

OWEN Electric Connection

Owen Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

JULY 2017

Inspired by Independence

On Independence Day, many of us share the holiday by gathering with family and friends for activities such as watching fireworks, grilling burgers, and participating in community celebrations. These traditions are how we Americans celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As you enjoy the holiday, take a moment to reflect on the significance of the day. Approving the Declaration on July 4, 1776, was a bold and brave move for the members of the Continental Congress. A document declaring a people's liberties and freedoms was unheard of in its time — and signing it was considered an act of treason.

Today, this marvelous document remains a guiding light for Americans.

It inspires us to continually expand on the ideals of freedom. The founding of Owen Electric is a perfect example

of the heights that can be reached by those who are inspired by independence.

Local people denied the benefits and conveniences of electricity took the first steps toward a new kind of freedom in 1937. They banded together to make electricity accessible to rural homes, and succeeded in gaining independence from life in the dark.

Whether on the grand scale of national independence or the freedoms afforded by our local co-op, I hope you will never take for granted the sacrifices of others that make the "good life" possible.

Owen Electric is again honoring those who protect our liberties through service in the armed forces by sponsoring Honor Flight. This is the seventh year we have joined with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to fly war veterans to Washington, D.C.

I invite you to join us at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington on Saturday, Sept. 16, to personally express your appreciation to these deserving veterans.

Here's wishing you a safe and liberty-rich holiday. From Owen Electric, happy Independence Day!



KEVIN OSBOURN



Mark Stallons
President/CEO

International Electrification:

In February, Owen Electric Cooperative sent its third crew of linemen to Haiti as a part of a partnership with NRECA International. For more than 50 years, NRECA International has worked to bring electrification programs into impoverished and underdeveloped regions and countries around the globe.

“Our work in Haiti is a great testimony of what co-op families are all about—helping others,” says Orman Glass, a lineman for Owen Electric.

Glass, along with Matt Greenlee and Josh Hearn, spent three weeks working in and around Trou du Nord and the mountains of Sainte-Suzanne.

As has been the case in previous trips, the Owen Electric linemen work alongside Haitian linemen to provide training and guidance on technique as well as safety.

“Safety is something we stressed over and over; we reiterated that (the crewmembers) wanted to return home the same way they came to work,” says Hearn. “Crews were excited to learn our way of doing things and eager to accept a new challenge.”

Glass agrees that safety in performing linework is paramount.

“Safety is probably the one thing we were able to teach and have a big influence in lives both at work and at home,” Glass says. “It was challenging for them to try and retain all we were

trying to teach them about the work, but overall, I tried to teach them one thing every day about working safely.”

While there, Glass, Greenlee, and Hearn were able to complete a project previously worked on by the 2016 Owen Electric crew, setting the 25-30 poles needed, stringing primary and secondary cable, and hanging the remaining transformers. When they left, the project was ready for meters with the potential of providing electric service to approximately 100 more homes.

One of the highlights of the trip was interacting with the children at an orphanage called Helping Haitian Angels. The crew spent a day wiring several of their new buildings.

“Having been to Haiti two other times on mission trips, this was a totally different experience,” says Glass. “I enjoyed being around the people in the communities and especially the children. I’m thankful for the opportunity through Owen Electric and NRECA International for having the opportunity to serve and help in another country.”

While the linemen from Owen Electric were able to contribute to the electrification program in Haiti, something that will no doubt have a positive impact on the economy and overall quality of life, the small, tropical island gave them something in return.

“The people—mostly the kids—they have so little in material possessions but are always full of joy,” says Hearn. “We hoped we would make Haiti a better place to live and the trip was a success, but more impressively, it made us refocus on what’s really important.”



Orman Glass and Josh Hearn play jump rope with children of the Helping Haitian Angels orphanage. The children hold in their hands toys the linemen brought to give out as they meet children during their stay.

The Return to Haiti



Above, Josh Hearn poses with two of the Haitian linemen he worked with over the course of the three-week partnership with NRECA International.

Below, Matt Greenlee with one of the many children who came to see the line work that was going on throughout the day.



The electricity NRECA International and the electric co-ops it partners with is critical to the growth and health of developing countries. The economy and quality of life of a community can be greatly improved by the technology electrification allows for.

Board of Directors

Robert True—Chairman

Alan Ahrman—Vice Chairman

Rick Messingschlager—
Secretary/Treasurer

John Grant
Hope Kinman
Eddie McCord
Charlie Richardson

Mark Stallons
President/CEO

James M. Crawford
Attorney

Whitney Prather Duvall
Editor

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Owenton Office
8205 Hwy 127 N
PO Box 400
Owenton, KY 40359-0400
502-484-3471

Toll-Free 1-800-372-7612

Boone County Office
Florence Government Center
8100 Ewing Blvd.
Florence, KY 41042
859-283-5800

Grant County Office
300 Arbor Drive, Suite 1
Dry Ridge, KY 41035
859-824-3020

Pendleton County Office
10599 Hwy 27 N
Butler, KY 41006
859-472-2600

Virtual Office
www.owenelectric.com

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider.

OUT AND ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITIES!



Wee Wednesday

Linemen Chris Back and Joe Waichulis visited Piner Baptist Church's Wee Wednesday preschool program. Children got to learn and try on safety equipment linemen use each day as they work with electricity and also got to look at a bucket truck.



Owen County Leadership Group

Jack Myers, a member of Owen County Upper Elementary's Leadership Group, made a top-notch presentation about Owen Electric! Jack and fellow Leadership Group students visited businesses around Owen County throughout the school year to learn about what they do and their history. They then hosted a tea and invited representatives from those local businesses to talk about all they had learned.

Pendleton County Senior Bash

Owen Electric was proud to partner with sister co-op Blue Grass Energy to provide a booth at the Pendleton County Senior Bash. Pictured here are Jude Canchola, Residential Services manager for Owen Electric, and Denise Myers of Blue Grass Energy.

