

Leroy Wilkerson Retires from IEC

Former Executive Director plans to devote his time to family and travel.

After spending more than 31 years dedicating himself to his career at Indian Electric Cooperative, Leroy Wilkerson has decided to retire and spend more time with his family.

“I put my heart and soul into my work at IEC,” Leroy said. “I believed it was important to be a dedicated and loyal employee. Now I’m going to take time to travel some with my wife and spend time with my children and grandchildren.”

Leroy had a wide variety of titles from the time he began work at IEC. He was hired as the Supervisor of Public Relations in the Member Services Department, was promoted to Staff Assistant and eventually served as the Director of Administration, Director and Manager of Engineering, Manager of Office Services, and Manager of Marketing. Prior to his retirement, Leroy’s title was Executive Director. In that position he worked for Terry Jech, IEC’s General Manager, to oversee the day-to-day operations of the co-op.

“Leroy is the source of more institutional knowledge of IEC than anyone on staff,” Terry said. “He knows the history behind what we do. Although that is very valuable to IEC, it’s not the most valuable thing about Leroy. He has a wide range of skills. It really didn’t matter what assignment we gave him, he not only did it well, he excelled at it. He must be the most well-rounded employee that I have ever run into across the country.”

IEC has changed in many ways since Leroy began working at the cooperative.

“We had to manage our jobs without computers then. We used typewriters, pencils and paper,” Leroy said. “The information age revolutionized the way we did business. We purchased the first PC in the early 1980s and it got lots of use. Several of us shared it to achieve a variety of functions. IEC was one of the leaders in the information revolution and have always been on the leading edge of technology.”

According to Leroy, IEC was one of the first to implement the load management system helping IEC better manage their loads and make electricity more affordable.

“I’m happy to have played a major role in bringing that about,” Leroy said.

“I have enjoyed working with the members and employees of Indian Electric. There are excellent people working here and they have only gotten better through the years.”



Leroy and Betty Wilkerson at Leroy's Retirement Reception

Employee Spotlight - Sharon Caughlin

When you walk into IEC's Cleveland office, Sharon Caughlin is one of the smiling faces you'll see that can help you with just about any electric service issue you might have. If you don't talk with Sharon, you'll most likely talk with one of the people she supervises because Sharon is IEC's Consumer Services Supervisor.

"I've been very blessed with the staff I have here," Sharon says. "I really enjoy the people I work with. This group of employees really makes us look good."

Sharon is in charge of making sure the front office at IEC runs smoothly and efficiently. They handle everything from telephone calls to walk-in payments and inquiries from IEC members. They also take care of a variety of consumer services issues including reconnects and disconnects, new service requests, drive-through window payments, questions about bills, new security light requests, and many other service requests.

Sharon has lived in Cleveland since 1974 and believes in being active in her community and supporting the people and activities where she lives. Most recently

she was president of Cleveland's Chamber of Commerce and currently serves on the executive board.

"Being active in the Chamber is a great way to meet people in the community and to get to have an impact on the place you live," she says. "We are trying to help make Cleveland more appealing to new people and have been very interested in economic development within the community. We work actively with other community groups to bring new industry into the area."

Sharon has made community service a priority in her life since her children were young and she was a homeroom mom.

"I was told 'no' so many times when asking other moms to bring cookies to school parties that I thought I'm going to try to say 'yes' as much as possible when people ask me to help," she says.

Sharon is a member of the Preceptor Beta Mu chapter of Beta Sigma

Phi, a social group in Cleveland that has made service a priority of its functions. Most recently the group held a goodie auction where they sold homemade crafts and baked items to raise money for the Ministerial Alliance and Meals on Wheels.

Sharon also spends lots of time with her grandchildren, Teah and Jacob who also live in Cleveland. Sharon serves as the treasurer of her Sunday School class at Cleveland's First Christian Church.



"Being active in the Chamber is a great way to meet people in the community and to get to have an impact on the place you live,"

THE LAMP

Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
918-358-2514

To report an outage call
358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750
(if you live outside the expanded Tulsa
calling area)
24-hour Service Center
918-295-9520

Board of Trustees

LeRoy Meyer, President
Greg Fielding, Vice-President
Wanda Foster, Sec.-Treas.
Mike Spradling
J.W. Perry
Leon Day
Loris Peckenpaugh
Gary Moore
Rock Reese
Berry Keeler
Terry Jech

District 1
District 8
District 5
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 6
District 8
District 9
District 9
General Manager



The Lamp (USPS 942-940) is published monthly by Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Highway 64 Southeast, Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020 for the interest of its membership. Subscription price was \$0.17 per month in 2000. Periodical postage paid at Cleveland, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices.

- Postmaster: Send address changes to The Lamp, P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020.



Indian Electric Cooperative member Emily Fairchild received honorable mention in the annual Oklahoma Living Ornament Contest. The 168 ornaments entered into the contest were auctioned off to raise money for Paws with a Cause. Fourteen-year-old Emily created her ornament from pheasant feathers she gathered from around the farm.

January in Northeastern Oklahoma

The following list highlights events during January located in and around IEC's territory in Northeastern Oklahoma. Every effort is made by IEC to ensure correct information is presented. Phone numbers are provided for verification and for members to obtain additional information about dates, times, locations and admission prices.

AIDA – Tulsa **Jan 23 - Feb 2, 2002**

The winner of four 2000 Tony awards, *AIDA* is a new musical love story bursting with contemporary energy that tells the true story of *Aida*, a Nubian princess stolen from her country; *Amneris*, an Egyptian princess; and *Radames*, the soldier they both love.

918-593-7111 / 800-364-7111
Tue - Thu 7:30 p.m.; Fri 8 p.m.; Sat 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Are You My Mother? - Tulsa **Jan 19, 2002**

Based on the popular children's book, this enchanting musical is about a young baby bird that decides to leave the nest and find his mother.

Performing Arts Center, 101 E. Third Street
918-594-7111; 800-364-7111
11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

American Bald Eagle Tour - Wagoner **Jan 12, 2002**

Join Park Naturalists for a Bald Eagle program featuring a magnificent bald eagle "up close", followed by a tour of eagle sighting areas.

Sequoyah State Park
918-772-2108
8 a.m. – 12 noon

Annual Indian Market and Stomp Dance - Miami **Jan 25 - 26, 2002**

Indian Market is open to all vendors who offer Native American crafts and trade items. There is no charge for booth space.

202 S. Eight Tribes Trail
918-542-7260
Fri 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. – 12 midnight

IEC Sends Two Area Students to Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit

Paige Hadlock and Heath Gibson attend the Touchstone Energy All-College Basketball Tournament.

Two Fairfax High School students were selected to attend the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit Dec. 29th in Oklahoma City. Paige Hadlock and Heath Gibson joined more than 30 outstanding high school athletes from across Oklahoma for the leadership summit where they had the opportunity to meet with top basketball coaches and sports professionals.

The students also attended the Touchstone Energy All-College Basketball Tournament featuring Oklahoma State University vs. Ball State and the University of Oklahoma vs. Texas Southern. The All-College Basketball Tournament is the world's oldest basketball tournament, outdating the NCAA, NIT, NAIA and NBA. It was originated and sponsored for 21 years by the Oklahoma Publishing Company. Today, the tradition is continued by the Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma, now the official sponsor through Touchstone Energy. The contest has featured such basketball greats as Karl Malone, Pete Maravich, Bill Russell, Wayman Tisdale, and Henry P. Iba.



Christmas Morning Breakfast Casserole

Serves 8-10

¼ c. vegetable oil	¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
1/8 c. chicken base	1 c. Masa Harina
1½ c. diced yellow onions	2 qt. water (divided)
1 tsp. ground cumin	1 c. crushed tomatoes
1 tsp. chili powder	¼ lb. processed American cheese, cut into small cubes
1 tsp. granulated garlic	1½ lb. cooked, cubed chicken

In large pot, place oil, chicken base, onion and spices. Saute' until onions are soft and clear, about 5 minutes. In another container, combine Masa Harina with ½ quart water. Stir until all lumps dissolve. Add to sautéed onions and bring to boil. Once mixture starts to bubble, continue cooking 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly. This will eliminate any raw taste from the Masa Harina. Add remaining 1½ quart water to pot. Add tomatoes and let mixture return to a boil, stirring occasionally. Add cheese to soup. Cook, stirring occasionally, until cheese melts. Add chicken and heat through.

If you have a tried and true recipe that you would like to share with the rest of the IEC members, please send it to: The Lamp, Indian Electric Cooperative, PO Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020.

Area Events Continued...

Eagle Tour - Vian **Jan 12, 2002, Jan 26, 2002**

Tour the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge while viewing eagles one of our nation symbols.

Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge
918-489-5641
Sat 8 a.m.

Hensley, Hauck & Janzen - Bartlesville **Jan 19, 2002**

Concert performed by the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra.
Bartlesville Community Center
918-336-2787
7:30 p.m.

World Championship Rodeo - Tulsa **Jan 11 - 13, 2002**

12th annual event featuring 500 professional rodeo cowboys and cowgirls competing for a \$100,000 purse and world championship points. Sanctioned by the IPRA.
Tulsa Convention Center Arena
918-584-2000
Fri & Sat 8 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m.

Loon Watch - Vian **Jan 5, 2002, Jan 19, 2002**

Come enjoy a winter morning observing one of nature's most beautiful birds - the Loon. Representatives from the Indian Nations Audubon and Ft. Smith Audubon chapters will be on hand.

Tenkiller State Park, Fisherman's Point
918-489-5641
Sat. 8 - 11 a.m.

Tulsa Boat, Sport & Travel Show - Tulsa **Jan 28 - Feb 3, 2002**

The Southwest's largest display of boats, RVs, fishing tackle and resort information. Over 10 acres of recreational products under one roof.
Tulsa Expo Square
918-486-3318
Call for Event Schedule

These events were compiled for our member's enjoyment and do not represent endorsement by IEC.

Have an event you would like to see mentioned? E-mail the details to paulag@iecok.com. Events will be listed at the discretion of the editor as space allows within each monthly publication.

Losing Those Holiday Pounds

Websites take fitness and exercise to new levels...

Were you one of the many who made New Years resolutions to lose weight this year? To help you out, we've listed some exercise and fitness websites to help you lose the weight you "found" during the holidays.

The American Council on Exercise recently revealed the best and worst methods for improving your waistline. Visit www.acefitness.org to learn how to do the top abdominal exercises. You can also sign up for ACE's free monthly health and fitness newsletter designed especially for fitness enthusiasts. Get the facts on the latest health studies, fitness trends, nutrition, product reviews, and more.

Feel-better-through-exercise.com provides practical advice for developing an exercise program that fits your lifestyle, budget and commitment level. They offer tips and guidelines for putting together an exercise program as well as links to other wellness sites.

HealthAtoZ.com has a Fitness Center section (located at www.healthatoz.com/atoz/fitness/index.html) that features a fitness assessment, information about cardio/strength training, recreational sports, nutrition, exercise demonstrations

and an ask the expert section. There are a variety of other sections to check out including information tailored for each family member, information on specific health conditions, healthy lifestyles and a reference section with additional resources.



