

Narrative Summary
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During the past week, I had the great pleasure of participating in the CAWS Teacher Exchange Program at the Cullman Electric Cooperative. During my week, I was informed of how a cooperative is conducted and the history of the Cullman Electric Cooperative. Mr. Grady Smith, President and CEO shared the history of the Coop and informed me that we had electricity in Cullman County for the first time in 1936. To become a member of the cooperative, each member paid \$5.00. The membership fee in 2014 is still only \$5.00. This ensured me that the Coop works for their members and is always looking for ways to keep cost to a minimum. Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Janice Neal worked with me and made me feel welcome throughout my entire week. She was a very cordial host.

On my second day, I had the opportunity to work at the Addison office. I spent the day with Mr. Terry Graham. He demonstrated how meters are no longer read by a meter reader, but instead are read by simply clicking a button on a computer. He drove through the Houston community and shared with me power lines throughout the Smith Lake area and the amount of power lines that the Cullman Electric Cooperative has to keep serviced. Also at the Addison office I had the opportunity to work with Charlie Leverett, an engineer. He shared how he draws a ticket for the construction crews to put the poles where needed for new and existing members.

The third day I had the opportunity of working with Mr. Jim Glasscock. He took me to a job site where the construction crews were staking the poles that the engineers had drawn for them. I knew our lineman worked hard to keep our electricity working, but this day I had an eye witness account of the mental and physical work the lineman do daily. The linemen that I observed that day were kind to me and were eager to answer any questions that I acquired as I observed their working. I cannot thank the lineman enough for all of their hard work they do daily to keep our electricity working. Our day went by quickly with Mr. Glasscock and he was a gracious host.

Day four was spent at the office in Cullman. I began my day by observing the dispatch room. The technology used in dispatch is top of the line and absolutely amazing. The job of dispatch is extremely important due to the fact they are working monitoring power outages as well as keeping our lineman safe. Next, I went with Kyle Baggett. He shared his job description as vice president of engineering and operations and the many jobs the engineering department performs daily. The rest of the day was spent with the technology department and the inner workings they do along with how the computer systems were monitored.

On Friday, I worked with Billy Rigsby. He is in charge of theft at the cooperative. He shared with me pictures and some archives of theft that takes place in Cullman County. The rest of the day was spent with Melissa Cartee, vice president of member services, and Brian Lacy, communication coordinator. They shared with me how they keep members informed of information about the coop. The Cullman Electric Coop's main source of communication is through the magazine, *Alabama Living*.

I feel fortunate I had the opportunity to spend my week at the Cullman Electric Cooperative. I learned things about the coop I was not aware of and useful information that I can take back to share with my students and family. I want to personally thank the coop for sharing their week with me.