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KEC's 68th Annual Meeting will be held Tues., July 17, 2007. Mark your calendar now!

KILOWATT
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Baccus and Stewart Receive Top Honors in Kiwash Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour Contest

Hard work has paid off for two high school juniors as they make plans to tour the nation's capital this summer. Angilla Baccus of Arapaho High School and Lauren Stewart of Sentinel High School took top honors in the Kiwash Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Contest. Each of these winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.

Angilla is the daughter of Rodney and Norma Baccus of Clinton. Lauren is the daughter of Mindy Slaughterback of Cordell and Robert Stewart of Hobart. Angilla and Lauren have an exciting fun filled week ahead of them during June 8-14. The two juniors will have an opportunity to become acquainted with other prominent young people from all across Oklahoma, as well as those from other states. Not only will they learn about rural electric cooperatives, they will have a better insight of American history and government. The students will meet Congressmen and Senators and tour historical sights in and around Washington D.C.



Left to Right, Angilla Baccus, Lauren Stewart, Board of Director President, Ralph Cunningham, Laura Rice and Konstanza Schiemann.

Runners-up in the contest were Laura Rice from Sentinel High School and Konstanze Schiemann of Hobart High School. Laura is the daughter of Howard and Carol Rice of Sentinel. Konstanze is a foreign exchange student residing with Mike and Pilar Rivero of Hobart.

In order to reach the finals, the contestants had to be one of the four highest scores on a written test that had been given to approximately 60 juniors that attend a school within Kiwash Electric's service territory. The contest concluded with a banquet at the Washita County Activity Center in Cordell, honoring the top four contestants and their families. Following the banquet, a panel of two judges conducted interviews. The contestants were scored on knowledge of the subject, speaking ability, poise and personality, and appearance.

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives has been an active sponsor of the Youth Tour since 1963. More than 2,100 students have been sponsored on trips to the nation's capital in the last forty-four years. Kiwash Electric Cooperative has been offering the Youth Tour Program for the past 24 years.



Manager's Monologue
Dennis Krueger



Thoughts Beyond the Homestead

I've just returned from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual meeting, and each year I ask, "is it worth it to attend this meeting?" During this meeting I had the opportunity and privilege of talking with some very interesting people that gave me great insight in the electric cooperative industry. It is so easy for any cooperative to fall into the pitfall of just completing the day-to-day activities without considering the future. It's the old syndrome of "not seeing the forest for the trees."

These unique individuals included managers from other electric cooperatives and our own hometown hero Mr. Glenn English currently the CEO of NRECA. My conversations with all these people revolved around the national issues surrounding cooperatives and the pro-active approach we must take to overcome obstacles. Cooperatives must be proactive in many electric initiatives including; legislative issues, rejuvenating the local economy, progressive community development activities, keeping current on generation and distribution issues, captive shipper railroad rates for coal delivery, energy conservation efforts, regional transmission issues, etc. An understanding of all of these issues allows me a clearer picture of our mission and how we can serve our membership.

Rising electric costs were also a major topic of concern across the nation. A number of economic factors across the nation have contributed to this rising price of electricity and Kiwash is facing these issues as well. Some of these issues mentioned in my conversation with cooperative leaders included:

- Increasing electric demand by the membership, this translates into new generation facilities.
- Increased regulation being placed on coal-fired electric plant to reduce emissions; even though the scientific community does not concur with environmentalists on the cause and effect of such emissions to the environment.
- Unstable costs of natural gas.
- Inconsistencies or fluctuating wind generation production.
- An aging infrastructure (distribution & transmission) that requires new investment, which Kiwash has been working on for about 5 years now.
- Double and in some cases triple digit increases in the cost of equipment and material required to provide you electricity.
- Captive shipping of coal by railroads.
- A movement to stop coal-fired plants from being built even though coal generation is a cheaper form of new generation than natural gas and wind.

My office can fully relate to the rising economic factors that haunts the nations electric companies and our distribution organization. Kiwash Electric Cooperative, which has ownership of our generation & transmission company Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, has been proactive in many of the above mentioned issues and concerns from new generation facilities, to increasing service reliability concerns, to working with community leaders on new jobs, giving members ways to conserve energy, and much more.

I appreciate the opportunity to attend the NRECA Annual meeting which allowed me to gain the knowledge and insight from Mr. English, cooperative managers from across the nation, and other informed individuals so that I can come home revitalized and ready to find ways to improve your cooperative. It is satisfying to know that our issues are similar to other cooperatives and together, maybe, we can solve them. This national meeting has truly instilled in me "The Power of Human Connections," which is the motto for Touchstone Energy, and the opportunity allowed me to bring new innovation back home.

Efficient Living

The next time you go shopping for a new appliance you might be drawn to the one with the lowest price tag. Smart shoppers will go a step further and check out the operating costs over the life of the appliance. According to the US Department of Energy, different models of refrigerators with the same storage space can vary noticeably in the amount of electricity they use. As a result, you may actually save money by buying the more expensive, yet more energy-efficient model.

Even if two models look the same from the outside, the features on the inside can make a difference in your monthly utility bills. Most of the differences are in the motors, compressors, pumps, valves, gaskets and seals, or in electronic sensors.

You can learn about the energy efficiency of an appliance through the yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label on the appliance. Some appliances also may feature the EnergyStar logo, which means that the appliance uses considerably less energy than a similar model.

You can also make your present appliance more energy efficient by doing the following:

- Move your refrigerator away from the stove, dishwasher or heat vents. Vacuum the coils periodically to reduce dirt buildup. Check the doors for air leaks and defrost the freezer when more than a quarter-inch of ice builds up.
- Use pots that fit the size of your stove burners and use lids on your pots and pans so you can cook your food at a lower temperature.
- Make sure the water level on your washer is the correct setting for the amount of clothes you are washing.
- Clean your clothes dryer filters after each use.
- Wash clothes in cold or warm water.
- Check to see that the temperature on your water heater is set to 120 degrees.

By purchasing energy efficient appliances and using them properly, you can save each month on your energy bill.

Shed new light on energy savings!



FACT

Compact Fluorescent Lamps **use one fourth of the electricity** of a traditional bulb.



FACT

Compact Fluorescent Lamps **last ten times longer** than standard bulbs!



FACT

Compact Fluorescent Lamps **produce low heat**, so it takes less energy to cool your home. Even more savings!



CONCLUSION

You'll be amazed at just how fast the savings add up!

TCP



Save 75%
or more on
lighting your
home!



Do the Math, Save the Money!

The average home has 20 sockets. If 10 bulbs in your home are 14 watt CFLs, and 10 bulbs are 23 watt CFLs, your total house savings over the life of all 20 bulbs will equal **\$1230!** That's over **\$100** per year based on just 3 hours of usage a day!

Kiwash Electric Cooperative Awards Four \$500.00 Scholarships

Congratulations to Kent Abernathy, Carissa Taylor, Katie Kennemer, and Weston Schmidt. They are the winners of this year's essay contest that is sponsored through Kiwash Electric Cooperative's Youth Program. The theme of this year's essay contest was "How has rural electrification changed country living in my area?" The four winners will each receive a \$500 scholarship to be used toward 2007-2008 college tuition.

Kent is a senior at Cordell High School and the son of Bob and Jolyna Abernathy. Carissa, the daughter of Cary and LaDonna Taylor is a senior at Thomas Fay-Custer High School. Katie, a senior at Burns Flat-Dill City High School is the daughter of Steve and Connie Kennemer. A senior at Cordell High School, Weston is the son of Les and Dalene Schmidt.

Kiwash Electric has been offering the scholarship program for the past 22 years. The scholarship program is offered to all Kiwash Electric Cooperative members' children who will be a high school graduate from a school within KEC's service area. Essays are judged on the student's understanding and knowledge of the subject, originality, creativity, composition, neatness and grammar.



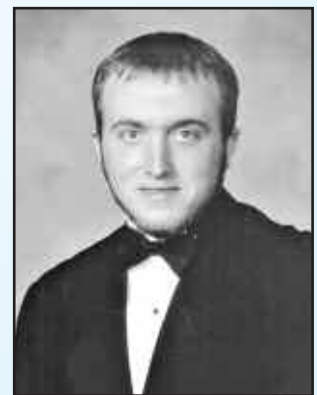
Kent Abernathy



Katie Kennemer



Carissa Taylor



Weston Schmidt

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