



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



[www.harrisonrea.com](http://www.harrisonrea.com)

## Your Co-op membership has its privileges

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric Cooperative. Not only are Co-ops locally owned and controlled by you, the member/customers, they also are locally run to serve your needs.

While many investor-owned utility customers pay their power bills to companies that answer to faraway stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots for electric Co-ops. Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big dividends for investors. Instead, Co-ops invest money in excess of operating costs back into the business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

### Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7 .....President  
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Darrell Powell, Dist. 6 .....Secy.-Treas.  
C.B. Sharp .....Dist. 1  
Glenn Cox, Jr. ....Dist. 3  
James Stuart..... Dist. 4  
Ron Watson.....Dist. 5

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager  
Terry Stout .....Office Manager  
Alan Cox .....Operations Manager  
Richard L. Fox.....Staking Engineer  
Nada McNemar .....Editor

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

Unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who must consider Wall Street profit pressures, your Co-op's directors, (who are fellow members, by the way), have only one thing in mind — keeping the lights on and keeping the costs down. That is why you elected them, and that is what's so great about Co-ops. If you don't like the direction your Co-op is taking, you have the power to change the leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric Cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural citizens banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were then. Co-ops are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize that the Co-op approach — members working together to achieve price and service benefits — can work for them just as effectively as it has worked for rural Americans for years.

The principles upon which electric Co-ops were founded — voluntary and open membership,

### Manager's Corner

By  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



democratic member control and members' economic participation, among others — are as meaningful today as they were when electric Co-ops began in the 1930s.

The Co-op leadership shares the concerns that you, the member, have. We are accessible to our members. You can give us a call or send us an e-mail and be assured that someone here is listening. And at our annual meeting, you can visit with us in person and share any thoughts you might have about how your business is being run.

In these days of deregulation, soaring profits and billion-dollar mergers and acquisitions in the power industry, those of you who get your electricity from Co-ops should count yourselves lucky. As locally owned-and-operated businesses, electric Co-ops have a real understanding of the people we serve. Cooperative management and employees share the same values and have the same pride of place because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors, because we are neighbors.

And that's the Cooperative difference.

# Garden tips from the weather vane almanac

When choosing the site for your home garden, some factors to consider are the amount of sunlight it will receive and the characteristics of the soil. Well-drained, deep, fertile soil is essential for a successful garden. If possible, the garden should receive full sunlight all day. The composition of the soil within your garden is another factor that should be taken into consideration. Onions, celery and late cucumbers do well if part of your plot is low and moist. If you have an area that is high, warm and dry, you could place vegetables that need a soil that warms up quickly there. Keep in mind that some vegetables can be grown in flower beds or containers. Since many vegetables are ornamental in appearance, you might consider working them in around your shrubbery.

This could save room in your garden plot for additional vegetables. You don't have to wait until after frost to plant, either. Some vegetables should go into the ground early. Transplants of cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, kale, English peas and Irish potatoes need about three to four weeks' head start on warm weather.

Larger vegetable gardens need some perennials, grouped together where they cannot interfere with the annual crops. Asparagus is a good choice and is one of the earliest of the spring vegetables. One-year-old plants with a root spread of at least 15 inches are recommended. If set in beds, plants should be 1-1/2 ft. apart each way. For rows, they should be 1-1/2 ft. apart and the rows themselves from 4 to 5 ft. apart.

Eggplant is a warm-weather plant extremely sensitive to the conditions under which it grows. Eggplant should not be set outdoors until the soil is well warmed, and it requires high day and night temperatures. For best results, plant in fertile, well-drained soil in an area that receives full sun all day. You need only a few plants to produce a large number of fruits.

Pinch off blooms of flowers before planting. The plant will put its initial energy into establishing roots and foliage, not flowers. Favorite flowers for potting in sunny locations include dahlias, nasturtiums, geraniums and marigolds. For shade, impatiens, ferns and tuberous begonias do well.

Your garden requires an inch of rain a week for best plant growth. Keep weeds pulled out, they will compete with your plants for moisture. Did you know that there are about 170 pounds of weed seed in a 50 x 50 ft. garden plot? Mulch will moderate the soil temperature around plants and help to control weeds. Plants spaced close together allow the leaves from neighboring plants to shade the soil, conserving moisture. During periods of no rainfall it is recommended to water thoroughly about once a week. Hard-packed clay soil should be loosened to allow the water to penetrate. Soaker hoses are a good choice because they are relatively inexpensive and conserve water. If you must use overhead sprinklers, keep in mind vegetables such as tomatoes, zucchinis and cucumbers are susceptible to fungal disease and should not have water left on their leaves. Conserve water resources by watering during the cool of the early morning. To minimize evaporation, install a soaker hose or drip irrigation system in your garden. Save rainwater for watering your garden. It saves on your water bill and is better for your plants.

Lastly, did you know that if every homeowner in the country planted two deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall), those trees, when grown, would remove more than 18 million tons of carbon dioxide from the air and save us more than \$4 billion in utility bills annually?

## Open letter to the members

For the last several years, your board of directors has been aggressively working with our local elected officials to pass a bill amending Chapter 11 of the State Code to include nonprofit electric corporations for the same property tax exemption that is given to other nonprofit utilities that provide water, natural gas and/or sewer services.

We are pleased to report that with the leadership of Senator Joe Minard, who introduced Senate Bill 101, and the driving force of delegates Ron Fragale, Tim Miley, Richard Iaquina and Sam Cann, the governor signed the amendment into law this past week. This action will be a cost savings of more than \$200,000 annually to the Co-op.

We would appreciate your taking the time to thank each of these men for their efforts:

**Senator Joe Minard**  
510 Haymond Highway  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
304-622-6488

**Delegate Richard Iaquina**  
139 Vermont Avenue  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
304-622-4813

**Delegate Ron Fragale**  
503 East Main Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
304-622-3609

**Delegate Sam Cann**  
P.O. Box 1570  
Clarksburg, WV 26302-1570  
304-842-4031

**Delegate Tim Miley**  
23 Valley View Road  
Bridgeport, WV 26330  
304-848-0102

It is a pleasure serving you.

We are sincerely,

Mike Cross, C.B. Sharp, Jim Stewart, Glenn Cox,  
Greg Robertson, Jack Powell, Ron Watson

Harrison Rural Electric  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Justin Yerkey chosen for Youth Leadership Council

Justin Yerkey, son on lineman Ron Yerkey and bookkeeper Debbie Yerkey, attended the NRECA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, Calif., this past February.

Justin represented HREA as our 2007 Youth Tour student, and was chosen to serve on the Youth Leadership Council at the 2008 NRECA Annual Meeting. Justin's main responsibility was to help organize the other youth who attended the meeting. He is an old hand at managing students, since he assists the girl's volleyball coach at Doddridge County High School.

Justin got to go to Disneyland while he was in Anaheim, but he said the best part of the trip was



getting to see some of the other Youth Tour students he had made friends with while on the Youth Tour. He also toured Los Angeles by car and saw some of the sights there.

When asked if he would recommend the Youth Tour to other students, Justin said he definitely would. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and made many new friends.

Justin is a junior at Doddridge County High School where he travels with the ball teams and videotapes their games. He is a member of the

Student Council, is on the prom committee and recently became a Demolay. He plans to join the Air Force upon graduation and wants to get his degree in engineering while he serves his country.

Good luck, Justin, from all of us. We know you will succeed in whatever you do. Thank you for being such a fine representative of our Cooperative.

# Brittany Greathouse receives honorable mention at science fair

Brittany Greathouse, daughter of receptionist April Greathouse and her husband, Tim, competed in the Regional Science Fair held at Fairmont State University.

In order to be eligible for the Regional Fair, Brittany first had to place in her school's science fair. There were more than 80 projects turned in divided into different divisions. Brittany placed in the chemistry and bio-chemistry division with her project "What is the better carpet cleaner?" Brittany first came up with a hypothesis, observed the results of her experiment and then gave her final conclusion.

Brittany received honorable mention at the Regional Science Fair, and the dean of the university presented her with a silver beaker from the chemistry department.

Brittany is a sixth grader at Doddridge County Middle School. She enjoys playing softball and scrap-booking.

Congratulations, Brittany, on a job well done!



# HREA's 2008 service awards

The following employees each will reach a personal milestone this year for years of service to your electric Cooperative: Billing clerk Melissa (Missie) Stephenson and lineman Jon Paul McAllister will each complete 10 years of service this year. Lineman Rob Davis began working for HREA 15 years ago, and staking engineer Rick Fox will complete his 25th year with the Co-op. Leading this group is lineman John Holt, who has an amazing tenure of 35 years!

Congratulations to all these dedicated employees! Harrison Rural Electric certainly is lucky to have each and every one of you working for our member/owners.

*Harrison Rural  
Electrification  
will be closed  
Monday,  
May 26 in  
observance of  
Memorial Day.*



