

Safety Focus Extends from Our Crews to Members, Children and First Responders

Last year at this time I wrote you about the improvements our crew members and management team have made in our safety performance the last several years. In 2011, we continued a positive trend in performance with another year of zero accidents resulting in an employee having to miss work. We continue to watch our performance trends and are working to make midcourse adjustments to ensure Pioneer's employees make it home every night after a safe day's work.

This commitment extends to our members as well. Pioneer works very hard in many ways to do our best to have our members experience safe delivery of power every day while also providing educational opportunities to children and first responders in our community concerning electric power safety. Following is a series of things we do that help keep our members safe.

Line Clearance Tree Program — Pioneer takes pride in our work to clear trees away from power lines. In 2011, we cleared about 450 miles of electric line. This effort results in a safer environment for our members and crews in a variety of ways. Cutting trees away from power lines helps keep electricity flowing safely to our members. Safety issues include:

- Providing continuous service to members isolated in remote areas of Pioneer's electric system. Many members rely on Pioneer to keep warm throughout the winter. We work hard to cut tree limbs that threaten service continuity well before ice build-up that cuts off electric service.

- Tree clearing also aids in restoration time and helps avoid having hard-to-manage conditions where weather-damaged trees fall into electric lines. The extra weight of the ice on the lines presents tricky situations where crews must remove trees under tension. This can be dangerous to crew members and the general public.

- Additional safety benefits of tree clearing include keeping "tree-



climbing" children and workmen away from exposed electric lines located near trees. Energized wires running through trees may create a hazard we work hard to eliminate.

- Finally, continuous service helps members avoid the use of costly propane-, diesel- or gas-fired generators that can have a dangerous side effect of carbon monoxide build-up in enclosed spaces.



Ron Salyer
President & CEO

Electric Safety Demonstration Presentations —

Pioneer has made presentations to more than 2,000 children during the last five years on how to be safe regarding electricity.

Students at Miami East, Graham, Heywood Elementary, Ft. Loramie, Versailles, Troy Jr. High, Grace Gospel Home Educators and the Cub Scout troops in the area have benefited from this safety knowledge. The programs warn against flying kites near lines, demonstrate why we should avoid exposed electric wires and explain why we should never trust a downed power line — even if it looks safe.



First Responder Training — Pioneer also has dedicated, qualified line personnel, who have experience responding to accident scenes, help instruct first responders on safely responding to vehicle accidents involving poles and wires that fall to the ground. These electrical safety demonstrations to the Ft. Loramie and Mechanicsburg fire departments, Miami County Farm Bureau and others have further prepared these individuals to ensure their own safety and the public's while responding to emergency situations.

All of these initiatives fit into what Pioneer values most: providing *safe*, high-quality electric service to our members. The first part of Pioneer's mission statement features safety. These programs are designed to help us be the best we can be when it comes to safety!

Cooperative Spirit Day

March 24
Edison Community College
starting at 9 a.m.

Mark your calendar for this year's Annual Meeting! "TREAT" yourself and stop by for as little or as much as you want!



Learn how you can manage all aspects of your electric account online or with your mobile device — smart phone, iPad or iPod — and SmartHub. You can check your electric use, report service issues and pay your bill in a safe and secure environment.



Get a \$10 bill credit for each registered member who attends.



Pick up your 2012 Capital Credit Refund Check.



President & CEO Ron Salyer's Management Update at 10 a.m.



Business Meeting at 11 a.m.

Let us know how YOU want your capital credit money



Cooperative Spirit Day will also be the spot where you can pick up your 2012 Capital Credit refund check! While we don't know the full refund amount yet, we anticipate another significant retirement similar to 2011.

The additional space at Edison Community College will enable us to expedite the distribution simply by alphabetical order. So plan on joining us for fun and

information — and to pick up your check!

Rather have a credit on your electric bill? Your 2012 capital credit refund can be applied directly to your account **IF you let us know no later than Monday, February 27**. After that date, a check will be written, and it will be mailed to you after Cooperative Spirit Day. You can reach us at 800-762-0997 or by e-mail at mscenter@pioneerec.com.

If you requested a bill credit in 2011, you don't need to contact us again this year unless you'd rather have a check this time. We will credit your account automatically. If you have a past-due balance on your electric account at the time of the refund, your capital credits will be applied to the amount past due.

Loramie Cancer Crusaders

Doesn't it seem a shame that young girls' formal dresses are usually only worn once before getting stuffed into the back of a closet to collect dust? The **Loramie Cancer Crusaders** have created a unique way to fundraise for their Relay for Life Team, and give gently used formal gowns another night in the spotlight. Each January, for the past three years, the Crusaders have held a Prom Dress Exchange. Young ladies from many communities pay a fee to display their items, which include dresses, jewelry, purses and shoes. The items are dropped off before the event, and the Crusaders arrange the dresses by sizes and display all other items before the doors open up to the shoppers.

The event has grown each year, with a record number of dresses brought in to sell and more than 300 shoppers present in 2011. Shoppers traveled from near and far and have included residents of Shelby, Auglaize, Mercer, Miami and Darke counties. Last year, at least

half an hour before the event opening, a line of prom-goers anxiously awaited to find a bargain on their perfect dress. Once the doors opened, young ladies, their mothers, grandmothers and an occasional father swarmed into the room and excitedly looked through the racks and racks of dresses.

The Prom Dress Exchange has featured a large selection of styles and colors, including designer dresses by Alyce, Mori Lee, Flirt and Alfred Angelo. Shoppers have found a variety of sizes ranging from 0 to 18. With the opportunity to try on the dresses before buying, a dress that may not have looked appealing on the rack might end up being the perfect fit. Dresses have been priced between \$10 and \$250. Some individuals intentionally priced dresses well below their value and helped to make young girls' dreams of having a beautiful dress for prom come true.

Their **4th Annual Prom Dress Exchange** will be on **Sunday, January 15**, at the Ft. Loramie Elementary School cafeteria.

The Shelby County Relay for Life Team is in its fifth year and has 25-plus members including high school students. With the help of the Prom Dress Exchange and other fundraising events, the Crusaders were able to reach the Platinum Level in 2011 by raising more than \$7,500. The monies raised are donated to the American Cancer Society's cancer fighting efforts. If you have a special young lady in your life who will be attending prom this spring, please consider attending or donating to the 2012 Prom Dress Exchange. **For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/shelbycounty.**



Prom Dress Exchange — Sunday, January 15

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Drop off your dresses, shoes and accessories that you have priced. Items will be displayed for a nonrefundable donation of \$7/dress, \$3/accessory and \$3/pair of shoes.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Shop for a prom dress, shoes and accessories. Admission is FREE and dressing rooms are available.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Pick up your money/items if not sold. Any cash not picked up will be donated to Relay for Life. Any items not picked up will be donated to charity.

CASH ONLY! All proceeds from displaying items will be donated to the Shelby County Relay for Life.

Pioneer Electric Cooperative

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Urbana, Ohio 43078

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Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

HOME CONSTRUCTION SEMINAR

February 25

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pioneer Piqua Office

If you have plans to build a new home or do any major renovations to your home, Pioneer invites you to attend this one-day workshop. There is a \$5 charge per person and the day will include lunch. Reserve your seat by contacting the Pioneer office today at 1-800-762-0997.

Learn more about:

- Latest construction techniques
- Energy efficiency
- Pioneer incentives
- Electrical and lighting ideas



One lucky registered attendee will WIN a \$500 appliance certificate!

High School Seniors

Are your parents members of Pioneer Electric Cooperative?

YOU could win a college, vocational or technical school **\$1,500** scholarship of:



Here are the rules for the scholarship competition:

1. Applicants must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Pioneer Electric Cooperative member. They must be receiving service at the time of the statewide competition.
2. All applications must be submitted (typed) on forms obtainable on request from Pioneer or from the website www.pioneerec.com.
3. All applications must be submitted to the Piqua office of Pioneer by Wednesday, February 29.
4. Applicants must have all basic credits for college or proper** vocational or technical school entrance. (Proper vocational or technical schools must educate beyond high school and credits earned must be transferable to a state-accredited college.) They must have a current career grade-point average of **3.8** (on a 4-point scale) or better. Eligible applicants also may be accepted and then enrolled in an accredited school of nursing, working toward a degree or graduation.

For more information, contact Nancy Hatcher at 1-800-762-0997 or get your scholarship guidelines and application online at www.pioneerec.com