



## Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

### *Community, Leadership, Memories*

**ELLIE BELLERIVE**, Stockton; **JACOB LINDENMAN**, Morland; and **AUDREY ANNETTE MEYER**, Saint Francis, were selected to attend the 43rd annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 12-18. Joining their peers from across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, approximately 100 youth learned about the cooperative principles at the weeklong educational retreat.

Prairie Land is proud to be a participating sponsor of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and send our local youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills," said Anna Foley, Prairie Land Youth Tour Coordinator. "Through this trip, we hope these local students will learn how electric cooperatives work and how co-ops and their employees support the communities they serve."

"I plan on taking and applying some of the leadership activities into my local organizations," Lindenman said.

The Kansas and Oklahoma participants met as they boarded the bus along its route to Colorado. When the bus arrived in Denver, the group was treated to an indoor skydiving



From left: Audrey Annette Meyer, Jacob Lindenman and Ellie Bellerive pose for a photo during camp.

experience and STEM educational lab at iFLY. When the group arrived at Glen Eden Resort, nestled in the Rocky Mountains, the campers organized into cooperatives, beginning daily membership meetings and selecting committees, a board of directors and a general manager. The weeklong experience gave participants an authentic camp feel with a hike to Fish Creek Falls, river rafting, volleyball tournament, swimming, a dance and a talent show.

Several demonstrations and presentations enhanced students' knowledge of the cooperative model and on operations at their electric cooperative. Campers competed to build a model transmission line out of craft supplies, toured Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant and watched a high-voltage safety demonstration. The campers also raised \$293.13 to donate to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation. The money will be used

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Campers from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 12-18.

## Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp *Continued from page 16A* ▶

to purchase backpacks and school supplies for students who attend school in Sillab, Guatemala.

Overall, the campers said they left CYLC with a new sense of leadership and understanding of how their local electric cooperatives operate and contribute to community improvement. “The different speakers affected me most,” Meyer said. “Their passion and new techniques on how to be a leader left me feeling that when I return to Saint Francis, I’ll make a difference.”

Bellerive said she returned from the trip inspired. “This trip has inspired me to be a better leader and friend,” Bellerive said. “It is crazy how close you can get to people you have only known a few days. The campers, speakers and counselors have been so inspiring.”



From left:  
Audrey  
Annette  
Meyer, Jacob  
Lindenman  
and Ellie  
Bellerive by  
the Elk River  
during camp

### Take the Survey!

Surveys will be distributed later in September to a sampling of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. members. The survey will ask for your opinions on different aspects of your electric service. Your answers are important to us, and we hope you’ll take a few moments to complete it.

If we have your email address on file, you will automatically get an email version of the survey. If not, you may be one of 1,000 members randomly selected to receive a survey by mail.

**To ensure your voice is heard, call 800-577-3323 to have your email address included with your account information as soon as possible.**

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- ▶ (1) **MAIL:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- ▶ (2) **FAX:** (202) 690-7442; or
- ▶ (3) **EMAIL:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Employee Completes 15 Years of Service



**Karla Lawrence**  
15 Years

**KARLA LAWRENCE** began her employment on Sept. 29, 2004, as a meter reader in the Concordia area. She became a Prairie Land employee with the Aquila, Inc. acquisition in April 2007.

In 2013, Karla began working in customer support. She works in the Concordia office as a backup to the office staff and also mows areas around the substations.

“The best part of my job is the variety,” Karla said. “Everyday I’m learning and doing something new.”

Karla and her husband, Willie, have four children: Amanda, 24; Ashton, 22; Garrett, 20; and Nathan 17.

In her spare time, she loves to read and spend time with her grandson. Congratulations Karla on your years of service!

## Prairie Land Welcomes New Employee

**BLAKE REED** began his employment with Prairie Land on July 15, 2019, as a journeyman lineman in Concordia.

Reed previously worked for Wheatland Electric. He is originally from Courtland, and this position allowed him to move closer to home.

Reed completed his education at Pratt Community College and received a Technical Certificate in Electric Power and Distribution.

In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing. Welcome to Prairie Land, Blake!



**Blake Reed**

## Look at Your Home From a Toddler’s Viewpoint

Set aside plenty of time to consider electrical items in your home that could tempt inquisitive little ones. There are potential dangers in every room. You may think a room is fine at first glance,

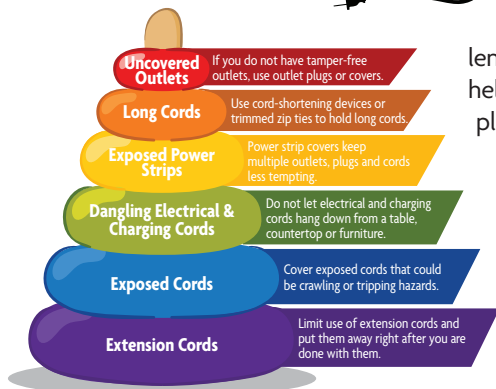
but then consider getting down on your hands and knees to see it from a crawling baby or toddler’s perspective.

Look for unprotected outlets, hanging or dangling cords with excess length, surge protectors (anything on the floor is a toy, right?) and extension cords or long cords just asking to be tugged on. Various products are available to help cover outlet slots, reduce cord length, cover surge protector strips and help prevent little ones from pulling out plugs from outlets.

If the thought of all of this overwhelms you, consider hiring a baby proofing professional to address all the potential hazards in your home. In short, look at your entire home through your crawling baby or toddler’s eyes. Then take action to protect the little ones in your home.

### **B****A****B****Y** proofing

How does your home stack up?



## KILOWATT TIPS

### September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. One of the best ways to stay one step ahead of storms, power outages and other emergencies is to plan ahead for an emergency.



**Kilowatt**

Prairie Land recommends every emergency kit contain these items:

- ▶ One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation.
- ▶ At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- ▶ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and weather radio and extra batteries.
- ▶ Flashlight and extra batteries.
- ▶ First-aid kit.
- ▶ Whistle to signal for help.
- ▶ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place.
- ▶ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- ▶ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- ▶ Manual can opener for food.
- ▶ Local maps.
- ▶ Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.

### Exhaust Fan Efficiency

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you’re done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

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

## Understanding your Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## CAPITAL CREDITS



Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit cooperative with member-owners who share in the maintenance and prosperity of the co-op.



If you receive electrical service from Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., you are a member-owner and are eligible for capital credits.

#### •Did the cooperative have positive margins?

Each year the financials of the cooperative are audited. If the cooperative brings in more revenue than expenses, those excess margins are divided among the members and assigned to each member's capital credit account.

#### •Where does this margin come from?

The majority of the margins come from payments for electricity bills by members. We also have margins from capital credits from other cooperatives that consider Prairie Land Electric a member-owner.

These different types of earnings are tracked separately, since the credits from each source are retired on different schedules at the discretion of different boards of directors.

#### •How are my capital credits allocated?

Your allocation is based upon the revenue you have paid over the year. Your revenue contribution is divided by the total of that of all the members to calculate your percentage of the revenue. That same percentage of the total margin for the year is assigned to your capital credit account, where it remains until it is retired.

#### •What happens to capital credits?

The capital credits go to work and are re-invested into the cooperative for operations and maintenance until they are no longer needed and can be retired. Retirement of capital credits is at the sole discretion of your Board of Trustees and is based upon the financial condition of the cooperative. The Board then determines the percentage of each year's allocation to retire and provide to each member-owner as a bill credit. Those who no longer receive a bill are issued a check. Any unretired amounts remain in your account.

If there is no retirement of capital credits, don't panic. They are still there for you in your account, waiting to be retired another time.

#### •Can capital credits be cashed out at any time?

Capital credit funds are re-invested and can not be cashed out or used toward an electric bill until they are retired. Keep the cooperative informed of changes to your name or mailing address so your credits can be sent to you as they are retired.

If a member is deceased, please contact the office for assistance in claiming those credits.

### FIND YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION STATEMENT PRINTED ON YOUR BILL

A. Your share of margins from PLEC. B. Your share of capital credits earned by PLEC from other cooperatives—it stands for Generation and Transmission, since PLEC is a member-owner of the cooperatives that provide power to us. C. Add A & B D. The previous unretired balance in your capital credit account from years past. E. Your new unretired balance (Add C & D) This is NOT how much your check will be.

#### 2018 Capital Credit Allocation (example)

A. 2018 Prairie Land Allocation:	\$ 100
B. 2018 G&T Allocation:	\$ 150
C. Total 2018 Allocation:	\$ 250
D. Unretired Prior Years:	\$3000
E. TOTAL UNRETIRED:	\$3250