

Pioneer enjoys successful, busy year in Shelby County

Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative enjoyed a busy and successful year in Shelby County and 10 additional counties in West Central Ohio in 2007. Highlights of the year included hosting the 71st annual meeting of members, offering continued focus on our commitment to the local community, construction projects to ensure reliable service, completing the implementation of Awesome Member Reliability, offering Pioneer Connect, initial construction of the new Urbana district office and business issues.



Salyer

President/Chief Executive Officer Ronald Salyer has released the following report: Pioneer held its 71st annual meeting of members and Cooperative Spirit Day festivities on April 14. Members were treated to a spring-themed open house at Pioneer's headquarters in Piqua which attracted approximately 550 people, with 127 of these being first-time attendees. The business session included the announcement of election results for three trustees to the Pioneer Board and four to each of the Cooperative's three county boards. Re-elected by the members to a



Photo provided

PIONEER RURAL Electric customers attend the 2007 Cooperative Spirit Day.

three-year term on the Pioneer Board of Trustees was Orville Bensman of Shelby County. In addition, positions were filled on the Shelby County board. Those elected were: Jason Bruns, Jeff Bertke, Jerry Tangeman and Ronald Corbett.

Pioneer's commitment to community included employee efforts to educate local school children with an electrical safety education program at Fort Loramie elementary school, and participation in Russia Local School's Accounting for Kids' Day. The 2007 scholarship competition involved 40 stu-

dents representing 21 area schools. Katherine Hoying, a graduate from Russia High School, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Hannah Clark, a student at Houston High School, was among 39 high school winners from throughout Ohio who visited Washington, D. C. and other points of interest June 8 to 14 as part of Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives Inc.'s Youth Tour to the nation's capital.

Pioneer Electric participated in the 2007 Shelby County Fair as a one day sponsor and a co-sponsor of the main entertainment tent during four evening shows.

During the day sponsorship, numerous giveaways were distributed and 626 tickets were returned for door prize drawings.

Electric line construction projects of over seven miles for reliable service were finished this year in the county. Pioneer replaced older copperweld and steel conductors with stronger more durable aluminum steel reinforced conductors as planned.

Pioneer also completed construction, documentation and reimbursement for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from the 2005 January ice storm. Construction in northern Shelby County around Anna, McCartyville and Fort Loramie occurred. Overall, Pioneer received more than \$1.7 million from FEMA.

Pioneer's unique; not-for-profit business model enabled us to obtain this FEMA assistance resulting in a 70 percent reduction in costs while building these lines. With this financial assistance, we were able to rebuild and strengthen more than 40 miles of line throughout our distribution system benefitting 375 members.

In addition, Pebblebrook near Anna and White Feather near McCartyville, residential subdivisions, were further developed. There are four new homes in Pebblebrook and three new homes in White Feather. Our membership has grown with 88 new services in Shelby County and many Pioneer members decided to put in geothermal heating and cooling with 21 units installed.

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