



The longest pole

(The following article was written by Tom Purkey, General Manager of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.)

I recently attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting to discuss issues that are affecting electric cooperatives across the country.

One of the speakers who addressed those issues was Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th president of our great country. Before she spoke, I wondered if it was merely her name that earned her an invitation to come before these thousands of people or if she really had some comments that would be of value to this gathering of leaders who are sincerely interested in solving our energy concerns.

I left impressed. Eisenhower was quite knowledgeable about the big energy picture. Having lived on an electric cooperative system while growing up in Adams County, Pennsylvania, she was very familiar with rural America and how cooperatives perform. But she was more interested in talking about how what is going on in Washington, D.C., may one day impact the electric industry.

It was interesting to hear how she developed her ideas about energy in her early days. Eisenhower said she had a wonderful mentor - General Andrew Goodpaster - who was her grandfather's principal national security advisor.

er. He used to tell her, "You know, you have to think about this like long poles in the tent." He suggested that you always need to identify which issues are the "long poles" that, should they collapse, would bring the whole argument crashing down. He suggested that fiscal health was one, and our country's relations abroad and our military capability were others...but energy was the longest pole in the tent.

I thought about that "longest pole in the tent" analogy and understood it even better as I dwelt upon it.

When I think about the "longest pole" - the energy issue - I realize that we must address a number of challenges that make up the total energy picture. For instance, how will the crisis in the Middle East affect our access to and price of oil on which we are so dependent in our country? What will happen if the price of oil doubles to \$200 per barrel?

Other countries in the Middle East moving closer to gaining freedoms that come from more democratic forms of government may result in an unstable period of time that could affect the production - and worldwide supply - of oil. 272138

The recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan have also raised concerns about the safety of our nation's nuclear generation resources. The full impact of the tragedy at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant remains to be seen, but it

is certain to impact both the lives of local residents and American energy policy for years to come. More and more Americans are questioning whether a similar disaster could play out on our own soil.

President Barack Obama recently stated a goal for our country to have 1 million electric cars in service by the year 2015. That would reduce the need for purchasing oil from the Middle East. However, there another push in the energy picture that comes from the view that carbon greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced. 41698

Many people who hold that view are against building coal-fired electric generation plants or even nuclear plants. The rising popularity of electric cars necessitates the need for additional coal, gas and nuclear generation plants so that electricity will be available for all those electric cars that use batteries that must be recharged daily (or nightly).

The energy picture is considered the "longest pole in the tent" because of the complexity of all of its facets - electricity supply, oil, gas and nuclear all intertwined with efficient use of all of the above.

As an electric cooperative member, rest easy knowing that our co-ops continue to look for answers and solutions to bolster our energy future. We're doing all we can to support and anchor that longest pole in the tent.

AYBF fund raising events are August 7-8

Nearly half a million dollars has been donated to area families in need

The 19th annual fund raising events for Farmers' Electric's Area Youth Benefit Fund will be held August 7-8.

A dinner-auction will be held at the Chillicothe Elks Lodge on Sunday, August 7. A reception begins at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 o'clock. A variety of silent auctions will be held during the reception and dinner. Following the dinner the main auction, featuring a variety of items, will be under the call of Col. Mike Miller.

On Monday, August 8, the Area Youth Benefit Fund will host its 19th golf tournament at the Green Hills Golf Course, also in Chillicothe. When team members register for the tournament, they will receive a free pair of Footjoy golf shoes, as part of their registration package.

For the thirteenth consecutive year Pepsi-Cola Bottling of Chillicothe is co-sponsoring the golf tournament.

"We really appreciate the continued support

we receive from Mike Baker and his employees at Pepsi-Cola Bottling," said Steve Shoot, FEC Manager of Member Services and coordinator of the AYBF events. "Their generosity makes a huge difference in the success of our events."

Last year was the first time the tournament hadn't sold out in over a decade, but Shoot said the free golf shoes accompanying the registration gifts would probably make a big difference this year.

The AYBF was established in 1993 for the purpose of providing financial assistance toward the payment of medical bills for children 18 years of age and under. The fund is designed to assist families with children who have been ill or injured in which the parents do not have enough money or health insurance to cover the medical costs. 71515

At this writing, the AYBF has paid medical bills totaling \$490,502.41. Donations are easily expected to top the half million mark sometime

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Farmers' Electric office will be closed July 4

Farmer's Electric's office in Chillicothe will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

If you have a power outage please telephone your cooperative's 24-hour answering service at 1-800-927-5334.

Book a home energy audit and save money

How would you like to lower your monthly electric bill 15-20 percent a month?

Contact FEC's member services department and schedule a home energy audit. The audit costs only \$125, plus FEC will pay 50 percent of your energy efficiency improvements at your house, up to \$500!

Call FEC at 646-4281 or 1-800-279-0496, extension 22, and book your home energy audit today. Once you complete your home energy efficiency improvements, you will save money every day.

Members re-elect three to board at June 7 Annual Meeting

Approximately 700 people attended the 73rd Annual Meeting of Farmers' Electric Cooperative held June 7, at the Gary Dickinson Performing Art Center in Chillicothe.

The member-owners of the cooperative re-elected three directors to serve three-year terms. Re-elected to FEC's seven-person board of directors were LeRoy Kern, Caldwell and Clinton counties; Arzy Bisbee, Jr., Ray County; and W.D. Richards III, Chariton County.

Board President Ron Cornett opened the meeting thanking the members for taking their time to attend the annual business meeting of the cooperative. He then took the members on a trip back in time, offering examples of prices from 100 years ago. 272570

"For example," said Cornett, "for seven-cents you could go to a movie. A postage stamp cost two-cents and gasoline was seven-cents a gallon, but you could only purchase your gas at a drug store."

A modest new house cost around \$1,500, continued Cornett, with an expensive house costing around \$5,000. The average wage was only 22-cents an hour and only six percent of all Americans graduated from high school.

"In the 1930's," Cornett pointed out, "electricity cost 20-cents a kilowatt hour, and today the average cost of electricity in this area is around nine-cents a kilowatt hour."

Cornett told the member-owners in attendance that FEC's board of directors will be facing a number of tough decisions over the next few years, including that of new base load generation.

"Whether it is coal, gas, hydro, wind or nuclear, or a combination of these systems, we have to increase generation to meet the needs of the members of this cooperative," Cornett said.

Cornett cited problems associated with each type of generation system. Cornett said coal was safe and economical, but not permissible. Gas was expensive to build and the constant fluctuations in gas prices made gas a financially unfeasible option. Conservationists make hydropower unpermissible and it is also very expensive to build. While wind is a good system, it is very expensive to build and unreliable in that it only generates efficiently about 25 to 30 percent of the time.

"Probably for our future needs, nuclear power is where it is going to be and it is probably what is going to be built," said Cornett.

"Here at Farmers', we continue to work hard to be cost efficient and to keep the lights on," Cornett concluded. "We will continue to do our best to provide you with quality service at a

reasonable price."

FEC CEO Mike Sanders touched on several topics in his presentation to the membership.

"The good news," Sanders said, "is for the second straight year, I don't have to stand here and explain a rate increase to you. However, it does look like we will have an increase in 2012."

Sanders said it would be later this year before the rate increase to the cooperative would be

known and then the cooperative would determine how much of that increase would be passed on to the members.

"There are a couple of reasons for this increase," Sanders explained. "One, a new natural gas plant is coming on line and, two, a new rail contract for coal is resulting in higher delivery costs."

Sanders emphasized to the members the cooperative would

do what it could to control costs, but the cooperative was required to maintain certain financial levels, in regard to its lenders, and the need to properly maintain the distribution system to continue to provide reliable power.

Sanders also covered other topics, including FEC's Operation Round Up program, which benefits the cooperative's Area Youth Benefit Fund charity, as well as home energy audits, rebates for energy efficient appliances and the need to cut usage from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. during the hottest days of the summer.

Sanders concluded his remarks, referring to the possibility of flooding along the Missouri River in the southern part of FEC's distribution area. 277405

"The Corps of Engineers expects parts of Missouri to be flooded, but they aren't sure how much due to possible future rainfall amounts," said Sanders. "We will do all we can to keep the power on in the affected areas."

Dana Macoubrie, the cooperative attorney, conducted the election of the board of directors, as well as the election of the 2012 Committee on Nominations. Elected to the Committee on Nominations were Charlotte Miller, Kay Saale, Judith Waters, Dennis Farmers, Dennis Widhalm, Kenneth Lee and Michael VanDyke.

Fifty-two prizes were given away at the conclusion of the business meeting. The Grand Prize winner was Jack L. Wood, Chillicothe. Wood has the option a large screen television, refrigerator, double oven or a washer and dryer.

Youth winners were also drawn for electric scooters. They were Jaiden Rodenberg, Wheeling, and Wesley Miller, Norborne.



CEO Mike Sanders



A drawing was held for the younger members in attendance and, from left, Wesley Miller, Norborne, and Jaiden Rodenberg, Wheeling, were the winners of electric scooters. Presenting the winners with their scooters was Ron Cornett, Board President.



Jack Wood, Chillicothe, left, is congratulated by Board President Ron Cornett for winning the grand prize at the June 7 Annual Meeting.

2011 AYBF fund raising events are on August 7-8

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this year. The AYBF operates primarily in the counties of Linn, Chariton, Livingston, Carroll, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, DeKalb and Clinton. A family who receives electricity from Farmers' Electric Cooperative, but resides in a county not listed above also qualifies for AYBF assistance. A family that resides in the counties listed above does not have to be a member of the cooperative to receive financial assistance.

Dinner ticket prices remain the same as they were in 1993 at \$25. Regular golf teams are \$300, while corporate sponsor golf teams are \$375, which includes three tickets to the dinner-auction. If you have any questions please contact the FEC office.

Doug Rye says...

As hot as it is now, it is hard to remember just how cold it was six months ago. We had a good old-fashioned winter like we haven't seen in a while and all of the utility companies received high bill complaints like they haven't seen in a while either.

When one receives a high utility bill there is always a reason, and it is almost never because the meter is wrong. For years, I have spent just about all of my working time teaching folks where their utility dollars go and what they can do to make the situation better.

As the summer bills will soon be arriving, I thought it would be a good time to review "Energy Course 101."

The average house energy use is about 50 percent for heating and

cooling, about 20 percent for water heating and about 30 percent for everything else. Since heating and cooling systems are the largest users of energy, let's look at some energy facts. Basically, it is all about heat transfer.

First, heat always moves toward cold and it is

These air conditioning tips can save you money this summer

Air conditioning is the energy hog for summer in Missouri. According to consumer energy advisers, window units use 500 to 1,440 watts of electricity compared to 3,500 for central units. Contrast that to the 75 watts that a ceiling fan uses. All these watts add up to as much as 16 percent of your energy bill — even more

when it's really hot and humid.

Start reducing that bill by replacing old units with new, efficient ones.

That "good as new" 10-year-old unit may not be as good as you think it is.

New energy-efficient models can save up to 50 percent on cooling bills, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Some websites with helpful information on air conditioning include those

for Energy Star, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Department and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Division.

Don't forget your local cooperative and University of Missouri Extension office.

Here are some tips for reducing your air conditioning energy bill from the Missouri Depart-

an actual force. You could say that there is no such thing as cold, just a lack of heat. In the summer, you don't cool the house, you remove the heat.

Second, the greater the difference between the two temperatures, the greater the force will be.

Let's say that your house temperature is 75 degrees and you heat the kitchen oven to 90 degrees. When you open the oven door you will feel a little force of hot air come out the door.

Now heat the oven to 350 degrees, open the door and feel the blast, which is a big force, of air hit you in the face. Again, it is an actual force.

So how does this force relate to the utility bill at your house? Well, let's set the house thermostat at 75 degrees. Now, let's enjoy a nice 75-degree spring day. Wow, it is a perfect day. There is no force from nature, no heating or cooling is

required and the electric meters hardly move. What a day.

Of course you knew it wouldn't last. Today it is sunny, 97 degrees and the heat is forcing its way into my house at every possible location.

Oh no, now it's winter and 20 degrees

outside. The heat that I just paid for is now forcing its way out of my house. In fact I can see the force as it hits my window glass and turns to water. Please help me. What can I do?

Folks, the places in your house that are losing heat in the winter are probably the same places that are gaining heat in the summer.

If you can totally seal those places or just make it more difficult for the heat to move through those places, you can help lower your utility bill. Just find those places and fix them.

A good energy audit using a blower door and an infrared camera is by far the best way to find those bad spots. Some electric cooperatives

offer energy audits for their members, at a much cheaper price than any for profit company.

If you have questions, you may call me at 501-653-7931 and I will be happy to help you. In the meantime, may the good force be with you.



Energy Efficiency Expert Doug Rye

Doug Rye can be heard on KGOZ, KKWK and KAAN

Every Saturday morning Doug Rye hosts a live call-in show on several area radio stations. He can be heard from 9-10 a.m. on KGOZ, 101.7, Gallatin, KKWK, 100.1, Cameron and on KAAN, 95.5, Bethany.

Minisplit systems don't need ductwork

If you want to cool a room addition to your house where extending or installing ductwork would not be practical, then a mini-split air conditioner may be your answer. These systems work well in apartments or any kind of non-ducted home.

Mini-split systems, like central units, have an outdoor compressor/condenser and an indoor air-handling unit. Since they operate without ducts, mini-split systems don't lose energy through those ducts. They come in a variety of designs that give them flexibility. And because the outdoor and indoor components are connected with a simple conduit through a small hole in the wall, there are not the security issues that wall- and window-mounted air conditioners have.

the setting on your air conditioner at night or when no one is home; avoid using the air conditioner when you are not home.

- Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread cool air effectively through your home.

- Change filters once a month during the season and clean evaporator coils and condenser coils as needed; use a "fin comb" to reposition

bent coil fins back to original.

- Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner; it won't cool your house any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

- Don't place lamps or TVs near your air conditioner's thermostat; the heat from the appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer.

- Shade your existing condenser with a screen or foliage so it's not in direct sunlight, or place it on the north side of your house if you are adding a new unit — you may reduce your energy cost by 1 percent to 2 percent; however, don't obstruct air flow around the unit.

- Locate a room air conditioner in a window or wall near the center of the room and on the shadiest part of the house; seal gaps between the unit and the window with foam weatherstripping.

And don't forget...an easy way to block heat coming into your home is to close the shades on the south and west sides of the house.

Farmers' Electric Area Co-op Connections Card Participants

- AA Cyclewear** - Chillicothe: 10% off merchandise
- AFC Insulators** - Chillicothe: 10% off labor and materials for insulation of home, shop or business
- Alvin's Heating & Cooling** - Richmond - 10% off maintenance plan agreement.
- Anytime Fitness** - Chillicothe - 10% off full membership.
- Applebees** - Free dessert shooter with adult entree.
- Auto Glass Plus** - Chillicothe - 10% discount on oil changes, glass replacement service.
- Bailey Studio** - Chillicothe: Complimentary Studio Session
- Barnes-Baker Motors** - Chillicothe: 10% off on parts & service
- Barry Electric** - Carrollton - 10% off purchases \$399 or more.
- Broadway Pavilion Mall** - Jamesport - 10% off any item unless marked firm.
- Brookfield Bowl** - Brookfield - Buy one bowling game get one free.
- Brookfield Plumbing** - Brookfield - 10% off on parts.
- Builders Supply Installers** - 10% off insulation or fireplace job.
- Cameron Econolodge** - Cameron - 1 bed 1-2 people, \$49.99 plus tax; 2 beds 1-2 people \$49.99 plus tax.
- Cameron Lumber** - Cameron - 10% off \$299 or greater deck package.
- CARSTAR** - Cameron - 10% off discount up to \$100 maximum.
- Central Missouri Community Credit Union** - Richmond - \$5 deposit to new member account.
- Chillicothe Bootery & Repair** - Chillicothe: 7% off the purchase of new boots
- Christie's Nails** - Norborne: 10% off all services
- Citizens Bank & Trust** - Chillicothe: Free checking-Free gift-check buy back. Also 25% off first year rent of any new lockbox rental with new or existing checking account.
- Clark's Furniture** - Chillicothe - 5% off all purchases, plus free delivery and set up.
- Cole Family Chiropractic Clinic** - Chillicothe: 10% off vitamins & supplements
- Countryside Banquet Hall** - Cameron - 10% off banquet facility
- Countryside Jamobree** - Cameron - \$1 off admittance
- Country Time Battery** - Gallatin - 10% off all retail pricing
- Covenant Rehab Clinic** - Chillicothe: Discount will be on all products and supplies not covered by health insurance. Biofreeze, etc.
- CSI OHD Overhead Garage Doors Sales & Service** - Trenton - 10% off new garage doors or operators.
- Curves** - Richmond - Discount on monthly fee from \$149 to \$45.
- Dairy Queen** - Chillicothe - 50-cents off blizzard.
- Dancing Bears Embroidery** - Wheeling - 15% off purchase of \$25 or more
- Domino's Pizza** - Chillicothe: Free order of bread sticks or cinnamon sticks with purchase. Add cheese bread for \$1.
- Easter's Pharmacy** - Trenton - 15% off weather alert radios
- Eckard's Home Improvement** - Carrollton: 10% off carpet. See store for details.
- Expressions of Love** - Lawson: 10% off purchases of \$25 or more.
- Farm House Collection** - Jamesport: 10% off purchases.
- Foster Heating & Air Conditioning** - Chillicothe - \$15 of service calls
- Fuel Espresso** - Chillicothe: 10% off. Does not include beer, liquor, lotto and gas
- Grand River Inn Hotel** - Chillicothe: \$49 plus tax
- Green Hills Golf Course** - Chillicothe - 15% off green and cart fee, Monday-Thursday only.
- Grundy County Lumber** - Trenton - 10% off regular priced Valspar paint.
- H&R Block** - Chillicothe & Trenton: \$25 off 2008 tax preparation for new clients only. \$5 off for existing clients. Valid in Chillicothe and Trenton only.
- Hair Masters & Tanning Co.** - Chillicothe: 10% off retail products. (Hair and Tanning Products)
- Hamilton Home Center** - Hamilton - \$500 discount any new home purchase
- Heritage Funeral Home** - Chillicothe - 10% discount on pre-arranged paid funeral.
- His & Hers Sports Gallery** - Cameron - 10% off regular priced items
- Hometown Pharmacy** - Chillicothe: 10% off non-prescription items. 20% off photo processing
- J. Crowe Photography** - Chillicothe: 50% off session fees
- Jamesport Grocery** - Jamesport - 10% off purchases
- Jo-Don's Dolls 'n Things** - Chillicothe: 15% off vinyl and porcelain dolls
- JP's Total Image** - Richmond: 20% off any product following a professional service by stylist.
- Katie Belle's** - Jamesport: 10% discount on one item.
- Klingsmith TV & Appliance** - Trenton: Up to 10% off MSRP on items \$399 and up.
- Lakeview Motor Lodge** - Trenton: 10% off.
- Larry's True Value** - Richmond: 10% off any regular priced rental or hardware purchase.
- Lauhoff Jewelry** - Chillicothe: Re-mount special. Re-mount diamonds in a new mounting - 20% off
- Lawns Unlimited & County Nursery, Inc.** - Cameron: 10% off the purchase of all perennial plants & shrubs
- Linda's Tax Service** - Carrollton - Bring taxes in and receive 5% discount
- Lindley Funeral Home** - Chillicothe: Cash rebate 10%
- Little Blessings** - Cameron - 10% off tea room and coffee bar, conference facility, massage therapy, retreat facility and bed & breakfast.
- Mary Lue's Flower Shoppe** - Braymer: Relay charge of \$1.50 on any orders we send out for you anywhere in the U.S.
- Momma B's Cafe** - Ludlow: Free drink with menu purchase
- Miller Construction** - Jamesport: 10% off seamless gutter and leaf protection systems
- Momma B's Cafe** - Ludlow: Free drink with menu purchase
- Montana Log & Hearth LLC** - Jamesport: Purchase Pellet Stove and receive 25 bags of wood pellets free; 5% off four-piece log furniture bedroom suite.
- Murphy's Photography Studio** - Chillicothe: 15% off portrait packages
- Nelle's Restaurant** - Cameron - 50% off appetizers with two dinners.
- New Beginnings** - Cameron - 10% off
- Northtown Appliance Center** - Carrollton - Free humidifier with new furnace or digital thermostat with central air purchase
- Oliphant's Heating & Cooling** - Rayville - \$20 off service call
- Pam's Home Furnishings** - Brookfield - Free car charger with new 2-year agreement on AT&T, 10% off cash & carry appliances, electronics and furniture
- Pat Thorne Lumber** - Chillicothe - 10% off \$299 or greater deck package.
- PC's Elkhorn Steakhouse** - Chillicothe: 10% off discount purchase
- Photography by Donn** - Richmond: No session fee; 15% off portraits
- Piggle Wiggly** - Chillicothe: Free Pepsi 2-liter with buy of 8-piece Champs Chicken meal
- P.J.'s Storage** - Chillicothe: 10% off.
- Pin Oak Hill** - Bogard - 50% off dessert with purchase of entree
- PJ's Storage** - Chillicothe: 10% off
- Premier Eyecare Associates** - Chillicothe, Brookfield & Trenton: 10% off all services and materials
- Principal's Office Gift Shop** - Chillicothe: 15% off regular priced items
- Ray County Historical Society & Museum** - Richmond: 10% off gift purchases; 10% off costume rentals.
- Royal Inn Pizza** - Chillicothe & Trenton: \$2 off large pizza
- Sam's Club** - Become a member and receive \$10 gift card.
- Sensations Salon** - Cameron: \$5 off full spa pedicure
- Sensenich Jeweler** - Chillicothe: 50% off watch batteries.
- Shady Valley Court & RV Park** - Chillicothe - 15% off regular price
- Sharp Focus Video** - Chillicothe: 25% off first 2 hours of home video to DVD transfer. 10% off of wedding video production. Not valid with any other offer.
- Shady Valley Court & RV Park** - Chillicothe - 15% off regular price
- Solo Tire, Lawn & Quick Lube** - Brookfield: First time customers \$5 off quick lube.
- Sprague's Locker** - Brookfield: 1% off retail meats, cheeses & food items.
- Sweet Boutique** - Chillicothe: 10% off desserts.
- Sycamore Valley Farm Bed & Breakfast** - Brunswick: Book two nights get 3rd free.
- The Fast Lane** - Chillicothe: Show Card and receive a punch card, bowl 2 games get 1 game free. At 10 games, sign back of card to enter for free bowling ball, shoes & bag.
- The Old Firehouse** - Jamesport: 10% off storewide.
- Tooley's** - Brookfield: 20% men and women's in-stock merchandise.
- U.S. Graphics** - Chillicothe: 10% discount on orders of 12 or more pieces.
- UHMC** - Cameron: 15% off all equipment, parts and services.
- Van Till Farms/Rayville Baking Co.** - Rayville: Bakers dozen pastry for the price of 12
- Washington Street Food & Drink** - Chillicothe: free SW cheesecake with entree buy