



BLUESTEM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
www.bluestemelectric.com
February 2006

614 E Hwy 24
P.O. Box 5
Wamego, KS 66547
Phone (785) 456-2212

524 Dexter
P.O. Box 513
Clay Center, KS 67432
(785) 632-3111

John George Retires From Bluestem After 35 Years of Employment

John began working for C&W Electric Cooperative in 1970. He worked for C&W through 1999 when C&W consolidated with PR&W to become Bluestem. He has held numerous positions at the cooperative, with his latest being Operations Foreman for Bluestem West.

On January 13, 2006, Bluestem employees celebrated John's retirement. We wish John many happy years of retirement while enjoying his grandchildren.

Right: John (center) with BEC President, Dean Blanka and General Manager, Ken Maginley receiving his retirement gift, an electric power meter lamp.



Bluestem Elections Held

BEC members of the respective districts elected the following cooperative members by mail ballot in December of 2005.

District 1, Position 2

Bruce Meyer – Palmer, 3 yr term

District 2, Position 1

Gary Buss – Leonardville, 3 yr term

District 3, Position 1

Harlan Sump – Olsburg, 3 yr term

District 4, Position 1

Ervin Gnadt – Alma, 3 yr term

ATTENTION: Need a Ride? Free Annual Meeting Transportation

Do you need a ride to the Annual Meeting this year? The Bluestem Electric Cooperative will be offering rides to the Bluestem Annual Meeting being held at the Wamego Middle School on March 27, 2006.

If you live in Bluestem Districts 1 or 2, previously known as C&W, and would like a ride to your Annual Meeting, please fill out the information sheet below and return to our office by March 10, 2006.

The vehicles will leave at approximately 6 p.m. from the Bluestem office in Clay Center and return shortly after the completion of the Annual Meeting.

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attention: Annual Meeting Planning Committee

P.O. Box 5

P.O. Box 513

Wamego, Kansas 66547

Clay Center, KS 67432

YES, I would like a free ride to the BEC Annual Meeting!

Indicate number of seats that will be needed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

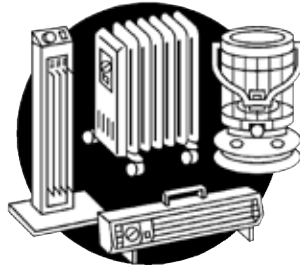
BEC Annual Meeting Next Month!

The Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on March 27, 2006, at the Wamego Middle School in Wamego, KS. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be sent in March.

Are You Warming Up With Space Heaters?

As the temperature drops, many families may use portable electric space heaters to help warm their homes. The Electrical Safety Foundation International warns that space heaters could cause fires and injuries if not used properly. Follow these few simple precautions:

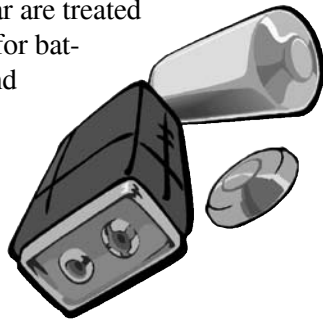
- Read the manufacturer's instruction manual before using any space heater. Check to make sure the heater bears the mark of a certified testing organization.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture and rugs.
- Keep space heaters away from areas with water. Check your manual to be sure the heater is intended to be used in locations such as bathrooms.



- Don't use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised. Children may stick their fingers or other objects through the protective guards, causing burns or shock.
- Avoid using an extension cord with a space heater. If you must use one, make sure it is the right wire gauge size and type for the heater.
- Portable heaters have hot parts that can cause sparking. Do not use them in areas where flammable liquids such as gasoline or kerosene are used or stored.
- Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Don't use them to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Turn off the space heater and unplug it when not in use.

Don't Get Burned By Batteries

About 3,700 people a year are treated in hospital emergency rooms for battery-related chemical burns and many of those treated are children under the age of 16. Take a few minutes to find out how to avoid the risk of being burned by household batteries:



- Take care when recharging. Rechargeable batteries are great, but you must be careful to use the right kind of charger for the type and size battery you have. Never use an automobile battery charger to recharge flashlight batteries, and never try to recharge a disposable battery; in both cases, the battery can easily rupture, which puts you at risk for a painful chemical burn.
- Don't mix batteries. If you try to replace just one of several old batteries in an appliance, the batteries may overheat and rupture. The same thing can happen if you mix alkaline batteries—the most common type—with carbon-zinc batteries in the same appliance. Always use a complete set of new batteries of the same type when replacing batteries.
- Install batteries properly. Be sure to put the positive and negative ends of the battery in the right position in your appliance; reversing the battery runs the risk of overheating, rupture, and chemical burn. This problem often arises when children try to replace batteries in toys. Don't let your kids replace batteries themselves; do it for them!

Changing or Cleaning Furnace Filters

By: John Krigger

The filter in your furnace or heat pump protects the blower, heating coils, and cooling coils from dirt. If these heating components get dirty, they are difficult and expensive to clean. Changing or cleaning your filters helps protect this critical equipment.

Your system's filter is located in either a return air grill in the living space, a main return grill near the furnace, or inside the furnace itself. It should slide out easily. If you can't find your filter, contact your heating or air-conditioning contractor.

Some inexpensive filters are made of fiberglass that is mounted in a cardboard frame. These are disposable, and you can buy them from home improvement stores. Other filters are washable, and are made of plastic fibers that are often blue in color. You can wash these with soap and warm water either in the bathtub or outdoors.

Many homes have electronic air cleaners or other high-efficiency filters that are designed to provide a higher level of indoor air cleaning. These filters need more attention than the standard filters because they get dirty quicker. Electronic air cleaners are usually cleaned by removing their core and washing them in an automatic dishwasher or with soap and water outdoors. Clean or replace these specialty filters according to the manufacturer's instructions packaged with the filter.

Your heating system will operate at peak efficiency if the filters are kept clean. Most filters should be changed or cleaned every few months – check yours periodically to see how quickly they get dirty.

Happy Valentine's Day ♥

Don't forget Valentine's Day is Tuesday, February 14th!