

JAKE'S Guatemala Mission

This past December, Missouri cooperatives sent a group of volunteer linemen to electrify the village of Trapachitos in the state of Quiche for 135 families who have never had electricity. BEC Journeyman Lineman Jake Mebruer was with the first team. Check out our Q&A about his journey.



About me

I'm Jake Mebruer and I live in Ashland. I've worked at Boone Electric since November 2017. Here is my new friend, Stephanie, I met at the village.

Why did you volunteer for this trip?

I've always looked for the opportunity to do a mission trip, and I couldn't pass this up. I was fortunate to go on this one. If I could give a little to them, I knew it would mean a lot. The feeling of bringing electricity for the first time is a lot like helping get the power back on after storms.

Tell us about the people you helped?

The people were awesome. Their teamwork and dedication was an inspiration. They didn't have much, but they were as happy as you can be. Everyone always offered to help lift tools or do

whatever else was needed. The women did our laundry and cleaned where we were staying. The men were doing anything to help.

The hardest thing was communicating. Most spoke Spanish at the village. We wanted to be able to talk to them so bad. I only knew enough Spanish to get by. We had a few translators and we used translation apps on our cell phones. We got some funny looks when we would say things wrong.

Describe your working day there?

Most days would start when a rooster would crow all night. First time I heard him I thought it was time to get up, but it was only midnight. Villagers would grind corn every morning for tortillas at 5:30 a.m. We had breakfast at 6 a.m. and then went to work until sundown.

Our group put up two miles of line from another village to get power to where we were. Most of the poles were set when we got there, so we put up a lot of anchors and overhead wire. The rocks in the mountains made digging hard. I felt like I could never stand up straight. It was a beautiful area to work in. Pictures don't do it justice.



Your favorite part?

My favorite part was when we turned the power on. It was pretty cool. They'd seen electricity in other villages, but have never had it. You had 50-60-year-old men in awe turning on a light switch, and getting back in a line behind kids to go and do it again. It made you appreciate what you do, and was very rewarding to see.

We were able to hook up some buildings including three schools and a community room. It meant a lot to me to go to Guatemala and help them. We worked hard and I learned a lot. I would definitely go again.





Rate increase scheduled for April

by **Todd Culley**, CEO/General Manager of Boone Electric

Boone Electric notified members in September of the need for a rate adjustment due to the investment in the headquarters building and renovation plan. Along with the building project, your Co-op has also experienced increases in the costs of delivering electricity. Because of this, increases for both the service availability fee and kWh rate will go into effect with bills calculated on and after April 1, 2020.

Much like a family's budget, Boone Electric looks at the basics like bills, debt and monthly income to set goals

and expectations for the future. Since we operate at the lowest possible cost and any profits earned are returned to the membership, investments and cost increases require an income adjustment to the cooperative.

A 5.21 percent revenue increase is needed to keep up with growing costs. This is the minimum amount required by the cooperative's lenders to keep the cost of borrowing down.

We have listed the adjustments below for residents and small commercial. Visit www.BooneElectric.coop for a list



of all changes. We've also included a look at how these adjustments will affect the average residential user (1,100 kWh/month).

The board of directors dedicates itself to being good stewards of your money and caring for BEC's future. Our doors are open, and our dedication to our members is ever-present. We are always here to listen. Contact us by phone at 573-449-4181 or email us at Comments@BooneElectric.com.

Before

600 x .091 = \$54.60 (First 600 kWh)
 500 x .082 = 41.00 (Next kWh)
26.95 (Service avail.)

Total: \$122.55*

After

600 x .095 = \$57.00 (First 600 kWh)
 500 x .0845 = 42.25 (Next kWh)
29.95 (Service avail.)

Total: \$129.20*

How the rate change affects the average user

*The average residential user at Boone Electric uses 1,100 kWh/month. The difference by month will be \$6.65 + taxes.

New Boone Electric Rate Structure

Residential

Service Availability (\$26.95) → **\$29.95**
 First 600 kWh @ (9.1¢) → **9.5¢/kWh**
 Next 1,400 kWh @ (8.2¢) → **8.45¢/kWh**
 Excess kWh @ (7.9¢) → **8.0¢/kWh**

Small Commercial

Service Availability (\$41.95) → **\$49.95**
 First 600 kWh @ (9.1¢) → **9.5¢/kWh**
 Next 1,400 kWh @ (8.2¢) → **8.45¢/kWh**
 Excess kWh @ (7.9¢) → **8.0¢/kWh**

For the full rate list, visit our website at www.BooneElectric.coop.

She thinks I'm smart.

My co-op helps keep it that way. They said we could save with an ENERGY STAR® smart thermostat. I got a new tech gadget, and surprised her with roses using the rebate money from our co-op.

I'll admit she's right, I am pretty smart.

Visit www.TakeControlAndSave.coop for more about rebates and find out how you can start saving time and money too!

Take Control Save Boone Electric Cooperative

Net Metering and Easy Connect Act

Interested in adding renewables, let us know!

Any member interested in applying for interconnection to Boone Electric Cooperative's electrical system should first contact our Member Services Dept. and ask for information related to the interconnection of a parallel distributed generation unit (i.e. hydrogen fuel cell; or generating system powered by the sun, wind or biomass).

Missouri's Net Metering Rules and Regulations are based on legislation that took effect January 1, 2008. The "Net Metering and Easy Connect Act" states that the distributed generation

is intended to primarily offset part or all of the customer-generator's own electrical energy requirements (find on www.energy.mo.gov).

For example, all kilowatt hours put onto the grid by the member will be subtracted from the total amount purchased that month from the Cooperative. The member will pay the "net" difference as calculated by using the applicable standard rate. Avoided cost is credited for all energy put on the grid in excess of that month's purchase. This amount can remain as a credit on

the member's bill for up to a maximum of 12 months. It will expire if not used within one year or at the time of disconnect. All standard service availability fees still apply. Credits cannot be applied toward monthly service availability charge.

For more information about adding your own renewable energy generation, please contact our Member Services Dept. at 573-449-4181 or view our "Energy Solutions" tab on our website.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Visit your school guidance counselor, the Boone Electric website or call Communications at 573-449-4181 for more details.

A Trip of a Lifetime

Heralded as the "Trip of a Lifetime," the Youth Tour program sends high school juniors from across the U.S. to Washington, D.C., June 19 - 25 to experience American history first-hand and to meet state representatives. Students make lifelong friendships and memories. Boone Electric will award the top four applicants with the highest combined scores a trip to Washington, D.C. and a \$500 college scholarship. The six runners-up will receive a \$500 college scholarship. Applications are due **Thursday, February 13**.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Cooperative Youth Conference Leadership Experience is a fun-filled few days of learning about electric co-ops, Missouri government and leadership skills. Along the way, students make plenty of new friends and visit the National Churchill Museum in Fulton. Boone Electric will send up to six area high school sophomores to Jefferson City on July 15 - 17 for this fantastic conference. Applications are due **Thursday, February 13**.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Boone Electric Community Trust awards 13 - \$2,000 scholarships in May of each year. Scholarships are awarded to one graduating student from each of the public high schools in the Boone Electric service area (see your guidance counselor for due dates). Four at-large scholarships are available to students from private schools, home schools or nontraditional backgrounds. Applications for at-large scholarships are due **Friday, March 13**.





Prepaid billing

All the control in your hands



**Prepaid
Billing**

Prepaid billing puts the control of billing in your hands. There is no monthly bill. You pay as you go.

Prepaid billing is like driving your car. You fill your car up with gas and go as far as it will take you. The way you drive affects how much gas you use. The gas is your electricity and the way you drive is how you use it.

You are billed for your electricity day-by-day. You can set up notifications by text, email or through the SmartHub app. Boone Electric will send notifications when your credit balance is getting low. The SmartHub app is a convenient and easy way to keep track of your account.

You can view your electric use daily or monthly. Payments can be made directly on the SmartHub app, at the office, by phone or our kiosk. View our FAQs on our website to learn more. Also, find all of our other available payment options on our website to see which is the best for you.



Electric vehicles

Curious? Check out our website

Boone Electric's website now features information about electric vehicles (EVs). The page is packed with insight such as — is an EV right for you, the types of EVs, the cost savings and commute savings, and a charger finder. Check it out and see if an EV would benefit you! Find the "Electric Vehicles" tab under "Energy Solutions."



**BOONE ELECTRIC WILL BE CLOSED ON
FEBRUARY 17 IN HONOR OF PRESIDENTS DAY**

February 2020 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Share your special event, meeting, fair or festival with members. Due to printing deadlines and limited space, information must be received by the 20th two months before the publication date. An online form for submissions is available on our website.

1 & 15 Sat

Columbia — Dance with the DeepWater Band, Columbia VFW Post 280, 7:30 p.m., Dan 573-999-1485

1 Sat

Rocheport — Bluegrass Worship Service, Rocheport Christian Church, 5 p.m., refreshments after, Barb Cataldo 573-698-1005

5 Wed

Columbia — First Wednesday Book Sale, Columbia Public Library, Noon - 7 p.m., www.dbrl.org, 573-443-3161

23 Sun

Columbia — Chess Exhibition with a Grandmaster, Columbia Public Library, 2 - 4 p.m., www.dbrl.org, 573-443-3161

29 Sat

Columbia — Black History & Culture Trivia Night, Columbia Public Library, 6 - 8:30 p.m., Adults, www.dbrl.org, 573-443-3161

Send Calendar items to:

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Communications@BooneElectric.com

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