

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 216 S. Vine, El Dorado, KS 800-464-0060

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THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT DOESN'T STOP AT YOUR METER

Butler REC

FROM THE MANAGER **How Do We Build a Better World?**

In today's uncertain economic times, that question certainly comes to mind. We all want our children and neighbors to succeed. We agree we need strong and sustainable communities. But how do you build a better world?

History tells us when we band together we can do anything. Together, we can build a better world. That's where cooperatives come into play.

This month, we kick off a yearlong celebration marking the International Year of Cooperatives 2012. Our theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World." resonates loud and clear in our turbulent national-and global-economy. The year offers a chance for us to showcase our legacy of innovation and achievement, and reminds us of what's important in business-putting people first.

You're a member of Butler REC, so you know we're focused on providing safe, reliable and affordable power. But this community-driven business model doesn't stop at your light switch. There are 29,200 co-ops across America taking many forms,

from farmers banding together to get a fair price on supplies to credit unions delivering low fees and reasonable interest rates on loans. Our business model works for dairy farmers, small business owners, financial institutions, grocery stores, insurance, housing and child care.

One out of every four Americans is a co-op member; there are more than 1 billion members around the world. Co-ops fill a community need, giving a voice to folks that profit-driven businesses often overlook. Co-ops also share a common set of principles and values, including self-help and-one of my favorites-democracy.

Electric cooperatives may only serve 12 percent of Americans, but our lines cover 75 percent of this great nation. By banding together, we deliver power to 42 million rural Americans in 47 states-and we're not finished.

During International Year of Cooperatives 2012 it's important to remember co-ops put people first. We brought electricity to this community

to improve our quality of life and keep young people from leaving to seek opportunities in electrifiedcities. Nearly three-quarters



R. Dale Short

of a century later we still want our children to succeed. That's why we support the Rural Electric Youth Tour and sponsor a student to our nation's capital to learn about leadership, teamwork and our nation's ideals. In addition, we also sponsor a student to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to learn about cooperatives and develop their leadership skills. These budding leaders will help us build a better world.

Whenever a community faces a need-a challenge to make life better-the cooperative business model comes into play. By putting people first and innovating to meet member needs, cooperative enterprises like Butler REC are helping to build a better world.

Butler REC Cooperative Month Activities

- ► September 24—Race for the Cure in Wichita
- ▶ October 3-4—Member Appreciation week at our offices
- ▶ October 8-Butler REC Day at Walters Pumpkin Patch
- October 11-Walnut River Water Festival

- ▶ October 15—Butler Community College Football Game vs. Coffeyville
- ▶ Other events throughout October—Area high school football games, adopt-a- Highway clean up day, coloring contest and daily prizes and treats at Butler REC offices. Visit our website at www. butler.coop to learn more!

Butler Sponsors Johnson on Washington, D.C. Trip

CHASE JOHNSON toured the nation's capital with 33 other students from across Kansas for the 51st Annual "Government in Action" Youth Tour, June 9-16.

Johnson was selected after taking a test over cooperative terms and history. He also went through an interview process with a panel of judges from Butler REC.

"Butler REC is proud to support the Youth Tour program and send our youth to experience government in action," Dale Short, Butler's

manager said. "Our hope is that local students will gain some awareness of how our political system works and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community."

Kansas is one of the 45 states to send a youth delegation to the annual electric cooperative youth tour. The all-expense-paid trips for the student winners are sponsored by the Kansas electric cooperatives. Since 1960, Kansas' electric cooperatives have sponsored

the trips of thousands of high school juniors and seniors to visit U.S. congressional members. energy and grassroots government education sessions and sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

The students toured the state capitol in Topeka, followed by visits to the Wolf Creek **Nuclear Power** Plant and the

Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative before flying to Washington, D.C. The group learned about the U.S. government through visits with their senators and congressional delegation, meetings with youth from other states and tours of museums, Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery and the White House.

"Not only did this



Chase Johnson represented Butler REC in Washington, D.C.

trip provide me with better insight on the government, but it also allowed me to share the experience with many other talented and outstanding individuals," Johnson said.

Butler REC sponsors the trip of one student each year. For more information, contact Travis Griffin at 800-464-0060.



Students from Kansas and Hawaii traveled together for a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. They had the opportunity to visit with members of Congress.

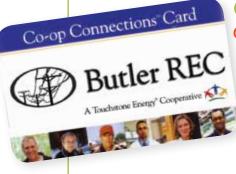
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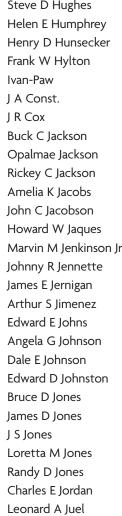
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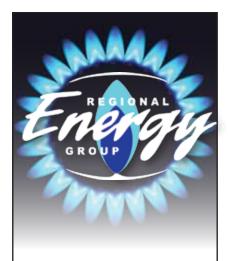
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