

'Challenges? Best Part Of Job'

It seems more people are working longer and retiring later than ever before, but very few make it past 50 years at a single employer. Among those very few is IEC General Manager Rick Davis, who celebrated his 50th anniversary as an IEC employee this summer.

Fresh out of high school, Davis clearly recalls getting hired for a summer job at IEC in 1970. "There was no way I was going to be able to go to college," he said. "I was waiting on the draft...but Uncle Sam never called."

His next step was to ask the linemen superintendent how he could apply to stay on at the co-op. "He directed me to the right office...and I've been here ever since," Davis recalled.

Davis began with the right-of-way crew before moving on for four years of training as a journeyman lineman. Later as opportunities arose he applied for jobs as foreman and superintendent positions in the Operations Department, and got both jobs. Before accepting the general manager's position in the fall of 2018, Davis worked for 20 years as IEC's Manager of Operations.

It has been the challenges with each position that has brought Davis the most job satisfaction, he said. "Every job had its challenges and figuring out how to meet those challenges has been really worthwhile," he said.

As for today's challenges, the first to come to mind for Davis were: keeping electric rates low and keeping members happy.

Another challenge met with satisfaction was when the IEC Board of Trustees agreed to return right-of-way maintenance work to IEC employees instead of contracting it to an outside service. "I pitched the idea," Davis said. "We'd done it before and I knew we could do a good job at it. It has proven to be a success. We're keeping line loss very low and that matters when it comes to figuring rates."

Watching the same company evolve over the course of 50 years, Davis said one thing is certain: everything changes. "We've had to

keep up-to-date. It's amazing to look where we've been and to envision where we're going."

Davis points to IEC's communication center as a true success story. "It's communication central...where meters are read and monitored," he explained. "We're getting so much information and data back that helps us adjust and make positive changes. Where outages are concerned we're immediately able to pinpoint them and drastically cut our outage time. We're able to ensure our loads are balanced and identify problems quickly. Technology is just out of sight!"

As outstanding as technology is, Davis is quick to point out that there's still a lot of manual labor involved in the operation of an electric co-op and he praises the linemen for all they do. "They still climb those poles," he said.

Davis said he has always appreciated the fact that the co-op is set up to return capital credits to its members and he's especially proud of the way the IEC Board of Trustees handled the recent capital credit reimbursement to aid members during the uncertain times of the coronavirus pandemic by applying the credits to members' May usage billing. He said when IEC announced the decision on social media the reaction was impressive with over 19,000 members reached on Facebook.

Hearing from IEC members continues to be important for Davis and the co-op in general, he said. "If there's any concern at all, we want them to call. We'll listen and take care of it or provide an explanation," he said.

Davis accepts that "all good things come to an end," and admits the word "retirement" has been in his thinking process. Not today. Not tomorrow. But, it's clearly coming.

"I wouldn't trade anything about my time here," he said. "I love it here. The Board of Trustees is committed to being the best we can be. It's a good place to work...and good people to work with."



RICK DAVIS



THE LAMP
Supplement to
Oklahoma Living

AUGUST
2020

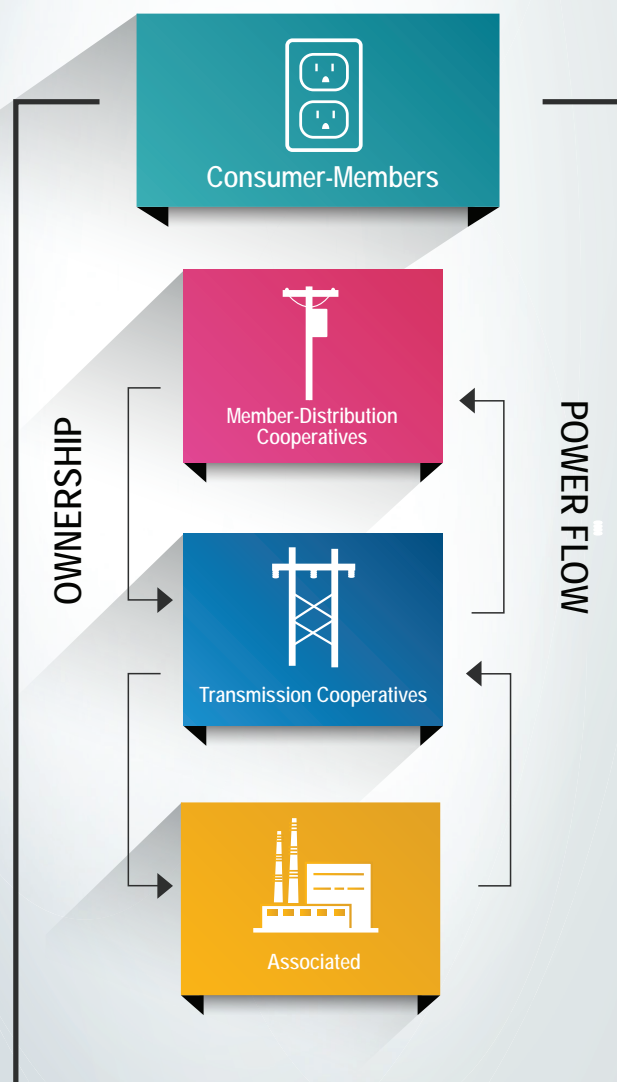


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS OF THE MONTH

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

The people behind your power

Associated Electric Cooperative generates the energy that powers your life



ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC

*Member-owned,
member-focused*

Powering homes, farms and businesses in rural Northeast Oklahoma is a point of pride for Associated Electric Cooperative, the generation and transmission cooperative located in Springfield, Missouri. If you are a member of a co-op in Northeast Oklahoma, Southeast Iowa, or Missouri, your electricity comes from Associated’s power plants. This cooperative is owned by members like you and serves 2.1 million people. It’s controlled through three tiers, including your distribution cooperative, its transmission cooperative and a board including representatives from each level.

“Associated generates power for electric cooperatives in our system with values learned from our member-owners,” says Emery “Buster” Geisendorfer, member-elected president of Associated’s board of directors. “We know they want reliable, affordable power generated in a responsible way. That’s how we view the power we generate — it must meet that reliable, affordable and responsible test.”

A Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative member, Buster is a cattleman from Monticello, Missouri. He serves on his local board and is president of Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, a regional transmission co-op. He says the three-tiered system — distribution, transmission and generation — is a key difference in why and how Associated generates power.

“I’m a member, too,” Buster says. “Those who serve our member-owners at every level of the three-tiered system are focused on members.”

Power when you need it

Providing reliable power expected by members requires different types of generation. Associated’s fleet — producing electricity generated by natural gas, coal, wind and hydropower — is diverse enough to provide power on the hottest, coldest, driest, windiest and calmest days. Natural gas and coal are the most reliable forms of genera-

“I’m a member, too. Those who serve our member-owners at every level of the three-tiered system are focused on members.”

— Emery “Buster” Geisendorfer



Buster Geisendorfer is both a member of his local co-op and president of Associated Electric.

“We know they want reliable, affordable power generated in a responsible way. That’s how we view the power we generate — it must meet that reliable, affordable and responsible test.”

— Emery “Buster” Geisendorfer

tion because they operate around the clock. They can be controlled unlike power sources that use available wind, sunshine or water to operate. There also are adequate supplies of natural gas and coal, including a 45- to 60-day coal stockpile onsite that keeps each of the plants running when needed.

Power at a fair price

Electricity is provided to members 24 hours a day, 7 day a week, 365 days a year. As members ramp up their use, Associated’s goal is to ensure reliability, then match members’ needs to the most affordable generation resource.

Coal generation supplied about half of members’ electricity in 2019. Low prices for natural gas increased the use of this fuel source in Associated’s energy mix, which benefits members. Coal and natural gas are typically less expensive for generation than wind or other renewable sources.

Hydropower, the lowest-cost source, is used as much as possible, but is limited in supply by rainfall and is controlled by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.

Power generated the right way

A focus on members drives Associated to be responsible

caretakers of the natural environment. To balance reliable and affordable electricity with environmental responsibility is not easy or inexpensive, but Associated is committed to generating power the right way.

Associated and its members have spent more than \$1.1 billion to reduce air emissions since 1994, resulting in more than 70% improvement in air quality. By adding significant amounts of wind power to diversify generating sources, investing in environmental controls and staying up-to-date with regulations and technologies, Associated complies with environmental regulations at the lowest cost possible for members.

“Having actual end users of its electricity sit on its board of directors makes Associated unique among other generators,” says Buster. “Balancing reliable and affordable electricity with environmental responsibility takes a steadfast commitment and an allocation of resources. It’s a priority Associated takes seriously. Their experience assures Associated meets the needs of its member owners. I can’t imagine a better way to run a business that puts service first.”

In next month’s issue: Reliability means having electricity available when you flip the switch. We’ll dive deeper into Associated’s ongoing efforts to maintain excellent reliability for members.



The Thomas Hill Energy Center is one source for the affordable, reliable electricity generated by Associated Electric Cooperative.

Super Snacking

By Family Features

Snacks are a way of life for people of all ages, but especially children, who consume about 25% of their daily calories from snacks, according to research published in the "Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior." Providing nutritionally balanced snacks for your children at home can make for a happy and healthy day.

Planning snacks that are as delicious as they are healthy is a winning solution, and snacks are a simple way to add more nutrition to your child's diet.

For example, low-fat and fat-free dairy foods are essential to children's growth and overall wellness. They provide calcium and vitamin D, two nutrients kids don't get enough of, according to the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The guidelines recommend 2-3 servings of low-fat and fat-free dairy foods every day, depending on the child's age.

Giving kids a role in the preparation can give them added incentive to enjoy healthy treats, and these recipes are all easy enough that kids can make them on their own (or with minimal assistance). Giving your kids the ability to play a role in the kitchen and create is a gift that can last a lifetime. The culinary skills they develop early in life can give them the confidence and know-how to cook nutritious meals for themselves as teens and adults.

Get more ideas to get kids cooking and snacking smart at milkmeansmore.org.

Let kids get hands-on with healthy, easy treats



Red, White and Blue Greek Yogurt Bark

Prep time: 5 minutes

Servings: 12

- 3 cups plain non-fat Greek yogurt
- 1/3 cup honey, plus additional for drizzling (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup strawberries, sliced into rounds
- 1/2 cup blueberries
- 1/2 cup raspberries, halved

In medium mixing bowl combine Greek yogurt, 1/3 cup honey and vanilla.

On parchment paper-lined baking sheet, spread Greek yogurt mixture to 1/4-inch thickness. Press strawberries, blueberries and raspberries into yogurt. Freeze at least 3 hours. Break into pieces upon removing from freezer.

Butter Yogurt Dip

Prep time: 5 minutes

Servings: 4

- 3/4 cup vanilla Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 dash cinnamon
- apples, graham crackers or other dipper of choice

In bowl, mix Greek yogurt, peanut butter and cinnamon until smooth.

Serve with apples, graham crackers or another dipper of choice.

Good Morning Yogurt Parfait

Prep time: 5 minutes

Servings: 1

- 1/2 cup sliced or diced fruit, any variety

6 ounces low-fat or fat-free vanilla yogurt

1/4 cup granola or other cereal (optional)

In small bowl or cup, layer fruit and yogurt, starting with fruit on bottom. Top with cereal or granola, if desired.

Note: This recipe can be made using low-fat or non-fat cottage cheese sweetened with honey and cinnamon.

Dairy: Did You Know?

Dairy foods can add taste and versatility to your plate, but they also deliver a unique package of essential nutrients important for good health.

- Milk has a unique combination of nine essential nutrients: protein; calcium; potassium; phosphorus; vitamins A, D and B12; riboflavin and niacin. Each of these nutrients is a key ingredient of milk and they all work together to help keep bodies healthy.

- Milk, cheese and yogurt are good sources of high-quality protein, which is essential for growth and maintenance of muscle and other proteins within the body.

- Enjoying dairy foods like milk, cheese and yogurt as part of a healthy diet is associated with many health bonuses, including reduced risk of heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

CLEVELAND OFFICE

P.O. Box 49

Cleveland, OK 74020

(918) 295-9500

or

(800) 482-2750

FAIRFAX OFFICE

P.O. Box 545

Fairfax, OK 74637

(918) 642-3314

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

(888) 472-1535

AUTOMATED OUTAGE

REPORTING

(918) 295-9598

On the Web @

WWW.IECOK.COM



Office Hours

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Monday - Friday)

President

Robert Burk

District 5

Vice-President

Jim Hadlock

District 2

Secretary

Mike Spradling

District 6

Assistant Secretary

Berry Keeler

District 1

Rick Van Deventer

District 3

Greg Fielding

District 4

Gary McBride

District 7

Rick Davis - General Manager

The Lamp is published monthly by Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Highway 64 Southeast, Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020 for the interest of its membership. Members may send address changes to: "The Lamp," P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020

VOLUME 57

NUMBER 8