

PRAIRIE LAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS



## Solko Retires After 26 Years of Service on the Board



Solko was presented with a retirement gift at the June board meeting.



Solko's service extends beyond the board room. He's been cooking at the Herndon ox roast since 1976. (Solko with his wife, Diana, in 2010)

Just a few years before there was a Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., **DONALD SOLKO** was elected to the board of trustees for Northwest Kansas Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., which served an area west of the Norton-Decatur Electric Cooperative, Inc.

In the spring of 1996, members of the two cooperatives voted overwhelmingly to merge, and this decision became effective in January 1997. The trustees of both boards were busy working together to incorporate the two cooperatives into one, to standardize board and personnel policies, and to decide on a new name: Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Solko, a Herndon resident, represented District 1 of the new cooperative.

The merger was just the first big project Solko helped take on. "Over the years there have been quite a number of changes," noted Chuck Look, Prairie Land's CEO and general manager. "The board made a lot of progressive decisions along the way, including voting to be deregulated and venturing in and out of a satellite television business."

In 2000, the board broke ground on a new headquarters just west of Norton. The new complex brought Prairie Land's off-site warehouses and pole yards to a common site. Construction was completed in October 2001.

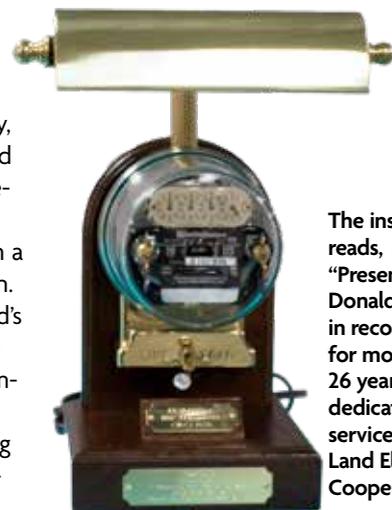
Several years later, Prairie Land along with five neighboring electric cooper-

atives created the Mid-Kansas Electric Company and successfully purchased the West Plains Kansas electric system owned by Aquila, Inc., adding over 15,000 customers in 67 towns to Prairie Land's customer base.

"The acquisition was an exciting time, and a lot of decisions had to be made on the fly, sometimes by conference call," Look explained. "Don was a part of all of it."

On June 23, 2020, Board President Ronald Griffith presented Solko with a lamp made from a 1920's electric meter in recognition of over 26 years of dedicated board service.

"I think you can look back on your years of service with a lot of pride, Don," Look told Solko after the presentation. "We appreciate you for what you've done for us."



The inscription reads, "Presented to Donald F. Solko in recognition for more than 26 years of dedicated service. Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc."

## Goheen Completes 10 Years of Service



Ryan Goheen  
10 Years

Prairie Land congratulates **RYAN GOHEEN** for completing 10 years of service with the cooperative.

Goheen, who was born and raised in Downs, began his employment with Prairie Land on Aug. 2, 2010, as a journeyman lineman in Downs.

Goheen and his wife, Cheryl, have three children, Kaden, 14; Makenna, 12; and Tyson, 5.

"Prairie Land is a good place to work," Goheen said. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

## Moving from Your Current Residence?

When moving, your to-do list can be overwhelming but we are here to assist you. Prairie Land helps making changes to your account quick and easy. Just call us 800-577-3323 and let us know the following:

- ▶ Your moving date, so we can get a final reading on your meter.
- ▶ Your new address. We will send you a final bill or refund (if you had a meter deposit larger than the final bill) to your new address.
- ▶ If you know the name of the person moving into the residence, please provide that information to Prairie Land.

The bill will continue in your name, and you will be responsible for those charges until your account is closed. To ensure Prairie Land has your correct account and billing information, please contact our office to notify us of any important changes.



As technology improves and equipment gets larger, remember to always map out your route to fields and look up to ensure the equipment can fit under overhead lines with 20 feet to spare. Use a spotter to help guide you safely.

## KILOWATT TIPS

### Summer Efficiency

#### Tips to Keep Cool and Be Energy Efficient

When extreme hot temperatures put stress on the electrical grid, there are ways we can all help by being more efficient in our use of electricity. Cooling costs can soar during this time, and being more energy efficient can help cut back on energy expenses.



Kilowatt

Prairie Land provides the following tips on efficient ways to keep cool in hot weather:

- ▶ Trim back foliage at least two feet around the air conditioner, and remove dirt and debris from nearby the unit. This will ensure that airflow to the unit is not blocked.
- ▶ Use ceiling fans to make use of the wind chill effect while you are at home. Adjust them to spin counterclockwise during warmer months so that they push air down and make you cooler.
- ▶ Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable when you are home. The smaller the difference between the thermostat and the outside temperature, the less energy is used.
- ▶ Use a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature based on your schedule. You can program the temperature to keep you cooler when you are home and warmer when you are away.
- ▶ Replace your filter monthly when using your air conditioner.
- ▶ Use the outside air to your advantage. Open your windows at night to let cooler air in.
- ▶ Use curtains and blinds to keep sunlight out on hot days.
- ▶ Avoid unnecessary trips outside that would let in midday heat.

**KILOWATT** was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.