

IEC Welcomes New General Manager

There's someone new sitting behind the desk in the general manager's office at Indian Electric Cooperative. But, it seems certain that sitting behind his desk will be just a small part of Todd Schroeder's new job as he has a strong record of getting involved beyond the office.

Moving to Cleveland from Missouri, Schroeder has volunteered as president of his former community's chamber of commerce and Rotary Club and served as a water and sewer commissioner for a municipality. His first public meeting in Cleveland was a noon Tuesday meeting of Cleveland Community Partners where he had not only a good first impression, but he got a glimpse of a strong business community. "I think I picked up on a number of people who are double, even triple tasking to keep things going in the community."

Under his leadership, Schroeder says IEC will be asking questions like: "What can we do to serve our area?" He said he has been part of welcome groups in his former communities to tell potential businesses about all parts of the communities, including the utilities. He says he feels it's always important to use available resources to bring in new businesses... new jobs and economic development.

During his first opportunity to talk to the IEC workforce, Schroeder emphasized, "Everything we do, we must first ask: 'How does this affect the membership?' Be it a purchase or a change in policy we must ask about the impact

it will have on our members." Schroeder said he's very impressed with the IEC workforce and is appreciative of the welcome he has received. He views IEC as a very solid organization that is "doing it the right way and will continue to do it the right way."

Schroeder also likes to leave the comfort zone to seek more innovative ways of doing things. "Doing this typically provides more options and positive impacts to our members — we won't be afraid to be innovative," he said.

Whatever the case might be, take solar powered energy, for example, Schroeder says it's important for the workforce of the co-op to educate itself so that education can be passed on to the IEC members. "We want our members to be informed,"

he said. Schroeder said he doesn't want IEC members to be worried about the future of electricity, but to trust the service they have come to trust over the years is the same service they can continue to count on. "I want them to think about us when they flip the switch and the light comes on," he said.

Schroeder describes himself as being fiscally responsible, or more simply "tight" when it comes to spending. That goes hand-in-hand with his philosophy of putting members first. "We operate under cooperative principles... putting members first is the cooperative way," he said.

Schroeder and his wife of 27 years, Jamie, CONTINUED INSIDE, PAGE 2



Todd Schroeder
IEC General Manager



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS OF THE MONTH

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.
Source: www.energy.gov

Co-op Announces New Business Hours

New operating hours have been approved by the IEC Board of Trustees. The new hours that will take affect April 19:

Monday through Thursday

7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday

7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Early last month it was announced that IEC's main lobby was re-opening after being closed for several months due to COVID-19 precautions.

Facial masks are required to visit the IEC lobby and guests are being asked to limit one person in the lobby at a time.

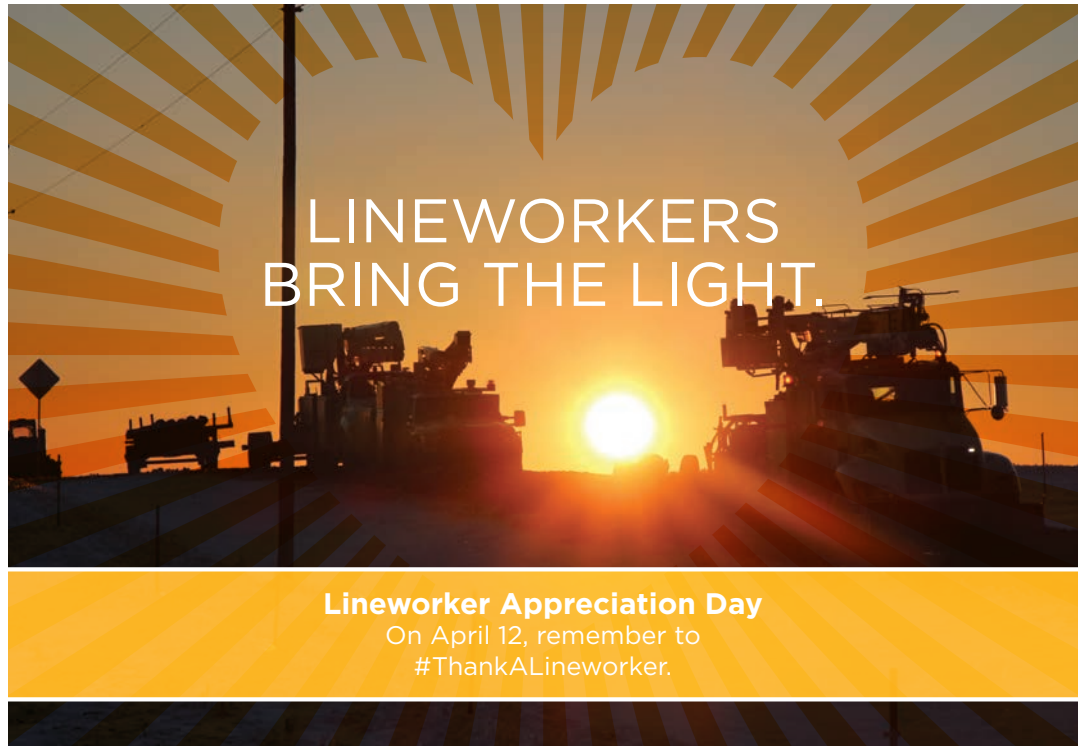
New GM

At IEC CONT. FROM PAGE 1

are parents to two sons. Mason is in pharmacy school at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Daughter-in-law Mary is an RN at Kansas City Children's Hospital. Both are graduates of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Max is a senior business management/market major at Aurora University in Illinois. Jamie, originally from Comanche, Okla. has been a middle school art teacher for over a decade. As an artist, her work is displayed in multiple galleries in two states.

Schroeder began his work in the electrical industry as a work study student for First Electric Co-op in Jacksonville, Ark. After obtaining a degree from the University of Arkansas in Surveying and Land Information Systems, he was hired to design substations and transmission lines at First Electric. In 2005 he was district manager for Heber Springs District for First Electric and in 2016 he was hired as general manager of Macon Electric Co-operative in Macon, Mo. In 2018 he took on the job of shared services general manager for Lewis County Rural Electric Co-op in Lewiston, Mo. while continuing to manage MEC.

Schroeder is a veteran having served in active duty for the Army for nine years, stationed in Germany, Korea and Fort Sill, Okla. He retired in 2014 after 25 years of both active duty and service in the Arkansas National Guard. He is a veteran of both Operation Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Thank a Lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Indian Electric Cooperative, we bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around

the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at IEC, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent IEC and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day. On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, we hope you'll join us in thanking them for their exceptional service. We also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

YOUTH TOUR ESSAY WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Abbey Flores
Pawnee High School



Bella Wilson
Pawnee High School



Brentlee Davenport
Mannford High School

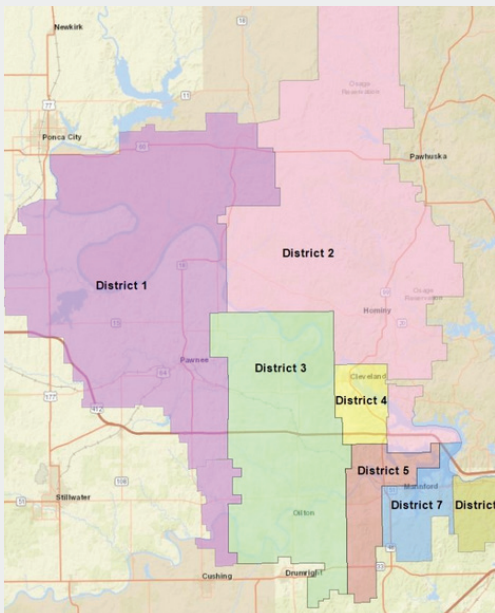


Isaac Arroyo
Mannford High School

IEC is pleased to announce the 2021 Youth Tour winners. An essay contest determined the winners. However, because of COVID-19, the trips to Washington, D.C. and Colorado were cancelled this year. Instead, IEC awarded laptop computers to the four Youth Tour winners.



Trustee Election FILING NOTICE



Any member of Indian Electric Cooperative desiring to serve as an IEC Board Trustee for the following districts, that meets the qualifications of a Trustee, and lives in the district may file a notice of candidacy during business hours at IEC's office in Cleveland, Okla.

***District 4* filing period April 13 through April 23, 2021**

***District 6* filing period April 14 through April 24, 2021**

***District 5* filing period April 20 through April 30, 2021**

***District 7* filing period April 21 through May 1, 2021**

If unsure of your district, it can be found on your IEC bill in the light blue box or you can call the IEC office at 918-295-9500.

Slurping on SUNSHINE



It's that time of year again when nearly everyone wants to be outside all day, every day. These are the times kids have been waiting for all year long.

The sun is shining bright in the sky, the flowers are blooming and the temperature is rising every minute. Spring and summer are typically full of fun, laughter, family and friends – not to mention great recipes everyone can enjoy indoors and outdoors throughout the warmer months.

Try this Sunshine Smoothie for something cool and refreshing during the sunny seasons. This recipe will have nearly everyone feeling re-energized and ready for more warm weather. It's a perfect afternoon pick-me-up after a long day of yard work, sunbathing or swing-set climbing. It can cool you down and has a fruity flavor that is almost irresistible.

When thinking about recipes to try this spring, consider taking advantage of fresh fruits and vegetables at grocery stores and farmer's markets. There can be so many wonderful flavors to try. For example, this recipe includes grapefruit (a less commonly used fruit), fresh orange and ripe bananas.

With the heat coming and fresh ingredients available, this smoothie may quickly become one of your family's new favorites. It's light, smooth and has that fresh fruit taste you often crave when the sun is blazing.

To make this recipe, blend 2 cups of grape juice, 2 cups of orange juice, two ripe bananas, 1 cup of vanilla yogurt and 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract until the ingredients are smooth. Be sure to serve cold.

It'll be nearly impossible to resist a sweet, bright and creamy smoothie after a long day of play out in the sun.

Find more seasonal recipes and ideas at Culinary.net.

Sunshine Smoothie

Servings: 2-4

- 2 cups orange juice
- 2 cups grapefruit juice
- 2 bananas, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 cup vanilla yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In blender, blend orange juice, grapefruit juice, banana chunks, yogurt and vanilla extract until smooth. Serve immediately.

Note: If smoothie is too tart, reduce to 1 cup grapefruit juice.

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(888) 472-1535

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(918) 295-9598

On the Web @

WWW.IECOK.COM



Office Hours

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon - Thurs

7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Friday

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Todd Schroeder - General Manager

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