



CONNECT

A newsletter for the members of **JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE**

Laura Bigelow Named JEC Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Jefferson Energy Cooperative's Employee of the Year, Laura Bigelow. Laura was selected for the honor from among four Employees of the Quarter for 2019.

'I truly love my job. There's something different every day, and it's very rewarding when you feel you've helped a member.'

—Laura Bigelow



rewarding when you feel you've helped them," she says.

In her original nomination of Laura for Employee of the Quarter, supervisor Yvette Brock wrote, "Laura is dependable, great at multitasking and always goes over and above any job duties that are asked of her. She's a great asset to Jefferson Energy. And the fact that she is bilingual is certainly beneficial to our Spanish-speaking members as well."

Laura says, "My co-workers are great, and I couldn't do it without them. We work as a team. Our supervisor, Yvette Brock, is very encouraging and supportive. She also displays the perfect example of customer service and truly cares for our members."

"I was very surprised when it was announced," she says. "It's truly an honor and nice to be recognized for doing a good job."

Laura, a Member Services Representative in the Richmond County office, first worked at JEC from 2003-2010. After a few years away, she rejoined (94058-002) the Jefferson Energy team five years ago, and she says she's glad she did.

"I truly love my job. I like face-to-face interaction with our members. There's something different every day, and it's very

Laura is originally from Amityville, N.Y., (yes, the one from the movies) and spent eight years living in Spain. She and husband Mathew are still adjusting to being empty nesters as their three children are grown. In her spare time, she enjoys quilting, or as she puts it, "taking perfectly good pieces of fabric, cutting them up into tiny pieces, then sewing them back together again."

Congratulations once again to the 2019 Jefferson Energy Employee of the Year, Laura Bigelow!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

—Source: energy.gov



JEC Donates to Burn Foundation of America

At a recent luncheon at Jefferson Energy Cooperative's Wrens headquarters, employees celebrated as the company presented the Burn Foundation of America with a check for more than \$29,000. The Burn Foundation of America provides assistance to families of burn patients being treated at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

'We can support so many people with loved ones in the burn unit.'

—Linda McKnight

"We're proud to support such a great organization," says Steve Chalker, Jefferson Energy's Director of Public Relations. "With the (10054936-001) nature of our business, we're glad to have one of the premier facilities in the country right here in our local community."

The funds came from the proceeds of the annual Jefferson Energy Charity Golf Classic, along with direct employee contributions. Jefferson Energy also received a \$7,500 matching grant from Co-Bank, one of the cooperative's lenders. Through the Sharing Success program, CoBank contributes additional funds to donations made by cooperative customers like JEC to the nonprofit organizations of their choice.

Linda McKnight and Alicia Sweat accepted the funds on behalf of the Burn Foundation. "This money will do so much for the foundation. We can support so many people with loved ones in the burn unit. This will help with other costs associated with the organization as well," says McKnight.

For more information about the Burn Foundation of America, go to burnfoundation.net.



Steve Chalker presents JEC's yearly donation to Alicia Sweat, left, and Linda McKnight of the Burn Foundation of America.

Follow These Steps and You Can Prevent Burns

There's just no reason for anyone in your family to suffer from an electrical burn. The first week of February is Burn Awareness Week, so it's a good time to take inventory of your home's potential burn hazards.

- Replace smoke detector batteries at least once a year.
- Put away any extension cords you used at Christmas. They're not made for permanent use and can burn you or your children if they overheat because of overuse.



- If any electrical wires are hiding under rugs, move them. Stepping on them can cause damage and turn them into a burn hazard—or a fire risk.

- Teach your children to stay a safe distance from the stove.
- Turn pot handles inward when you cook, and place pots on rear burners if you have children.
- Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees, a comfortable temperature that won't scald.
- Replace traditional candles with realistic-looking, battery-operated versions.
- Forbid your children from lighting matches and playing with lighters.

Bobby Bunn Named JEC Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Jefferson Energy's Employee of the Fourth Quarter, Bobby Bunn. Bobby began his career as a meter reader 28 years ago and currently works as a Line Tech III.

"I love what I do here at Jefferson Energy. And I enjoy providing the best quality service not only for our members, but for the company as well. It's an honor to be recognized for your hard work. But it wouldn't be possible without the (2057-001) great team we have at Jefferson Energy. We all work together to accomplish our goals."

Bobby knows a thing or two about teamwork. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1985 and served on the USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58) till 1990. On April 14, 1988, his ship was severely damaged and nearly sank after striking an underwater mine in the Persian Gulf. Bobby is mentioned in a book about the incident called "No Higher Honor: Saving the USS Samuel B. Roberts in the Persian Gulf."



Bobby Bunn

After leaving active duty as an Engineman Second Class Petty Officer, he rejoined the reserves and enlisted into the Navy Seabees as a Construction Mechanic Second Class Petty Officer. He served until 2012, when he retired as Construction Mechanic Chief Petty Officer (Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist). He was deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004 and 2007, respectively, where he provided convoy security during 100 missions that covered nearly 10,000 miles in the Sunni Triangle of Iraq.

Bobby and his wife, Wanda, have five children between them and three grandchildren. When not spending time with family, he enjoys hunting, fishing and riding his

motorcycle.

Jefferson Energy is proud to recognize Bobby Bunn as Employee of the Fourth Quarter. His hard work and dedication to Jefferson Energy, its members and his country are greatly appreciated.

Jefferson Energy Cooperative Foundation Scholarships

The deadline for submitting applications is March 27, 2020.

The Jefferson Energy Cooperative Foundation is accepting scholarship applications. Forms are available at local Jefferson Energy offices, as well as the guidance offices at local high schools.

Applicants must be a member of Jefferson Energy Cooperative. The deadline for submitting applications is March 27, 2020. Please contact Suzanne Saunders at (706) 547-5055 for more information.





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Jefferson Energy Cooperative

Jefferson Energy Cooperative

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KEEP INFORMED AND WIN \$25

It pays to keep informed about JEC's business. Read and find your account number in "CONNECT." Call our Member Services Department to claim your award—a \$25 credit on your bill.

WITH YOUR CORRECT PHONE NUMBER, WE CAN GET THE LIGHTS ON FASTER

During large outages, Jefferson Energy Cooperative receives thousands of calls at once. Having your correct phone number helps our Outage Call Answering System retrieve your information faster.

Please check the phone number and service address listed on your electric bill. If they are incorrect, please call 877-JEFFERSON (877-533-3377) with the correct information so we can better serve you.

*Jefferson Energy Cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*

Learn More About Your Cooperative

Want to learn more about your electric cooperative? Jefferson Energy will be hosting an informational meeting, Getting to Know Your Cooperative, on April 4, 2020, at the headquarters in Wrens. All Jefferson Energy members are welcome.

Space is limited so please RSVP to ljohnson@jec.coop. Or call Member Services at 1 (877) JEFFERSON for more information.



2020 Census : Make Sure You're Counted

When: March 12 to end of April 2020

How to take the census:

- By MAIL, PHONE or ONLINE
- By mid-April, everyone should have received a paper Census questionnaire in the mail with instructions on how to take it

Why you should take the census:

- Your community counts and so do you! We want to (8248-001) make sure you get the resources you need to succeed!
- Census data affects the political power and money given to your community for the next 10 years. More people means more funding to feed children, support schools, support local roads and infrastructure. Additionally, the census count is used in redistricting state and federal political seats.

Because Every.One.Counts!

Make sure you and your family are counted! Be on the lookout for it to come in the mail in March and fill it out! Call your city hall or county Board of Commissioners office if you have any questions.



Happy Valentine's Day from Jefferson Energy

Jefferson Energy Cooperative wishes all of our valued members a Happy Valentine's Day!

Jefferson Energy Cooperative