

# “Hotlines”

Published Monthly  
for the Members of  
Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Cherokee, OK  
www.aec.coop



**POWER OUTAGE?**  
**(580) 596-3333 OR**  
**1-888-736-3837**

May 2016

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## AREA NEWS BRIEFS

**May 8 Mother's Day**  
Show the deserved honor  
and respect to mothers  
and grandmothers.

**May 21 Armed Forces Day**  
Pay tribute and honor  
to the women and men  
serving in the Armed  
Forces.

**May 30 Memorial Day**  
Remember all Armed  
Services personnel killed  
in wars in the defense of  
our country.

**May 31-June 3**  
**YOUTHPOWER Energy**  
**Camp 8th graders learn**  
**about co-ops and**  
**electricity.**

**TIME TO GET YOUR**  
**AIR CONDITIONER**  
**CHECKED BEFORE THE**  
**TEMPERATURE HEATS UP.**  
**CALL AEC SERVICES, INC.**  
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Alfalfa Electric Board of Trustees and CEO Colin Whitley join Keith Smith of the Cherokee American Legion in the the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

## 80th Annual Meeting a success

By Robyn Turney

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was a special time for all. The night began with a buffet-style meal prepared by Klein's Catering that had several choices of meats, salads, and vegetables.

Adults and children enjoyed the outdoor activities. The trackless train seemed to be a favorite for kids and their parents, too.

AEC members received a handy emergency roadside kit. An information booth for the SmartHub app was busy most of the evening. If you haven't checked out this useful app (you can even report outages with it), stop by AEC and find out how to get connected. Some of the Capital Credit checks totaling \$1,300,000 were picked up by members. Those unable to attend the Annual Meeting can still come to the AEC offices

to receive their Capital Credit checks.

The Prairie Rose Rangers entertained the crowd with their humor and musical talent. Freshman Casey Luddington sang the National Anthem after the Cherokee American Legion impressively presented the Colors. With daughter Paula Crandall at his side, former Merchant Marine Loyd Stout was honored, as well as other military personnel in attendance. The American Legion presented a special award of recognition to Don Provost for his 70 years of unbroken membership to the American Legion. Don's daughter LaDonna Groves accompanied her dad as he received a plaque and a standing ovation.

Dennis Ferrell fulfilled his final duties as president by residing over the meeting. CEO Colin Whitley and Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Carl Newton presented

*(continued on page 2)*

## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

**Lora Miller**  
Member Services  
Clerk



Lora Miller has a talent for working with the members of Alfalfa Electric. Employed here for 6 years, Lora has worked as a cashier and now has the title of Member Services Clerk. Her job requires her to work with both the AEC members and also the AEC linemen.

"I knew within the first week of employment that this was where I wanted to work until retirement. It was all because of the people that work here." Lora enjoys working with her fellow employees, and the feeling is mutual.

Lora was born in Kingfisher, OK, but grew up at Aline, OK. She attended Aline-Cleo Schools until 1987 when she moved to Texas. In 2009, Lora returned to Aline where she currently lives.

At the age of 4, Lora began participating in rodeos. She even competed as a bull rider from age 8 to 16. When Lora was 20 years old, she gave up her rodeo career.

Lora and her husband Royce have 2 boys, Tristan and Blake. The family would not be complete without their 4 dogs and 2 cats. Her marriage of almost 18 years and her 2 boys are what make her proud. The good Lord above has inspired Lora. "He has always lifted me up and forgiven me. If He can do this for me, then I can do it for others."

Lora spends some of her spare time reading. She loves playing video games and just hanging out with her family. To relax, Lora knits and crochets. Enjoy that free time, Lora. You deserve it.

(continued from page 1) reports that concluded that AEC had another productive year. AEC has a reputation of being one of the most financially conservative electric cooperatives in Oklahoma. This past year AEC had the lowest amount of long term debt at \$6.44 million of all the electric cooperatives in the state. AEC's annual growth based on percent in kWh sold was the highest in Oklahoma and the second highest among electric cooperatives in the entire nation! Now that is something to be proud of, for sure.

Trustees Dr. Carl Newton, Debbie Ferguson, and Dennis Ferrell were given time to speak to the Annual Meeting crowd. All three trustees shared much of the same sentiments. They were leaving Alfalfa Electric Cooperative at a time when the co-op is flourishing and hoped to see the success continue. Trustees complimented the AEC employees as well as CEO Colin Whitley. The co-op had been a fulfilling part of their lives, and they were thankful for the

time spent serving AEC.

The favorite part of the meeting for most members was the drawing for the prizes, especially if you were a winner. Along with the usual prizes and \$50 cash prizes, AEC awarded \$500 to a member in each of the 8 districts. This year's winners were District 1-Louise Darr, District 2-Kyle Puffinbarger, District 3-Dona Jantzen, District 4-Terry Bane, District 5-Shirley Cunningham, District 6-Penny Gentry, District 7-Virgil Shafer, and District 8-Jim Hudgens. Danny and Rosetta Harris were the lucky winners of the Grand Prize John Deere Gator.

No AEC members went home empty handed. Every member left with at least the registration gift and a Capital Credits check – and, of course, a full belly from the buffet. The 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was an entertaining night for all. Alfalfa Electric Cooperative looks forward to next year's Annual Meeting and to serving our members for many years in the future.



Members and their children were not the only ones enjoying the outdoor activities. AEC Executive Secretary Linda Warner checks out the trackless train from the engineer's seat. Old and young alike were excited to see a train return to the Annual Meeting festivities.

# Another popular Gator Give-away

By Robyn Turney

Giving away a John Deere Gator is a great deal of fun – but there can only be one winner. Hoping to be *that* lucky winner, hundreds of members attended AEC's 80th Annual Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Already feeling like a big winner, Danny and Rosetta Harris attended the meeting.

Just 2 days before the meeting, the couple saw their home and a shed full of farm equipment narrowly escape one of the many wildfires in the Woods County area. A fire that started northwest of Alva made it to the west side of the town of Alva. The tree row just north of the Harris' shed was in flames. Firefighters were able to stop the fire from moving further to their shed and to their home. They felt very fortunate that day and were very appreciative of the work of the firemen.

Danny and Rosetta were just continuing the tradition of his parents

by attending AEC's Annual Meeting. Since they had never won anything before, they were not expecting to be a winner of anything. When they heard their name called for their district's \$500, they were so excited. Rosetta remembers, "We were just sitting there smiling at each other thinking how lucky we were."

Then they heard their name called a second time for the Grand Prize John Deere Gator. They were more than surprised and thought, "That can't be right! That's us again!" They knew that it was possible to still win the Gator, but never dreamed of it happening. They quickly traded in the \$500 for the John Deere Gator. In all the commotion, most people didn't realize that the new \$500 winner was sitting by Danny and Rosetta! Seats next to Rosetta and Danny at AEC's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting might be hard to come by.

The Harris family will put the Gator to good use on their farm. In fact, they had been looking to buy one because it would be so useful to them. Danny and Rosetta rotate crops such as wheat, corn, and canola. They plan to use their Gator to spray around fence posts and just to help with normal jobs on the farm.

What a blessed week for Danny and Rosetta Harris! They certainly enjoyed AEC's Annual Meeting, but they also wanted folks to know that they are quite pleased with the services that Alfalfa Electric provides them. When asked if they would return to next year's Annual Meeting, they replied, "Of course! Definitely!" Will the Harris family be winners again next year? I sure wouldn't bet against them.



Danny and Rosetta Harris from Alva, OK, were the winners of the Grand Prize John Deere Gator at AEC's 80th Annual Meeting.

# AEC begins spring cleaning

By Robyn Turney

Be prepared to hear the sounds of chainsaws beginning April 18. Spring has arrived and the trees are beginning to fill their branches with leaves. Sadly enough, many of these trees must be removed or at least trimmed back.

Members are discouraged from trimming their own trees near power lines. Trees that grow near these lines

can be dangerous and cause power outages for Alfalfa Electric members. The power lines need at least a 10 foot clearance from trees and vegetation. Before planting new trees this spring, AEC recommends looking up to make sure that the tree will not grow too close to overhead lines as it matures in years to come.

To help avoid dangerous situations

and outages, AEC has hired a contractor. Davis Tree Service will begin trimming trees in the town of Cherokee. When workers complete the trimming in Cherokee, they will move on to Carmen, Nescatunga, Byron, Amorita, and then Freedom. This service is just another way for AEC ensure safety and reliable electricity.



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## Youth Tour students are big winners

By adding more scholarship money, Alfalfa Electric stepped up its game this year for its 2016 Youth Tour Program. Area students submitted essays on the 7<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Principle, Concern for the Community. Students were amazed to see the numerous ways that AEC gives back to the communities.

On the evening of March 22, the six finalists went through an

interview process and attended a banquet to receive their awards. AEC acknowledged the efforts of their teachers – Katie Strehl, Freedom; Chelsea Edington, Kremlin-Hillsdale; Gina Bohlen, Ringwood; Meagan Henry, South Barber, KS; and Carly Williams, Waynoka. After the students read their essays, Marketing and Public Relations Manager Terry Ryel announced the awards.

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District 7

**Joe Waggoner**  
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District 5

**John Regier**  
Ringwood, OK  
District 4



**2016 Youth Tour Winners:** Sabrina Hughbanks, South Barber, KS - Washington, D.C. trip & \$500; Samantha Greer, Freedom - \$500; McKayla Holson, Waynoka - Steamboat Springs, CO trip & \$500; Sam Meek, Waynoka - \$500; Nick Nakvinda, Ringwood - Steamboat Springs, CO trip & \$500; Carlee Salisbury, Kremlin-Hillsdale - Washington, D.C. trip & \$500; Jordan Harris, Kremlin-Hilldale - Washington, D.C. trip & \$500