



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Halfway through 2015

AS WE NEAR THE HALFWAY POINT in the year, we take a few minutes to look back to what has been accomplished and then center our focus on what is yet to be done. We have talked, excessively, on the geographic information system (GIS) and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) projects, and we are excited to see those massive projects nearing completion. Yet to be done is using that base to make improvements on the cooperative's daily functions. Throw in a few new "difficulties" that are on the horizon, and the remainder of the year looks to pass just as quickly as the first half.

Hopefully by the time you read this, the new transformer at Chiefton will finally be energized and serving load. It was very important to get that accomplished before summer hit, with its potentially high temperatures that could stress the Jarvisville Substation with the load that has been added over the last few years. The western feed out of Chiefton will relieve a substantial amount of the Jarvisville load by picking up a majority of

Jarvisville's current northern feed. The eastern feed out of Chiefton will pick up Erie's load and allow for the retirement of that metering point. This will be done in stages to coordinate with the meter change-outs and upgrade to AMI meters. While this is happening on that part of the feed going toward Dola, crews will be installing some new breakers and other equipment on the line between Chiefton and Bridgeport. This is needed to ensure proper coordination should we ever need to use the backfeed capabilities between the two stations.

The final AMI installations will occur off of the Dola metering point probably starting sometime in July. A vital piece of equipment to start this project has been delayed by the manufacturer. Since the AMI and automated meter reading systems can run concurrently and allow us to read meters from both systems, this project is not quite as time sensitive. With that said, we still want to get the changes completed as quickly as possible so that we can fully implement, with the GIS, the outage management system. In addition, having the entire system changed over opens the door to use the remote connect/disconnect options available with some of the new meters. To fully use this feature, we will need to address policies for reconnection, which will probably include voice recordings and/or members turning their main breakers off before reconnection can occur.

The aerial cutting of right-of-way has begun. There were some "hiccups" at first, which are hopefully resolved

Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,
CEO/General Manager



now, but we are pleased with how quickly side trimming has been completed. The process so far has been to aerial cut for two weeks, and then let the ground crews catch up. At the rate the trimmers are advancing, they should be able to complete 90 miles in less than six months. That is about half the time it would take ground-only crews to cut that much, and it means that our lines will have less exposure to right-of-way growth, thus (fingers crossed) improving reliability.

An issue we have expressed our concern over and are fighting is a move by PJM, the regional transmission organization covering West Virginia, to change the way in which capacity is auctioned annually. PJM and the various generators want increased revenue for having generation available to the grid. The entire concept appears to be the creation of an additional revenue center for the power generators to subsidize their generation, transmission and distribution costs, which is in stark contrast to one of the initial reasons regional transmission organizations were created in the first place. More directly, this action harms any electric utility that does not have its own generation, either directly or indirectly, and it stands to exasperate the advantage these generators have
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7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.



2015 Annual Meeting review

BY BRITTANY GROVER

The Harrison Rural Electrification Association Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 16, took off with a flair. Our members had the chance to voice their concerns and opinions with board members plus had the opportunity to learn about the new and upcoming work being done and the technology being used to improve our company and consumers.

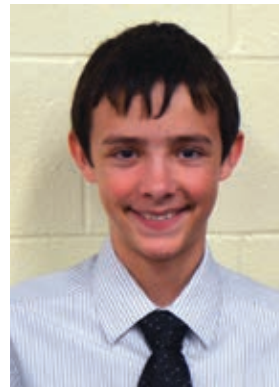
Harrison Rural Electric wants to send a big thank-you to Josh Oldaker for wonderful music entertainment before the meeting and to the Salem IGA for catering the excellent meal. Also, congratulations to our two students participating in this year's weeklong Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June: junior Landon Davis of Liberty High School and sophomore Ben Talbott of South Harrison High School. Landon will also be West Virginia's representative on the national Youth Leadership Council in July, which is composed of one student from each of the 43 states that participates in the Electric Co-operative Youth Tour. We look forward to hearing about their amazing experiences from this once-in-a-lifetime trip!

Lastly, it was announced that directors Greg Robertson and C.B. Sharp were re-elected to the board; both ran unopposed. The board then voted for new officers: president is Robertson, District 2; vice president is Sharp, District 1; and secretary/treasurer is Darrell Powell, District 6.

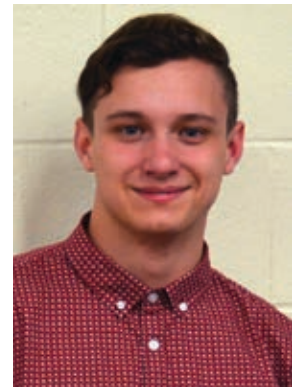
Congratulations to the new officials; we look forward to working with you and the rest of the board throughout the year!



Josh Oldaker



Ben Talbott



Landon Davis

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over nongenerators. While this part of this article could easily turn into a rant that covers everything from the atrocities of big business to "politics was never intended to be a career," we will just say that this just is not right.

Anyway, we hope everyone is ready for fun, healthy, safe summer. ☺

Happy birthday!

If you see one of these people this month, be sure to wish them a very happy birthday!

Cristy Foster, Lineman – June 3
Katrina Ewing, Billing Clerk – June 29

HREA welcomes new employee

BY BRITTANY GROVER

We bid farewell to a familiar face and say hello to a new. In mid-March, our former Cashier/Receptionist Jacy Woods, also HREA's editor for *Country Living*, resigned and went on to pursue a new career path. As of April 13, the HREA family has welcomed Jody Swiger to the group.

Jody is a Harrison County native but currently resides in Doddridge County with her husband of 23 years, Michael, and their two children, Ian, 22 and D'Andra, 20. Jody's husband owns Swiger Logging, Inc., in West Union, where she has been the office manager for the past 10 years. Before that, Jody worked in the banking industry for 12 years.

Jody decided to leave her position at Swiger Logging to pursue better opportunities to help pay for their daughters' education at Fairmont State.

"I am also excited to work more with the public again, seeing new faces, and meeting new people," Jody said. So any time you call the office or stop in, give a big welcome to our new smiling face, Jody.



Jody Swiger

Cutting the cable is a real possibility: Part 1

BY LLOYD MASON

Month after month in the American family home, a discernable sigh can be heard from whoever's job it is to open the bill from the cable TV company. The time has finally come for folks all over the country to take a good hard look at cutting the cable. This is the first part in a series discussing the big decision.

The analysis

As always, the smart thing to do is to make a budget to see what is possible from your own financial point of view.

What is your total monthly bill?

Most Internet service providers have package plans that have rolled several services into one — the popular package is phone, Internet and television. It is important to break these down into separate costs. The truth is, all three of these services can be received through the Internet by itself. For many people, this has become a reality.

Break down what you want to watch

Keep a note pad by the TV and jot down what the family watches throughout the evening. I found when I did this that cable really only offered a fraction of what streaming services did.

Let's talk bandwidth

In this reference, the term "bandwidth" simply refers to the rate of data transfer, i.e. browsing and download speed. You will need to make sure that the service you have is quick enough for video streaming.

Standard quality: 480p: 1Mbps – 3Mbps

HD quality: 720p: 3Mbps – 5.5Mbps

HDX quality: 1080p: 7Mbps – 9Mbps or greater

It is important to mention that these are video streaming speeds and are not intended to be a guide for online gamers.

Because most Internet providers autosense the software or hardware limitations of the end user, it is important know what the advertised speed of your connection really is.

All of these speeds are broken up into pricing tiers and then are bundled with other services. It may even take a customer service representative from your provider to "unbundle" for an accurate monthly cost of service. A few minutes on the phone with your provider should clear up any confusion.

Bandwidth is also being used by all the other Wi-Fi devices in the home. It is important to remember this because the number of devices per home have grown dramatically in the past couple years. Phones, tablets, thermostats, refrigerators, light switches, video surveillance and security systems are all good examples of the ever-growing Internet footprint.

With so much to choose from what is right for you?

Next time in the Tech Corner, we will explore services and devices needed to "cut the cable."

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.

June is National Safety Month

BY SAM SATTERFIELD, OPERATIONS MANAGER

June is recognized by the National Safety Council as National Safety Month. For 2015, the main focus is on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes. Raising awareness on topics like prescription drug abuse, transportation safety, ergonomics, and slips, trips and falls are among the top issues.

Prescription drug abuse

Doctors will tell you that if medicine is taken differently from how it is prescribed, that's considered prescription drug abuse. Abuse of some prescription drugs can lead to addiction, such as narcotic painkillers, sedatives, tranquilizers and stimulants. Big no-nos in prescription drug abuse include taking a medicine that was prescribed for someone else, taking a larger dose than prescribed, taking the medicine in a different way than prescribed and using medicine for another purpose, such as getting high. Most folks don't fully understand that medicines may not be safe for them or understand the risks associated prescription drug abuse, especially at higher doses.

Transportation

As we make plans to travel for summer vacations, it is important to remember to plan a safe route and to check the route for construction zones. It is also important to check out your vehicle before a trip. Make a checklist when planning for a trip; this will help to keep you from forgetting something. Also, while traveling, stay well-rested so as to not get fatigued even on the way to closer destinations.

Most everyone today has a cellphone that can be used to find just about anything that has to do with traveling. A hands-free set for your phone will make it safer to use while driving, but it doesn't keep you from getting dis-

tracted. Drivers still need to stay focused while talking on hands-free sets. One safety issue with a cellphone is that it will still text while the vehicle is motion, and it won't tell you not to. Last but not least, drive defensively. The fact is that it is against the law to text and drive in most states, but folks are still doing it. So be focused while traveling.

Ergonomics

You might think, how could ergonomics be a hazard? It has to do with risk factors that involve lifting items improperly, bending, reaching overhead, pushing and pulling heavy loads, working in awkward body postures and even performing the same and similar task repetitively. Doing these tasks improperly could affect the muscles, nerves and tendons. Terminology for these types of injuries is musculoskeletal disorders, or MSDs, and they include injury to the neck, upper extremities and lower back. Studies show that work-related MSDs are one of the leading causes of lost-workday injury and illness. Any of these tasks mentioned can happen at home as well in the workplace. Prevent MSDs by using proper lifting techniques, asking for help and properly planning for a task.

Slips, trips and falls

These three incidents together are one of the leading causes of injuries in industrial settings in the U.S. Each year, thousands of workers end up with disabling injuries — some even result in death — because of a slip, trip or falls. The incident doesn't always happen from heights or on stairs; it can happen on level ground at work and at home. Housekeeping, planning and not being in a hurry are keys to preventing slips, trips and falls.

Summer Storm Safety Tip

Strong summer storms can create dangerous situations. Always avoid downed power lines — the wire could be live, which could be deadly for those nearby. Quickly report downed power lines to your electric cooperative.



Photo credit: FEMA

