

THE LAMP



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MONKEY IN THE CORNER

by Clara Eulert

We needed more time. More time to learn and make more contacts.

their place in the circle while they switch. Baker expressed satisfaction at the success of the lesson and experienced disappointment when other participants failed to follow through with their commitment to trade places, causing a loss of position. A real life example using a simple game drove home the cornerstone principle of trust. The day continued with similar activities strengthening participants existing leadership skills and introducing new ones.

We were there six short hours with a thirty minute lunch and two short 10 minute breaks and it just wasn't enough time."

These were Travis Baker's words after attending the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit, Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011 sponsored by Indian Electric Cooperative and Western Farmers Electric Cooperatives. Baker, son of Misty and Dusty Baker of Pawnee, represented IEC and joined a select group of Oklahoma high school seniors, eager to become leaders, at the fast paced summit in Oklahoma City.

The summit was lead by leadership trainer and motivational speaker, Rhett Laubach. Laubach challenged the students to understand trust as a cornerstone component in building relationships, loyal team members and training leaders.

The experience of trust was provided by a game called "Monkey in the Corner". A circle of participants with one individual in the middle is formed. The circle must communicate by eye contact only the desire to trade places without the individual in the middle stealing



From left: Rhett Laubach, Sarah Reasonor, Travis Baker, Kelly Barnes

"We needed more time. More time to learn and make contacts."

Travis Baker

Each student attending the summit is college bound and excited to prepare for their future. IEC supports our future leaders by awarding a \$250.00 scholarship to the Leadership Summit participant each year. To apply for this scholarship, high school juniors living in the Indian Electric Cooperative service territory may participate in the Youth Tour competition. Information regarding Youth Tour is available online at www.iecok.com or by contacting Clara Eulert, Youth Tour program coordinator. ♦

FIELDING SEES CONTINUING PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE.

By C.L. Harmon

It was like chatting with an old friend more than a journalistic interview. The purpose was to discuss Cleveland optometrist Dr. Greg Fielding's participation on IEC's Board of Trustees. The conversation moved around like chess pieces on a board. Fielding is next in line for The Lamp's continuing series of, "getting to know your trustees." He is currently the president of the board, a position he has held once before in 2001-2003 during his 16 years of service to co-op members.

We began talking as to why he became interested in working on the board when he is already busy with his practice and family.

It turns out that Fielding "loves" being involved in community affairs. In 1994 he had already been a member and president of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He explained that he was looking for something else and the small-town optometrist cast his eyes upon the elected position of IEC board trustee.

"I love it. We never have a dull moment and we really do have good board members," Fielding said. With each new question, we were moving into another direction of conversation.

He had been interested in the inner workings of rural electric cooperative for some time and felt this would give him the opportunity to learn about and contribute to his interest.

He said that when he joined the board in 1994. The prevalent issue at the time had to do with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) wanting co-ops to diversify and start selling cable and wireless services.

"There was a big push



for it and it was a big problem, but it fell on its face,” Fielding said. In the years that followed, there would be other problems and issues but none that he and his fellow board members wouldn’t handle.

He went on to talk about their latest challenge which is moving away from the burning of coal as a method to produce electricity. He said that 80% of the power IEC distributes is derived from the burning of coal. Coal is still the cheapest, most stable cost fuel for generating electricity.

Coal creates a two-fold problem he explained. The first being the ‘carbon footprint’ issue which deals with the greenhouse gases that are produced by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal. The E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency) regulations pertaining to the reduction of emitting these gasses force us to find a cleaner, more expensive, method to burn coal.

The second problem lies in the cost of shipping the coal to the plants. The coal comes from Wyoming and the added expense is reflected in member’s monthly bills.

“We are working on diversifying our generation technologies,” he said. The co-op currently uses natural gas, wind, and hydro power as methods of reducing carbon footprint. The Co-op works with KAMO who continuously looks into other options that technology makes available.

He said that he is happy to have been a part of the progress that has transpired over his time as a board member. Examples include, the

colossal undertaking of clearing the right-of-ways, installation of GPS in company trucks, retention of good employees, improvements in customer service, deploying a new IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system, and a new system for pole and equipment location, to name a few.

On a personal note, Fielding is an optometrist in Cleveland. He attended Oklahoma State University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University and studied optometry at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee.

A little known fact about Fielding is that he has two brothers who are also optometrists. One of those brothers had a practice in Cleveland. When Fielding graduated his brother convinced him to open up another office. Both brothers stayed busy until the bottom fell out of the oil market. A short time later his brother move to Cushing and opened up a practice in their home town.

“I love being an optometrist. I love Cleveland; it has been so good to me.” Fielding said.

He and his wife Liz have three children, a son, Ross, who just graduated with his master’s degree from OSU, a daughter, Katie, who is a junior at OSU and his youngest daughter, Sarah, who is a senior at Cleveland. Liz is a physical therapist and contracts to Cleveland and Woodland schools...oh yeah and he is a big Cleveland Tigers fan too. ♦

"I love it. We never have a dull moment and we really do have some good board members."

Greg Fielding

2010 IEC Christmas Home Lighting Drawing

Sharing the Christmas spirit is what it was all about for Cliff and Kimberly Hewitt when they entered the 2010 IEC Christmas Home Lighting Drawing. Their picture, drawn from the IEC prize hopper Dec. 22nd shortly after noon, won the Hewitt’s a \$100.00 bill credit on their January IEC electric bill. Congratulations Kimberly and Cliff. ♦



SAVE YOUR MONEY

Power saver ads are on the rise and cast intriguing claims that pique our interest. The concept seems palatable and lures us in for a closer look at the little gray box. It is a metal box professed to magically produce savings of 8-25 percent on our electric bill. What's the catch? Simply invest \$200-\$300 for a quick-fix device guaranteed to make a short-term return on your investment.

By our very business model, local electric cooperatives are consumer advocates, always striving to provide low-cost, reliable electricity. Staying apprised of credible energy efficiency measures and components is equally important. Many reputable testing entities have conducted comprehensive reports about the power saver devices. Universities, consumer protection testing laboratories and electric utilities all conclude from those reports that power saver devices do not produce any measurable kilowatt-hour reduction or dollar savings.

The power saver device is nothing other than two inexpensive capacitors, a couple of resistors and a LED light packaged in a metallic gray box and then sold at an exorbitant cost. The ads would have you believe the power saver corrects power factor and makes appliances last longer and run cooler, all while saving dollars. Although the claims about power factor have

just a hint of accuracy, the product itself does not reduce kilowatt-hour consumption on your electric bill.

So, hang on to your money. Invest in proven energy efficiency measures such as insulation and caulk. For more home comfort and energy efficiency tips, visit www.takecontrolandsave.coop and www.togetherwesave.com.



Recipe: Microwave Truffles

- 1/3 cup finely chopped pecans, toasted, divided
- 8 ounces semisweet chocolate
- 1/4 cup butter (no substitutes)
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract

Place 24 small foil candy cups in miniature muffin cups or on a baking sheet. Spoon 1/2 teaspoon pecans into each; set cups and remaining pecans aside. In a 2-qt. microwave-safe bowl, combine chocolate and butter. Microwave at 50% power for 1-1/2 to 2 minutes or until melted. Stir in the cream and the extract. Beat with an electric mixer until slightly thickened, scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Immediately pour into cups. Top with remaining pecans. Refrigerate until set.

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