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Am I traditional? Is that so bad?

By **VICKI FIX** | Member Services

I have always prided myself to be open to “change”. 2021 has been challenging to say the least, but when my daughter asked if we would like to celebrate a “non-traditional” Thanksgiving in Deadwood, South Dakota, I realized, I might not be as open to change as I once was.

I was reflecting back to when my daughter was in about 5th or 6th grade, and she wondered why our Thanksgiving didn't look like the ones on TV. She stated that they all sit around the table and the dad carves the turkey for the whole family. We usually do buffet style. But for her, that year, we decided to have some fun. It really was fun, and boy did we

have a big, long table for all of our family. My grandpa was in charge of the carving, and you could tell that it just tickled him to be in charge of that. My grandmother decided to try her hand at a molded jello salad, which caused a lot of giggles in the kitchen when the salad just puddled as we took it out of the mold.

I miss those days. My home has always been the hub of holiday activity, as I live in the home I grew up in.

Thanksgiving is my favorite. But now, my brothers are hosting their families. My children split their time, and they also have jobs that keep them working during holidays.

We lost both of my husband's parents this year, and I have been reflecting on how hard it must have

been for them when their boys and their spouses had to split time.

I reflect on the last 35 years that my mother has not had my family for Christmas. Change happens, and we move on, but I think this mom... is definitely traditional.

I guess, to make a long story short, I don't like non-traditional. I want everyone at my house, watching football, eating turkey, corn-bread stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, sweet potatoes, pies, cranberries, and everything else that makes you miserable by the end of the day. I want everyone together playing games and laughing. And by “everyone” I mean even the in-laws, the outlaws, friends and family. RM

Jack Hamblin claims top honors for Best Manager's Report

MECA Annual Meeting was held on October 4-6. Manager Jack Hamblin; Directors Dave Hayden, Clayton Jardee and Albert Paul; Line Foreman Mike Dalzell and Member Jalyn Klauzer were all in attendance.

Dalzell presented information to the Today's Members Program attendees on outage management and the steps taken when an outage occurs. He and Klauzer also attended the entire program, which covered topics such as How Electrons Get to Your Place, Renewable Generation, What's on a Pole and the Importance of Statewide Grassroots Action, to name

a few.

Outstanding communication awards were presented during the meeting. Manager Jack Hamblin was awarded first place for the Best Manager's Report for his article “Facial Hair... What's the Big Deal.”

Service awards were given to Robin Kuntz for 40 years of service, and Dalzell for 25 years of service. Both Robin and Mike stated that it is easy to work for our members.

“We are lucky to have great members and an amazing working environment.” RM



Washington D.C. Youth Tour



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Stephanie Steffes,
2006 Youth Tour participant:

"The Washington Youth Tour was a once in a lifetime experience, especially when you grew up in small town Plevna, Montana! Seeing all the monuments, memorials and Capitol Hill up close and personal really make a person appreciate those people and events that make up our nation's rich history. The Holocaust Museum, though extremely graphic, is a place I think every person needs to experience one way or another... I could go on and on about how rewarding this trip was! My advice is to write the essay... do some research before you go... and take a lot of pictures so you can share our nation's history with those in your community!! You will not regret one moment!"

Ellen Guyer,
2013 Youth Tour participant:

"Youth Tour was like a 'best kept secret' for me. I had no idea what I would get to do while on the trip until I was whisked into the weeklong adventure with electric cooperatives I did not know all that much about! Because my essay was selected, I experienced Ford's Theater, the Spy Museum, war memorials and so much more with friends from Montana, North Dakota and Idaho. I know a few people on my trip that roomed together in college as a result! I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to visit the Capitol and our state's representatives. I remember the whole experience fondly as a sophomore in college, and I know I will the rest of my life!"

Vicki Fix, Youth Tour chaperone:

As an attendee, on the chaperone side, the trip is rewarding in more ways than you can imagine. The students that traveled on our trip were so smart, respectful and kind — the best Montana had to offer! The sites we saw were humbling: Iwo Jima Memorial, World War II Memorial, Korean and Lincoln memorials, 9-11 Pentagon Memorial and the National Cemetery. The kids had fun interacting with students from other states during Youth Day, the river boat cruise and the Washington Nationals baseball game. Times have changed and the tour changes each year, but I guarantee the friendships and experiences made are lasting.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

From all of us at Southeast Electric

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