

CEO Chuck Look Retires After 42 Years of Service

CHUCK LOOK still remembers what he was doing on his first day at work on June 19, 1978. He and two other rookies only knew how to shovel dirt, tamp poles and roll wire, but they were building an enduring brotherhood among linemen. Together, they would share some tough days with a lot of work, and



After retiring, Chuck looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Janet.



Chuck's retirement party had a golf theme.

also a lot of fun.

"I'll never be able to thank Earl Hansen enough for hiring me," Look said during remarks at a small, socially distanced gathering of family and colleagues. "I'll definitely never be able to thank Allan Miller enough for mentoring me and bringing me into the office and giving me the opportunities I've had."

Allan had one word to describe Chuck: "steady." No matter the project, he kept at it. It also reflects in his golf game. "He never goes out of bounds," Allan said. "Don't buy him golf balls. He never loses them. It was wonderful working with him."

Kirk Girard, who succeeded Chuck as CEO, spoke about his concern for employees and his consistent focus on safety. "I don't think anyone at Prairie Land cares more about the employees than Chuck does," Kirk said.

"The one thing that has stayed the same is the quality of the people that have come to work here," Chuck said, reflecting on his 42 years at the co-op. "Everyone here can take pride in the fact that the work we do here probably has a more positive impact on people's lives in northwest Kansas than



Office employees took turns reminiscing over pictures of Chuck from his younger years.

any other business north of I-70 and west of Hwy 81. We provide the power for everything ... Be proud of who you are and what you do. Be proud of this company because some of the best people I've ever known have worked here and some of the best people I've ever met are the people we serve."

Chuck also shared his excitement for the co-op's future under Kirk's leadership. "I'm excited to tell you that I think the CEO that is going to take my place may be the best CEO this company has ever had. This guy has got vision. He's got energy. He's not afraid to ask the tough question. He's not afraid to face the tough issue."

Because of the limitations related to COVID-19, many of Chuck's colleagues around the state couldn't attend but sent video messages to wish him luck. There were also messages from Prairie

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STAY COMFORTABLE

Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



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Land employees presented in the video.

Later in the day, Lee Tafanelli, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) arrived to congratulate Chuck on his dedication and the legacy he has left not only for Prairie Land but for the entire KEC family. He presented Chuck with a Revere pewter bowl inscribed with the KEC logo on one side and on the other: "In recognition of dedicated and distinguished service: Chuck Look 42 years."

"The Prairie Land family is bigger than itself," Chuck explained. "All of the electric cooperatives in the state belong to KEC, and as its new leader, Lee "has a bright future with our extended family:"

He concluded by saying, "I can't think of anything I could have done in my life's work that would have been more gratifying to me than being a part of this company."



Lee Tafanelli, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (right), traveled from Topeka to present Chuck with a retirement gift.



Chuck's retirement party was scaled down for safety and livestreamed to those who couldn't attend. Even so, there were several family members in attendance.

KILOWATT TIPS

What Happens Behind the Scenes During a Power Outage?

American electricity consumers typically experience only about two hours of power interruptions per year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In the event of severe weather, it grows to an average of six hours a year.

When your power goes out, Prairie Land Electric swings into action in a safe and efficient manner to ensure your power is restored. How long that takes depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and how long it takes for our work crews to safely access the storm-damaged areas. We are careful to follow standard restoration procedures to get the job done right by:

- ▶ Assessing damage to utility equipment.
- ▶ Addressing immediate safety risks, including downed power lines.
- ▶ Ensuring that essential public health and safety facilities are operational.
- ▶ Prioritizing repairs that will restore power to the greatest number of people first.
- ▶ Evaluating power plants for damage and restoring them to working order.
- ▶ Repairing transmission lines that carry power to large areas.
- ▶ Assessing and repairing (in this order) substations, distribution lines, and service lines to properties.

Thank you for your patience during power outages. Know that we are working hard to restore service as safely and efficiently as possible, day and night. For more information about preparing for outages, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Kilowatt would also like to remind our members that February is Responsible Pet Owners Month.

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



Kilowatt