



## LEAVENWORTH-JEFFERSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Powerline

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### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing lamps or TVs near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

## LJEC 2016 Youth Tour Winners

LJEC congratulates the 2016 youth tour winners. **LOUIS FALK, REBECCA LIEBENO** and **CELIA TAYLOR-PUCKETT** were selected to represent LJEC at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp at Steamboat Springs, CO, July 16-22.

Falk is a senior at Oskaloosa High School. He enjoys history, bowling, camping, fishing, and reading science fiction.

Liebeno is a junior at Tonganoxie High School. Liebeno's interests include running 5ks and mini-marathons. She also enjoys cooking and baking, camping, and watching movies.

Taylor-Puckett is a junior at Bishop Seabury Academy in Lawrence. Taylor-Puckett enjoys photography, sports, star gazing, and volunteering. She also has interests in space, planets and the unknown.

The Cooperative

Youth Leadership Camp allows students from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming to learn more about a cooperative and develop their leadership skills together. The students will enjoy white water rafting on the Colorado River, touring the Trapper Coal Mine and Craig Generation Plant, visiting Mt. Werner and participating in a variety of camp activities.

**JACHIN DRINKARD** will represent LJEC at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 9-16. Drinkard is a junior at Valley Falls High School. He is interested in electrical



Jachin Drinkard



Louis Falk



Rebecca Liebeno



Celia Taylor-Puckett

and aerospace engineering, Nikola Tesla (an inventor) and wireless electricity.

During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, they will tour the Smithsonian Museums, have breakfast with legislators on Capitol Hill, tour the memorials and take a dance cruise on the Potomac River.

## Pay Online Using SmartHub

A new online bill pay option is now available at LJEC!

To utilize the pay now feature visit <https://ljec.smarthub.coop/PayNow>. (The URL is case sensitive.) If you have trouble accessing this website, please contact the office for assistance.



## Make the Most of Your Ceiling Fans

Ceiling fans are helpful tools in keeping your home's indoor temperatures comfortable and if used properly, they can also help lower your energy costs.

Use the following tips to make the most of your ceiling fans:

**1 Flip the switch** – Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades to change the blade direction. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counterclockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill.” Fans make the air near them feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate clockwise, creating a gentle updraft. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.

**2 Adjust your thermostat** – In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat's set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won't turn on as frequently.

**3 Choose the right size** – Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan with a diameter of 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.

**4 Turn it off** – When the room is unoccupied, save electricity by turning the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people, not rooms.

## Edgecomb Begins New Role



Brent Edgecomb

Brent Edgecomb began his new role as Director of Information Technology for the Kaw Valley Electric and LJEC Alliance on January 25.

As a native of Ottawa, he studied Management Information Systems at Ot-

tawa University, while simultaneously providing leadership in the University's IT department for nearly 14 years. Brent's curiosity and drive in the field of Information Technology made the move to the cooperative world a natural fit.

His current position allows him to express his creativity and passion for technology, while also provide meaningful benefits to the cooperatives and members.

## Celebrating Lineman Appreciation Day

On April 11, LJEC served the linemen and staff breakfast to celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

In addition, Steve Foss, CEO, presented a Board resolution recognizing the dedication and commitment of the line staff to Kaw Valley members.

“Our linemen are the first responders of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines,” Foss said. “Conditions can be dangerous, but they power through to ensure



Steve Foss, CEO, addresses LJEC linemen and staff on National Lineman Appreciation Day.

reliable service for our members.”

LJEC and its members appreciate the work the linemen do to keep the power flowing and protect the public's safety.



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

Help prevent home fires! Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home – and tested every month.



#electricalsafetymonth

# Dempsey Inducted into Cooperative Hall of Fame

The late **AMBROSE DEMPSEY**, former Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative Board of Directors President, was inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame on March 15.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is valued for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone “above and beyond the call” in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

## Cooperative Involvement

Dempsey was a charter member of LJEC. In the 1930s, Dempsey personally visited neighbors throughout Leavenworth and Jefferson counties to encourage the formation of LJEC. When residents asked,

“What is in it for you?” Dempsey answered, “Nothing is in it for me, but electric cooperatives are important in rural areas and we need this to move forward and evolve.” Seventy-five years later, LJEC is still an integral part of rural life in these counties and will continue to serve its members. As a member of LJEC, Dempsey served on the Board of Directors from 1946 to 1987 and was President from 1974 to 1982.

“Dempsey knew the importance of cooperatives to the agriculture industry,” said Steve Foss, General Manager of LJEC. “He was a firm believer that rural and urban Kansans needed each other, and he worked tirelessly to spread that mentality throughout Topeka.”

## Political Achievements

Dempsey also served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1954 to 1985. Over his 30 years in the Kansas Legislature, Dempsey was well respected and held multiple influential roles.

As a member of the Kansas Legislature, Dempsey helped lead the fight for territorial protection for Kansas electric cooperatives.

“Dempsey served as a mentor regarding issues affecting rural Kansas,” said Foss. “He provided constituents, colleagues, and others with valuable information to make decisions that would affect Kansans, cooperatives, and rural communities.”

“Dempsey never missed an opportunity to educate his urban colleagues in the legislature about the importance of cooperatives,” added Foss. “He firmly believed the cooperative improves the lives of those who live on a farm and in small towns. He was an advocate for improving the quality of life in rural Kansas. He had an interest in rural Kansas with a deep respect for the values one learns working on a farm.”



Attending the induction into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame included both family and representatives from the electric cooperatives. From left: Steve Foss, LJEC; Dale and Mary Kurtenbach (Ambrose's niece); Ken Doege (Ambrose's step-son); and Joe Heinen, LJEC retiree.

In addition, Dempsey was instrumental in establishing the State Milk Inspection Fund, now known as the Dairy Inspection Program, which regulates the production, transportation, processing and distribution of dairy products across the state of Kansas.

Along with former Governor John Carlin, Dempsey promoted innovation and worked diligently to relocate Kansas State University's dairy unit in an effort to help the dairy industry expand and grow.

“Getting the state resources to move the milking operation at Kansas State University from right on campus to a more appropriate location with modern facilities was one of our proudest moments,” recalled Carlin.

## Building Rural Communities

Dempsey continually used his leadership roles as a platform to be an advocate for Kansas rural communities and electric cooperatives. He made a significant contribution to the creation of the National Agriculture Center and Hall of Fame, serving as a member of the Board of Governors and the Board of Directors.

In 1982, after 17 years of planning and visionary work, groundbreaking on a Rural Electric Conference Center began. This facility provided the National Agriculture Center and Hall of Fame with sophisticated equipment to assist in telling the story of American agriculture.

“He was a tireless advocate for improving the quality of life in rural Kansas,” said Jim Slattery, former Member of Congress.

The Hall of Fame awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 15 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Joe Heinen, retired LJEC assistant manager, nominated Dempsey for the Hall of Fame.



# The Dangers of Electric Shock Drowning

Despite being categorized as leisure activities, swimming and boating can quickly become dangerous. While water-safety behaviors such as wearing life jackets and maintaining safe boating speeds have become commonplace, a serious hazard remains that is often overlooked. This silent killer, classified as electric shock drowning, occurs in fresh water when a typically low level alternating current (AC) passes through the body, which causes muscular paralysis and eventually leads to drowning.

Electrical Safety Foundation International president Brett Brenner said, "although there are reported incidents every year, there is a lack of awareness about the dangers of electric shock drowning." A 21-year-old Illinois man died in 2015 when touching a dock ladder at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. Additionally, there were at least two fatalities in Kentucky in 2013, and a pair of deaths in both Missouri and Tennessee during the Fourth of July holiday in 2012. Further, electric shock drowning deaths are usually recorded as drowning because victims show no signs of burns, so many instances remain undocumented.

While a lack of awareness persists about the dangers of electric shock drowning, positive strides are being taken to combat the problem. In Tennessee, state legislators passed the Noah Dean and Nate Act in 2014, which protects state residents from electric shock injuries and drowning deaths near marinas and boat docks. The bill is named in memory of 10-year-old Noah Dean Winstead and 11-year-old Nate Lynam, who died from electrical injuries they suffered on July 4, 2012, at a marina in Tennessee. Jessica Winstead, Noah Dean's mother, was the driving force behind the bill as a result of her tireless crusade to prevent similar tragedies from occurring. An inspection following the tragic incident found that the marina did not have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Under the "Noah Dean and Nate Act," Tennessee marinas must install ground fault protection, post notices about the danger of electrical leakage into waters surrounding a marina, and undergo a safety inspection conducted by the state fire marshal between Jan. 1, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2017, and every five years thereafter. The law went into effect April 1, 2015. A similar law was passed in West Virginia in 2013 following the death of Michael Cunningham, three years after he passed away at the age of 15, as well as in Arkansas in 2012 after several electrocutions near docks there and in surrounding states.

The 2011 National Electrical Code addresses the dangers in marinas and boat yards by requiring the main overcurrent protective device to be GFCI-protected. However, this only applies to installations and inspections, which are recommended annually but not enforced.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risk of electric shock drowning and common boat electrical hazards with these tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

- ▶ Don't swim near docks. Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat.
- ▶ Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
- ▶ If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified. Get out as soon as possible avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders.
- ▶ Have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician who is familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70.
- ▶ Have GFCIs installed on your boat and test them once a month.
- ▶ Consider having Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat.
- ▶ Only use shore or marine power cords, plugs, receptacles and extension cords that have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL).
- ▶ Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered.
- ▶ Never stand or swim in water when turning off electrical devices or switches.
- ▶ Electric shock drowning can also occur in swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas. Have an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa or hot tub in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code (NEC).

For ESFI's complete collection of boating and marina safety resources, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

