

Gascosage Electric Cooperative

By Somer Overshon

Gascosage Electric Cooperative's slogan, "People Helping People Since 1945" is exactly what the cooperative idea is all about.

For over 70 years, Gascosage has prided itself on providing its membership with reliable and affordable electricity. Gascosage's territories include Camden, Miller, Maries, Phelps and Pulaski counties. The Cooperative has approximately 10,000 metering points and services and maintains around 1,500 miles of electric power lines.

Gascosage puts out a monthly newsletter to all members, the Rural Missouri, and also has an annual meeting, held the last Saturday of every September at the Dixon High School. The Cooperative also reaches out to the community in the following ways:

- As a cooperative, Gascosage Electric is different from many other utility companies. Gascosage does not have out-of-town stockholders who make a profit off of electric

sales. Instead, cooperatives are owned by its members; that means you are an equal owner of Gascosage. When the Cooperative has favorable margins for the year, Gas-

cosage's board of directors can elect to return these margins back to its members in what is called patronage capital, or capital credits. This is just one of the benefits of being a member of a cooperative.

- Crews string Christmas lights for the holidays in towns in its service area. The Co-op donates the expense to the communities.

- The Cooperative awards an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. yearly to four high school juniors from the Dixon, Crocker, Iberia and Newburg school districts. Sixteen finalists, (four from each school), attend a banquet and are interviewed by a panel of judges from Sho-Me Power, and a winner is selected from each school. Four runners' up attend the C.Y.C.L.E. (Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience) in Jefferson City, Missouri.

- Gascosage awards 20 scholarships a year to area seniors whose parents or guardians are members of

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New "Community Events" board in the GEC foyer. Gascosage was thrilled that the Crocker FFA designed and crafted this one-of-a-kind stand featuring Willie Wired-hand! Crocker FFA Representatives Vice President Jonathan Routh and Head of Agricultural Sciences Matt Schroer presented the new board to Gascosage. Crocker FFA has members who obviously have a lot of talent to share with the community! Submitted



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"People Helping People Since 1945."

Dependable Electric Power at the Lowest Possible Rates!

- Gascosage Electric is a member owned cooperative.
- Gascosage holds an annual membership meeting the last Saturday in September of each year, with entertainment for adults and children, free lunch and prizes given out.
- Gascosage gives (20) \$1,000 Luther A. Riddle Scholarships to seniors whose parents or guardians are members and receiving service from the cooperative.
- Gascosage also sends four high school juniors (one from each school in their service area) to the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June of each year.
- Gascosage offers several rebates on energy star appliances and heat pumps.

P.O. Box G • Dixon, MO 65459

Phone: 573-759-7146 • Fax: 573-759-6020

1-866-5OUTAGE (866-568-8243)

<http://www.gascosage.com>



Providing Electric Service to parts of Maries, Miller, Phelps, Camden & Pulaski Counties for over 50 years.

