed area.	Obstructing ventilation causes overheating and possible ignition of the materials. You will produce toxic carbon monoxide exhaust fumes from the engine. Breathing exhaust fumes will cause serious injury or death.	Operate generator in a clean, dry, well ventilated area. Keep objects away from unit during operation. Do not operate unit in a confined area, such as garages, basements, storage sheds, etc., which lack a steady exchange of air. Never operate unit in a location occupied by humans or animals. Keep children, pets and others away from where it's operating.
Tamper with factory set engine speed settings.	Tampering with the engine speed adjustment could result in overheating of attachments and could cause a fire.	Never attempt to "speed-up" the engine to obtain more performance. Both the output voltage and frequency will be thrown out of standard by this practice, endangering you and the attachments.

A Look Back in Time

65 Years of Western Annual Meetings

your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including linemen making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.

- ▶ **Always plug appliances directly into generators.** Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- ▶ **Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.** Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- ▶ **Never overload a generator.** A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- ▶ **Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.**
- ▶ **Keep the generator dry.** Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- ▶ **Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.**
- ▶ **Never fuel a generator while it is operating.**
- ▶ **Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.** Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

Western Cooperative Electric encourages you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

This is Western's 65th annual meeting. So we thought it would be fun to take a look back in time at the minutes of the first annual meeting. Western's articles of incorporation were filed at the Kansas Secretary of State office on May 10, 1945. These minutes were reprinted from the actual document signed by Mr. Walker and Mr. Kraus.



Members gather for Western's first Annual Meeting in 1946.

Minutes of the First Western Cooperative Electric Annual Meeting WaKeeney, April 15, 1946

The first annual meeting of the Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc., met in the City building in WaKeeney at 1 p.m. Pres. Irving Walker presiding.

The Trego Community High School band played two numbers and Keith Riggs played two saxophone numbers.

The minutes of the two organization meetings dated April 13, and April 14, 1945, at Quinter and WaKeeney respectively were read by the Secretary and were approved by the House.

Mr. Ward Sullivan gave a talk reviewing the progress of the Association to date.

Mr. Harold E. Stover of Kansas State College gave a lecture and demonstration on Farmstead wiring.

The Credential Committee chairman, and Mr. Ed Niernberger, reported that there were 139 member and applicants present which in accordance with the by-laws, constituted a quorum.

The treasurer made a report on the business activities and financial condition of the Association for the calendar year 1945 as follows:

- ▶ **Total receipts—\$2,645**
- ▶ **Total expenses—\$915.73**
- ▶ **Balance as of Dec 31, 1945—\$1,729.27**

Mr. Paul Applegate, System Attorney, gave a talk on easements and other legal matters concerning the Association.

The election of nine Trustees in accordance with the by-laws was presented by the Chairman. Mr. Applegate appeared before the house and stated that it was the wish of the State REA Representative that the original Trustees be retained in office for a period of at least one year. A motion was made by Mr. Gugler and seconded by Mr. Walter Huck that the present Trustees be re-elected as follows:

For a period of one year: Irving Walker, C.W. Kraus, Melvin Reinecker, Ed J. Niernberger, and Ward Sullivan

For a two year period: W.D. Ikenberry, L.R. Miller, Fred J. Hamburg, and Alvin Saleen

The remaining business was the drawing to determine the winners of the door prizes. The winners were as follows:

- ▶ **Electric Iron—Luke Wagner**
- ▶ **Percolator—George Meyer**
- ▶ **Electric toaster—Clarence Hillman**
- ▶ **Electric clock—Albert Hillman**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

IRVING WALKER, President
C.W. KRAUS, Sec.-Treas.



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