



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

2100 Sun Valley Road  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

**800-540-HREA**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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

## Take time for family and friends during the holidays

WITH THE END OF THE YEAR upon us, we take a short breath and look back at what we were and were not able to accomplish this past year.

The truth over the matter is that our overall goal can never really be attained; it is an eternal quest. What we are really looking for in a finite period of time like a year is positive progress by giving a full and honest effort toward attaining that goal. In so doing, we are bound to encounter obstacles that seem insurmountable at first but really just take some extra effort to overcome. There will be learning moments and potential teaching moments that must be taken advantage of for what they are. We must work as a cohesive unit of one with a shared focus and determination to make the cooperative better for everyone, despite attempts to inject

negative personal agendas into the fray. We have to accept an open-minded approach where we realize that just because something worked in the past does not mean it is the appropriate course today. Throw in the external influences from governmental and political forces, and the job gets even tougher. We believe that we have assembled a team that is more than capable of navigating the cooperative through the challenges to move closer toward our ultimate goal. The reality is that this is a marathon and not a sprint.

More important than cooperative business is taking the time to fully enjoy this holiday season. We all spend way too much of our time and energy just fighting to survive on a day-to-day basis; we need to take this opportunity to fully enjoy the fellowship of our friends and family. My wife and I have discussed how lucky and blessed we are to have a family that extends beyond bloodlines. We feel a sense of pride as we watch our kids, who are begrudgingly young adults now, carry on that tradition even when they don't realize they are.

While the season may highlight this blessing, it is truly a way of life throughout the year. No doubt there will be some encounters with those who only want to take advantage of this blessing by

### Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,  
CEO/General Manager



turning it to accommodate their personal nefarious agenda, but that is really for their conscience to come to terms with.

Part of our extended family includes the employees of the cooperative. Just like family, they don't always behave as you wish they would, but they eventually always come through and you're proud of them for doing the right thing. That right thing does not always have to be related to work. It can come from doing missionary work abroad, or lending a helping hand to each other and in need. For example, last year HREA employees donated food along with their time to make and deliver baskets to local individuals. They chose to do it on their own rather than participate in a program of other worthy organizations because they felt these individuals needed a little recognition and the knowledge that someone appreciated them. How could you have a heart and not be proud of such an unselfish act?

Carol, Alaina, Eric, Ben, Jocelyn and I join the entire cooperative family in wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. ☺

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

# Youth Tour 2016: Win a free trip to D.C.

BY BRITTANY GROVER

Calling all high school sophomores and juniors! Looking for an exciting new adventure? Interested in a life-changing experience in Washington, D.C.? If you answered **YES** to either one of these questions, then you must continue reading to find out how **YOU** can earn a **FREE** trip to Washington in June!

## What is Youth Tour?

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by HREA and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. It's a weeklong, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their Congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the country and see many of the famous Washington sites. Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour. Will you be one of them?

## What has HREA's past Youth Tour participants said about the trip?

*"This will be one of those trips you remember for a lifetime. It really brought U.S. history to life; visiting the places that birthed our nation brought about a sense of patriotism. ... You will make friendships that will last decades, even if you don't think you will. This is a fantastic opportunity, don't waste it!"*

— Landon Davis, 2015

*"I had a blast on the trip. Every day was packed*

*full of fun and exciting things to do. The trip broadened my view of what goes on in our government. I learned valuable life lessons, such as budgeting and how to improve my public speaking. I definitely recommend this trip to anyone; it is full of cool learning experiences, and friendships that will last a lifetime!"*

— Ben Talbott, 2015

*"I was worried I wouldn't make any friends because I am usually quiet around people I don't know. Despite my fears, I made friends that I have kept in contact with since the end of the trip. Because I attended Youth Tour, I made friends from all over Ohio. I was able to look back from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial over the Washington Mall and imagine what it must have been like for Martin Luther King Jr. to give his famous "I have a dream" speech in front of the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln."*

— Seth Law, 2014

If you are interested in taking advantage of this amazing opportunity, contact Brittany Grover in the HREA business office at 304-624-6365 for information on how you can apply.

**\*\*All applicants must be a high school sophomore or junior and a son/daughter/legal ward of a Harrison Rural Electric Association member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.\*\***

## New hire at HREA

BY BRITTANY GROVER

In October, HREA welcomed Jason "Jay" White as our newest meter technician.

Jay is from the Lewis County area, where he lives with wife, Andrea, and three children. Before joining our team, Jay worked for Alleghany/Mon-Power for 14 years as a journeyman lineman.

HREA is proud to have Jay on our team! If you see him out there, be sure to give him a big HREA welcome.



HREA will be closed **Dec. 24-25** for Christmas and **Jan. 1** for New Year's Day. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Emergency service is available at 800-540-HREA.



If you see these HREA employees this month, be sure to wish them a very happy birthday!

**Scott Stout, lineman – Dec. 5**  
**Jason Manear, lineman – Dec. 12**

# The **CHALLENGE** of our time

BY LLOYD MASON

UNLIKE MANY OF MY ARTICLES, where I generally focus on topics that will help the individual member, this month we wax philosophical.

The fuels of today have a dirty tale to tell. The negative effects of burning fossil fuels have become increasingly easier to see in the natural world around us. In our first science classes, we were taught that all things around us are connected. In some ways, that connection is easily detectable with the human eye, and with others, visible confirmation impossible. The same is true of our other senses; as incredible as they are, they simply cannot be used to explain things we cannot hear, see, touch, taste, smell or feel. That's why results-oriented experimentation is what researchers use to expand our understanding of the world around us.

As time moves forward, fossil fuels are going to run out, forcing some tough but very interesting questions. How do we make fuel with an ever-increasing demand from a source that we already know is running low? We adjust. Plain and simple, we must change. The one single constant the universe offers is change. We must embrace it.

Through research and experimentation, we now know much more about the substantial role electricity plays in nature and even in our own bodies. Records dating back as early as 2750 B.C. document the existence of a bioelectric makeup in all creatures, which is now understood to be fact. We know all of life runs on energy in one form or another. The challenge is to create or produce machines and processes that operate as efficiently as nature on micro-voltage so that we may continue to use our modern conveniences without destroying the planet we live on.

*Enter the interesting.* Today's world is pulsing with new, marvel-worthy achievements in science and technology, and most of them have come from researching energy in its many forms and its effects on the physical world around us. The simple truth is that research and development are affected greatly by money. Money is controlled by people with personal goals, and, in many cases, those personal goals have something to do with getting more money. Money is often a huge deterrent to moving forward as a people. Science has provided for us many elegant and workable solutions to our current energy problems only to be eclipsed by less socially beneficial influences belabored by the sole purpose of protecting a revenue stream.

The next big thing, and most likely the challenge of our lifetime, is to break the death grip on our planet that the continued use of fossil fuel represents. Continued dependence on fossil fuels is truly unsustainable; we know this. The question is, when will we act? If we as a people take too much longer the question will be, can we act fast enough? Maybe the problem of longevity is tied to a lack of empathy for our planet. Do people have enough time to truly think about the big picture as it relates to the world's population and needs? I suspect for many people, a lack

of time in general prevents any real selfless thought other than taking care of our families and ourselves, let alone how we might make things better for the next several generations.

I believe the time has come to embrace a whole new standard of power generation, storage and retrieval. For everyone's sake, it is time to invest in and take advantage of a new and accessible industry. If you will permit me to look forward for a second, it seems to me that if we fundamentally change our energy system, we would need to change a massive amount of infrastructure. By changing a massive amount of infrastructure, we would then be creating jobs at an exponential rate. Some of the workers in that critical group would then need high-tech training because the construction standards would most certainly have to change in some regard. Wouldn't that mean a new industrial revolution for the United States, and subsequently every country that does business with the United States would then too feel a very positive effect?

We are seeing the electric car as one of the first mainstream industries to start a serious transition. It is my prediction that electric cars are here to stay, with some modifications to the power source. We also know that electricity is a viable long-term solution. We still need to our focus efforts on ways to generate electricity without the internal combustion engine or other traditional technologies.

Generating electricity in large enough amounts to satisfy the immediate needs of an ever-growing population remains a hurdle that should be a constant focus of the best and the brightest people. We need massive research into energy storage, with newer technologies given a legitimate chance to make a difference. Our public transportation systems need to be revamped to include buses, planes, trains, shipping and freight. The list is filled with huge opportunity.

We need a new age, an age that isn't threatened by unlawful polluting industrialists seeking to skirt regulation to make a little more money. The approach must be from the bottom up. The people who will benefit from this must also be part of the transformation. We need a future that puts the priority of human life first. Technologies that work in harmony with nature have to be the order of the day. Our children's children must be able to live on this planet and have a quality, responsible platform to create future tech we can't even imagine.

What we can do is start now. Survival is not a political disagreement. The future must be for all. The time is here and the time is now. We must all be looking for the way to help, for our children's children's sake.

*Til next time @TECH CORNER. ☞*

**LLOYD MASON** is the manager of information technology at Harrison Rural Electric Association. He writes monthly on technology issues affecting our cooperative and members.





## Cook up holiday **ENERGY SAVINGS**

BY ANNE PRINCE

FOR MANY OF US, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and wonderful aromas of turkey, stuffing and baked goods wafting throughout the house. It means a busy kitchen and a bustling house full of family and friends. If this rings true for you, despite the increased kitchen activity, you still have an opportunity to save energy during the holidays.

According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for 4.5 percent of total energy use in U.S. homes. Combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration, dishwashing and water heating, as much as 15 percent of the energy in the average American home is used in the kitchen. So saving energy here can have a significant impact on your household budget.

For example, when preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a slow cooker, toaster oven, microwave or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop. These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically using about half the energy of a stove.

### Get cooking on energy efficiency

When using your oven, don't peek. Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by as much as 25 degrees and causes your stove to work harder (consuming more energy) to return to the desired cooking temperature. If your dish needs to bake for more than an hour, it is not necessary to preheat

the oven. If your oven is electric, you can likely turn the oven off for the last five to ten minutes of cooking and allow the residual heat to complete the job. Clean burners and reflectors increase efficiency and offer better heating, so don't neglect this small but important task.

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible so cold air doesn't escape. But leaving the door open for a longer period of time while you load groceries or remove items is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.

- If you are entertaining a large group, you may be able to give the furnace a brief holiday. When your oven is working hard and you have a house full of guests, the heat from the stove and the bodies will keep your house comfortable and allow you to turn down the thermostat.

### Clean up with energy savings

Use cold water to rinse dishes before loading them into the dishwasher, and make sure to run only full loads. If possible, use the energy-saving cycle. Dishwashers that have overnight or air power dry settings can save up to 10 percent of your dishwashing energy costs. ☞

**ANNE PRINCE** writes for the *National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.