



## LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Connections

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**Nate Burns**  
Manager of Electrical Operations

**Katherine Lewis**  
Manager of Financial Services

**Bob Venters**  
Resale Manager

### In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 800-407-2217. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

### 24-hour Electrician Service

If you are without electricity or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day.

## Lewis Completes Management Program

Lane-Scott Electric Finance Manager **KATHY LEWIS** has completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin.

The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation. It is one of the most exclusive educational programs in the nation for electric cooperative management.

Lewis is one of only a few electric utility management staff that will graduate from the Management Internship Program this year.



**Kathy Lewis, finance manager at Lane-Scott Electric, graduates from the University of Wisconsin's Management Internship Program—one of the most exclusive educational programs in electric co-op management.**

hance the core organization.

“Kathy should be congratulated on her completion of the Robert Kabat Management Internship Program,” said Ed Wiltse, Lane-Scott Electric general manager. “It has provided Kathy with a greater exposure and understanding of issues that face our cooperative industry.

With the knowledge and skills gained through the completion of this program, it will pay future dividends for Lane-Scott Electric.”

Only rural electric cooperative CEOs and top-level management participate in the program. This allows greater emphasis of study on management challenges and the aspects of consumer-ownership that cooperatives enjoy. Participants learn to focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making.

Management Internship Program participants attend three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative management techniques. They leave with a better understanding of what members want and how to ensure they get it.

By also covering the unique principles that govern the operations of electric cooperatives, the program helps the co-op analyze other business ventures it may want to enter as well as en-

# Cooperative Youth Experience Our Nation's Capital

**ALEXIS CLARKE**, Ness City, and **BRENDAN WHIPPLE**, Dighton, were selected by Lane-Scott Electric to attend the 56th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., from June 9-16. Clarke and Whipple joined more than 1,700 other high school students nationwide to visit with their state's senators and members of Congress, tour memorials, and hear from several speakers, such as Olympic Gold Medalist, Mike Schlappi.

This year's delegation of 36 Kansas youth joined by four Hawaii youth began their trip on June 9 with a banquet in Topeka—featuring youth tour alumni Mike O'Neal, Former Speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives; Brant Laue, Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback; Rep. Steven Johnson and Rep. Kyle Hoffman—and a night tour of the Kansas State

Capitol. Before flying to Washington, D.C., the delegation had breakfast at Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative where linemen presented an electrical safety demonstration and gave bucket truck rides.

While in Washington, D.C., the students met with Congressman Tim Huelskamp and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. They also visited with Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran after their tour of Capitol Hill.

"Electric Cooperatives are more than just poles and wires. They're about people and communities," Moran said. "Recognizing that youth are the future of those communities is what the rural electric cooperative program is all about."

This trip opens the eyes of many students to future possibilities in leadership roles, while building lifelong friendships.

"Learning first-hand where our country started and how it was built from almost nothing was truly inspiring," said Clarke. "Seeing all of the memorials, meeting new people, and building friendships are things I will never forget."

The delegates also toured the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian museums, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, attended a professional baseball game at the



Alexis Clarke overlooks the Potomac River during the intermission of *Shear Madness* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Nationals park, and laughed watching the production of *Shear Madness* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"Learning more about our cooperatives and our government while getting to see some of the most important history in our country first-hand was by far the most impactful part of this trip," Whipple said.

A unique and surprise turn of events also occurred on this year's trip. Delegates had the opportunity to see the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet while visiting the Capitol, watch from a distance as presidential candidate Donald Trump boarded his plane at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, and witnessed a vote in the Senate gallery with several

well-known senators who have also been a part of the current presidential campaign.

Lane-Scott Electric sponsors the Youth Tour each year as part of our strong commitment to the community and our mission to inspire future generations to become leaders. Lane-Scott Electric sponsors two students for the trip. For more information contact, Bob Venters at 620-397-5327.



Above: The Kansas/Hawaii Youth Tour delegates stop at the National Archives to view the Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence.

Right: Brendan Whipple stops for a photo in front of the White House.



# Don't Put Safety on Autopilot

Accuracy and consistency when planting make for impressive straight rows that also help maximize potential productivity. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology is helping farmers do just that. It can provide farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance, and tractor guidance. While it can help with driver error, it does not mean that safety can be put on autopilot. Safe Electricity provides tips to help keep farm workers safe.

GPS systems with auto-guidance allow drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the tractor maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low light conditions, which enhances productivity.

"It's important to remember that farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of their large size, height, and extensions," said Rich McCracken, member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. "Every farm worker should especially look for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field, and driving the equipment home or to a barn."

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with automatic steering, farm workers need to keep safety top of mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus, and knowledge of potential hazards and appropriate safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels (sub-meter, decimeter, or centimeter) and potential issues, such as power



**Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.**

poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action themselves if necessary.

Regardless of what technology you use on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- ▶ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver's vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- ▶ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- ▶ Look up and use care when raising any equipment such as ladders, front-end loaders or augers.
- ▶ Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- ▶ Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

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