

POWERLINE Press

A Monthly Publication of:



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Youth Tour winners and chaperones return from D.C.

Washington, D.C. – 85 high school juniors participated in Missouri's forty-sixth annual Missouri Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. June 12-18. Local delegates were (from left): Mindy Cantrell (chaperone); Kelly Crites, Jackson; Alicia Slagley, Bloomfield; Lagena Strobel, Oran, and Glen Cantrell (chaperone). They were sponsored by SEMO Electric Cooperative, Sikeston.

The six-day tour provides an action-filled week for high school students, offering them opportunities to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues. Highlights included a special session on Capitol Hill with Senators Christopher Bond and Claire McCaskill to discuss the process of government and issues of the day and increasing their knowledge of cooperative electric utilities and American history.

"Kelly, Alicia and Lagena, represented our Cooperative and the state of Missouri well," said SEMO Electric Communications Manager, Glen Cantrell.

The young people also visited with representatives from their congressional districts, toured famous monuments, the Smithsonian Institution's museums and Arlington National Cemetery. The group also took a sightseeing and dance cruise on the Potomac River one evening with delegates from other states.

"We emphasize, no matter how corny it sounds, that this is the trip of a lifetime and afterwards all the delegates were reiterating that to us."

Cantrell went on to say that the information for

next year's Youth Tour will be released earlier this year. He says by sometime in September, area high school juniors will be able to go to the SEMO Electric website and download the information.

There will be some changes coming to the Youth Tour though. "We want to expand this out to our sophomores as well. They will compete for the Jefferson City trip, which is a part of the Cycle Tour and the Juniors will compete for the trip to Washington D.C."

Cantrell says a few more changes will be made to encourage more participation in the contest. Including the use of pictures, instead of a written essay. He says details are still be worked out, but expects them to be finalized soon, in order to have the information for the contest out by September.

Other events during the Youth Tour included participation in the Electric Youth Day, during which a special program coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association brought together over 1,500 Youth Tour delegates from across the United States. The delegates enjoyed featured speeches by government leaders and motivational speakers, such as Mike Schlappi, an inspiring four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion.

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 41,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington.



RURAL
MISSOURI

Doug Rye Says...

Oh my word, its summertime again! And time to turn the thermostat to cool . This means that your air conditioner's compressor will start churning out that cold air and the electric meter will run faster. Well, for many of us that is what will happen, but for many others the thermostat will be turned to cool only to find that the air conditioning unit won't cool .

Some systems are just old and worn out. However, some are only a few years old and not working . So you call the local heating and cooling company and a technician comes to your house, says "hello," takes his gauges out of the truck, and goes directly to the outdoor air conditioning unit. He soon returns to tell you that the unit has a mechanical problem or is low on freon. If it is low on refrigerant gas, he charges the system and says "it's OK now." You turn the unit on and sure enough, good cold air is coming out of the registers.

All is well for perhaps another year or two and it happens again. Freon is added and all is well for a couple of more years when you find that the compressor is now bad.

Let's think about this. If your unit is only three or four years old, why did it lose the freon? A neighbor might have the same unit as you and never have a problem with his/her unit. If the leak is not fixed, it is sure to leak again.

Air conditioner failures can be caused by a number of things. It may be a manufacturer's problem or an installer's mistake. But there's another cause you may not be aware of — restricted air flow. Restricted air flow will shorten the system's life and reduce the system's performance.

Please remember this famous Doug Rye quote, "An

air conditioner cannot blow more air out than it can suck in." In some cases, restricted air flow can be caused by furniture placement. However, it is usually caused by a dirty filter, or an undersized return air filter grill.

How often do you need to change the AC filter in your house? Some say every month, but I'm telling you it is "as needed." Some may need to change them monthly, some every two months, some every six

months, etc. As related to return air filter grills, one needs approximately 2 square feet of filter grill per ton (12,000 British thermal units) of cooling.

So if you have a 3-ton air conditioning system, you need 6 square feet of return air filter grill for the system to operate at maximum capacity and not stress the equipment. Remember, it is impossible to oversize the return air system — the larger the return air, the better. I know

what many of you are thinking, "Well, my return air is only half the size it needs to be!" Well, the next time the technician comes to your house to add freon or other repairs, ask him about increasing the size of your return air filter grill.

Stay cool and see you next month!

P.S. Before you start calling me, I am very much aware that most air conditioning refrigerant is not now freon, but all readers recognize that term.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.ecark.org



POWERLINE Press

An end to water waste

New technology reduces water waste in homes and businesses

It is estimated that a leaking or stuck open toilet flapper can lead to more than 6,000 gallons of wasted water flow in a single day. For one Arizona man, an open flapper on a toilet in one of his unattended rental properties led to water leakage for over two weeks and a whopping bill of over \$2,800 for the month.

According to the EPA and the American Water Works Association, the toilet is the No. 1 water wasting appliance in the house. But now a unique toilet technology called the H2Orb Water Management System is being launched to flush that problem away for consumers.

The patented H2Orb by AquaOne Technologies, LLC is an answer to the problem of toilet leaks, stuck open flappers, leaky fill valves and more. If the toilet begins to run excessively, the H2Orb's integrated smart valve, designed around Texas Instruments technology, intercepts the flow of water to the toilet tank before the leak becomes a huge problem and expense.

Conversely, if the water level in the bowl gets too high, the H2Orb shuts off the water supply so not even a second flush is possible. H2Orb's audible alarm and easily visible control panel screen also alert you that a fault has occurred in the system.

Obviously, the H2Orb is environmentally friendly because of its water-saving capabilities. And from a cost-savings standpoint,

the H2Orb can pay for itself in water savings within the first year just by stopping a leaky toilet. Another added bonus is that installing an H2ORB system is simple and can be completed in less than 10 minutes.

The H2Orb is the brainchild of AquaOne Technologies, LLC, the company that launched the infamous Fish n Flush toilet tank aquarium a few years back. Strangely enough, water conservation was not even the original purpose of the H2Orb. It was initially designed to eliminate simple toilet overflows that dump just a gallon or two of water on the floor. That design was in response to the unfortunate death of a 90-year-old Alzheimer's patient.

While staying at a senior living facility, the man often overflowed his toilet. One day after an overflow, he slipped on the standing water on the floor, breaking his hip. A few months later, he passed away due to complications from the injury. AquaOne Technologies, LLC Founder Richard Quintana was the facilities director at that nursing home at that time. He was unable to find a quality and effective overflow prevention device on the market, so Quintana set forth to invent the first of a generation of quality products from AquaOne Technologies, leading to the launch of the H2Orb Water Management System.

ter Management System.

The H2Orb retails for \$127 and is available at: www.theH2Orb.com. For more information call: 866-598-3474.



Employee Anniversaries

The Cooperative would like to say a special thanks to the following employees who have August anniversaries.



Celebrating 31 years with the Cooperative is Journeyman Lineman, Randy Yant.



Journeyman lineman, Tim Bowling has been with the Cooperative for 20 years.



Sonny Clark, staking engineer, is celebrating his 19th year with the Cooperative.



Celebrating his 4th year with the Cooperative is Garry Anderson, a journeyman lineman.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative was held Monday, June 15, 2009, at the Cooperative office in Sikeston, Missouri. Rick Faulkner, Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. The following board members were present: Rick Faulkner, John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Clyde Hawes, Charles Marshall, Carl Eftink, Butch Dirnberger, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, and Dennis Fowler. Absent was Tim Coppage. Also in attendance was Reuben L. Jeane, General Manager, acting as secretary.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of May 18, 2009, as mailed.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Organizational Meeting held following the 2009 Annual Meeting on May 21, 2009.

Rick Faulkner then welcomed the new board member, Carla Moore.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Randal Tennison, Financial Manager, was then called upon to give the monthly financial report. Year to date revenue was \$10,156,000. Cost of purchased power was \$6,216,000. As anticipated, expenses were well above the budget. Administrative and general expenses were in excess of \$112,000 above the budgeted amount. Year-to-date interest on short-term loans was \$206,000. The total cost of electrical service was \$10,551,000, well above the anticipated budgeted amount of \$10,035,000. In review of the non-operating items, year-to-date margins were negative \$348,905. A review of the balance sheet showed a total of \$13.2 million in construction work in progress. Repairs due to the storm damage have cost the Cooperative \$2.9 million in materials and supplies. Short-term note funds drawn due to storm repairs were \$18,000,000 with long-term debt being \$23,648,000. The dramatic increase in the cost of power continues not only locally but nation wide with the average cost being \$5.59 locally and \$5.09 nation wide. The annual growth rate decreased due to the extended time members were without power and the weather being uncharacteristically cool for this time of year. A review of disbursements and directors' expenses were reviewed. The General Manager then updated the Board on FEMA reimbursements. The Cooperative submitted a total of \$26,072,371.75 to FEMA for processing. There is an additional \$5.4 million in mitigation expenses that will be reevaluated.

Jerry Dockins then gave the customer service report. A review of the number of active meters showed a negative number over a year ago at this time. Sales were negative 0.2% year-to-date.

Larry Kelly, Engineering Manager, then gave his report showing 29 new services and a tremendous amount of irrigation services being built. FEMA items in his report included mitigation measure project costs being submitted along with re-conducting projects.

Marty Vineyard, Operations Manager, presented his report stating there were 106 outages and 68 completed work orders. There were five construction crews continuing to work on the massive work load since the storm and a total of five right-of-way crews.

In the absence of Ron Montgomery due to a funeral in the family, the materials and fleet report was submitted to the Board for review.

Marla Wood, Executive Assistant, then gave the human resource report. There was one individual still out on light duty. The wellness program is planned for the very near future. In the absence of Glen Cantrell, his report was submitted to the Board for review.

After comments from the Board about all staff reports, motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the reports as presented.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager then gave his monthly report. He informed the Board that the Cooperative received \$250,000 from FEMA for the first two small projects that were submitted and completed forward. Work on the system has slowed due to vacation schedules, sickness, injuries and rainy weather. Irrigation work orders are being completed as quickly as possible.

Due to thunder storms, several of the AMI radios were struck by lightning and knocked out. These are being replaced as quickly as possible and some of the meters are now communicating back to our system.

The General Manager informed the Board that the Cooperative experienced a wholesale rate increase of 9% in April which was not passed onto the members. It is anticipated that the storm cost increase will be 10% and that the Cooperative will need between 15% - 20% rate increase within the next 6 months. The Board directed the General Manager to be vigilant in studying this problem and to get assistance with rate studies to insure that the Cooperative's costs are properly spread among the membership.

The General Manager requested that in order to facilitate his vacation schedule, the Board reschedule the August board meeting from Monday, the 17th, to Friday, the 14th. After a discussion, motion was made and seconded that the August board meeting be rescheduled for Friday, August 14th beginning at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

POWER SUPPLY REPORT

Clyde Hawes then gave the power supply report. After a discussion of current issues at M&A Power Cooperative and Associated Electric Cooperative, motion was made to accept his report as presented. Motion seconded and carried.

AMEC REPORT

There was no AMEC report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be brought before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made for membership action to be taken to receive new members and to cancel memberships with those members who have been disconnected. Motion was seconded and carried.

Membership concerns were then discussed. Problems with line issues were reported to the General Manager who passed them on to staff members.

There was a short discussion about board member attendance of meetings.

The annual meeting was then discussed. The Board informed the General Manager of the numerous comments about liking the blue grass music and that there were several complaints about the speakers speaking too long. The General Manager was advised to take note of these praises and complaints for planning future annual meetings.

Following an executive session and there being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Tim Coppage, Secretary

Richard Faulkner, President