



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



www.harrisonrea.com

Annual meeting and economy

This year's Annual Meeting will be similar in many ways to past years'. We will provide a full-course pasta dinner with dessert before the general meeting begins. This year's dinner will be catered by the local 4-H club of Harrison County. The proposed agenda will focus on the issues of providing affordable power and our ability to provide reliable energy.

While much of our economy is sinking to depths comparable to the Great Depression, the spiraling costs to provide energy to our members continues to rise. As I've mentioned in previous articles, our major expenditure to run the cooperative continues to be the price to purchase power for resale to our members. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our not-for-profit electric cooper-

ative continues to provide energy to its members with minimum resources and operates with lower operating capital to facilitate holding down price increases as much as possible.

While natural resources, like

Manager's Corner

By Gary Jackson, CEO/General Manager



RSVP

The Board, Management and Staff of Harrison Rural Electric would like to extend this invitation to all of our member/owners to join us for dinner on Thursday, April 16, in the cafeteria of Liberty High School.

A pasta dinner will be provided and served by the Harrison County 4-H Club from 6-7:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, would you please take a moment and call the co-op office and tell us? We're looking forward to seeing you there. Please try to come!

RSVP 304-624-6365 or www.harrisonrea.com

ture that exempted the cooperative from paying property taxes. These funds will be used to help offset future costs for the purchase of energy for our members; however, these funds will not be fully available until 2010. Additionally, we have curtailed the use of any outside contracting firms to construct or rebuild any

of our current infrastructures. All proposed projects for 2009 will be done in-house. Furthermore, cleaning services and mowing will continue to be done by our current labor force.

I'm pleased to say that I received several positive comments from members regarding the compact fluorescent light bulb give-away program. Many members who took advantage of the program were using the new bulbs for the first time. Many said they saw improvements regarding the size of the bulb and the improved quality of light produced, all of which helps reduce members' energy consumption.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new members, and I will be happy to discuss any concerns you may have.

Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7President
Greg Robertson, Dist. 2Vice President
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6Secy.-Treas.
C.B. SharpDist. 1
Glenn Cox, Jr.Dist. 3
James Stuart..... Dist. 4
Ron Watson.....Dist. 5

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager
Terry StoutOffice Manager
Alan CoxOperations Manager
Richard L. Fox.....Staking Engineer
Nada McNemarEditor

Office Hours

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

oil and gas, currently are declining, many of the fixed base costs of running the cooperative are purchased in the futures market. Consequently, except for the current lower prices for fuel to run our vehicles, we continue to experience higher costs to purchase energy. Additionally, our current power contract that was signed in 2007 contains escalating costs for energy purchases over the remaining three-year contract that ends July 2013.

We anticipate 2009 to be a challenging year for both the cooperative and the membership. Consequently, we are streamlining operations at every level possible to cut costs and still provide reliable service to all of you.

In 2008, we were able to get a bill passed through our legisla-

2008 annual meeting minutes

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
April 17, 2008
LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

The membership enjoyed a pasta dinner catered by Via Veneto and served by cooperative employees between 6 and 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Liberty High School. After the dinner, CEO/General Manager Gary Jackson called the 71st annual membership meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The presentation of the flags and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by the young men of West Milford Troop 549 of the Boy Scouts of America.

CEO/General Manager Gary Jackson welcomed the members in attendance and stated that in accordance with Article III, Section 4 of HREA's bylaws, a quorum for the meeting was constituted. Mr. Jackson then introduced Senator Joe Minard and delegates Sam Cann, Richard Iaquinto, Tim Miley and Ron Fragale. Each was presented a plaque thanking them for their support in passing the legislation to have not-for-profit electric utilities added to the state code as being exempt from property taxes. Senator Minard complimented the Board for seeing this issue through to a successful conclusion and delegate Cann commented about the future savings this should bring the membership. Mr. Jackson then introduced Mr. Chunki Angotti and Mr. Ron Watson of the Harrison County Commission and asked that everyone in attendance also recognize their contributions in getting the aforesaid legislation passed.

Mr. Jackson then presented HREA Director Mr. Darrell "Jack" Powell with a plaque from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association recognizing his 22 years of service.

Mr. Jackson introduced Mr. Powell, secretary/treasurer. Mr. Powell presented the legal notice of the meeting, the proof of mailing of the official

notice and he then read the official notice. Following the reading of the notice, Mr. Powell noted that the minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2007 were published in *Country Living* magazine and in the Annual Report distributed to the members in attendance. Mr. Powell called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the meeting minutes. A motion was duly made, seconded and approved.

CEO/General Manager Gary Jackson presented a synopsis of the issues faced by the cooperative in 2007 and those yet to come in 2008 and beyond. He informed the membership that the cost of power is increasing and that they probably will see increases in their bills of about \$18 to \$20 per month for the average residential consumer. He concluded with a question-and-answer session. In this session, members asked questions about how soon they might see these price increases, what constitutes the purchased power adjustment (PPA), what constitutes the customer charge, have we looked into wind energy and service interruptions on Davisson Run.

Vice President Robertson then introduced Ms. Brenda Swiger, chairperson of the cooperative's Credentials and Election Committee. She reported that the bylaw amendments all passed.

Mr. Jackson then asked Mr. Alan Cox to conduct the prize drawing for door prizes. Mr. Cox stated that the first name selected would receive a \$100 energy credit, then all door prizes would be awarded, then the final name would be selected for another \$100 energy credit. The winners of the energy credits were Ms. Rosemary Bragg and Mr. Steven Collins.

Mr. Robertson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made and seconded. The motion passed and Mr. Robertson then adjourned the meeting.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use a programmable thermostat to vary your home's temperature based on your schedule. Lower your thermostat when you're not home or at night to save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling costs!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Directors retain board seats

This year, directors in districts 1 and 2 were up for re-election to HREA's board of directors. As was the case last year, no member took the steps to challenge for a position on the board, so C.B. Sharp will retain his seat in District 1 and Greg Robertson will remain your director for District 2.

Keeping electric bills affordable

America's families are facing tough economic times. Many struggle to afford the basics: food, housing and energy. In fact, the cost of residential electricity climbed an average of 26 percent between 2002 and 2007, and it is projected to go even higher. As if that wasn't bad enough, today's electricity supplies won't be able to keep pace with future demand.

Now, elected officials in Washington, D.C., are poised to make important policy decisions that will determine our nation's energy future. To guide lawmakers in a sound direction, electric cooperatives are making sure that your voice — the voice of the consumer — is heard during legislative debates.

Through the "Our Energy, Our Future"™ grassroots awareness campaign, hundreds of thousands of electric cooperative consumers already have sent

Three 'Rs' come in handy on Earth Day

With Earth Day being celebrated on April 22, you can help the environment by practicing the three Rs: first *reduce* how much you use, *reuse* what you can and *recycle* the rest. Then, dispose of what's left in the most environmentally friendly way.

Read the tips below and explore the Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste (<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/catbook>)

Reduce:

- Buy permanent items instead of disposables.
- Buy and use only what you need.
- Buy products with less packaging.
- Buy products that use less toxic chemicals.

Reuse:

- Repair items as much as possible.
- Use durable coffee mugs.
- Use cloth napkins or towels.
- Clean out juice bottles and use them for water.
- Use empty jars to hold leftover food.
- Reuse boxes.
- Purchase refillable pens and pencils.
- Participate in a paint collection and reuse program. For information on handling household solid waste, visit *Wastes, What You Can Do* (<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/citizens.htm>).
- Donate extras to people you know or to charity instead of throwing them away.
- Reuse grocery bags as trash bags.

more than 1.5 million messages to their members of Congress. Through this outreach, co-ops have shared our insight drawn from decades of offering safe and reliable electricity at affordable rates; service that always makes consumers — not the bottom line — priority one.

If you haven't already done so, please get involved in the campaign by asking your representatives on Capitol Hill one important question: Are you willing to work with electric cooperatives like Harrison REA to ensure our nation has reliable power at a price consumers can afford?

The stakes are too high to miss this opportunity to help secure YOUR energy future.

To learn more about how you can begin a dialogue with your elected officials, please visit www.ourenergy.coop today. Together we can keep electric bills affordable.

Recycle:

Recycle paper (printer paper, newspapers, mail, etc.), plastic, glass bottles, cardboard and aluminum cans. If your community doesn't collect at the curb, take them to a collection center.

Recycle electronics.

(<http://www.epa.gov/ecycling/index.htm>)

Collecting used oil for recycling/reuse; www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/recy-oil.pdf.

Compost food scraps, grass and other yard clippings, and dead plants.

Close the loop — buy recycled products and products that use recycled packaging. That's what makes recycling economically possible.



Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

