



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 

www.harrisonrea.com

Bylaws of Harrison Rural Electrification Association

With the approach of spring in sight, and hopefully the worst of winter behind us, plus the desire for the dog days of summer to resume, we again anticipate another challenging year ahead of us. In this March edition of the "Manager's Corner," I thought I'd communicate with you some pertinent information on the rules that govern the operations of your Cooperative.

Harrison Rural Electric, as you know, was formed in 1938, as the only electric Cooperative within the state of West Virginia. That distinction still exists today, since HREA is the only Cooperative with its base of operations within the state. The goal of our directors and staff back then, as well as today, is to provide quality electrical service to the seven-county areas that we serve. In fact, the very first thing listed in the Bylaws is a Forward

that reads, "It shall be the aim of Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc. to make electric energy available to its members on the cooperative plan and at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management." Since the Co-op is operated according to these bylaws, I've chosen a few excerpts that summarize the rules that currently govern your Cooperative."

First, Membership: Any person, firm, association, corporation, ... may become a member of Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

Second, Joint Membership: A husband and wife together constitute a joint membership. ... The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member ...

Third, Non-Liability for debts of the Co-op: The private property of the members shall be exempt from execution or other liability for the debts of the Co-op and no member shall be liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Co-op.

Fourth, Meeting of Members: The Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held on the third Thursday of April of each year ... for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

Fifth, Directors: Directors shall be elected at each annual meeting

Manager's Corner

By
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



to serve for a term of three years, and to fill the office of each term then expiring under these by laws.

Sixth, Qualifications of Directors: No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Co-op who is not a member and is not presently residing in the area served or to be served by the Co-op; or is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business engaged in selling electric energy or supplies ... "financially interested" shall mean employment of the prospective director or immediate family cannot make in excess of \$4,000 in any year in the most recent five years, or during any future year during the director's tenure in any area mentioned above.

Seventh, Meeting of Directors: A regular meeting of the Board shall be held monthly at such time and place in Harrison County, West Virginia, as the board may provide by resolution.

Eighth, Officers: Removal of Officers and Agents by Directors: Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board may be removed by the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Co-op will be served thereby.

Ninth, Nonprofit Operation:
(Continued on page 22)

Board of Directors

- C.B. Sharp, Dist. 1President
- James Stuart, Dist. 4Vice President
- Glenn Cox, Jr., Dist. 3.....Secy.-Treas.
- Greg RobertsonDist. 2
- Ron Watson.....Dist. 5
- James McMurryDist. 6
- Michael CrossDist. 7

- 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.

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The spirit of giving lives on in Sardis

The Christmas season always seems to bring out the best in everyone. Not only do we shower our family and friends with cards, gifts and baked goodies, but also those of us who can afford to, give to worthwhile organizations like the Salvation Army, the Red Cross or places like the Mission, located in Clarksburg, whose primary function is to help the homeless. With that same spirit of giving, there is an organization, very close to home, that contributes to the community, not only at Christmas, but all year long. The

Sardis District Community Council keeps very busy, and its main objective is to introduce citizens to the Sardis District Community Center and to promote its use for community and private functions.

Years ago, when the United Methodist Church of Sardis closed its doors forever, the building was turned over to a group of responsible citizens who decided to use the space as a community center for the benefit of all. Senior Citizens held meetings there, as well as 4-H groups. Over the years, the building began to deteriorate and the decision was made to close the center and tear the dilapidated structure down. The need for a meeting place was still obvious, so with the help of local politicians like Bobbi Warner, the Council was able to apply for, and receive grants that enabled them to rebuild the community center.

The Sardis District Community Center is maintained and operated by volunteers, mostly made up of the Sardis District Community Council members themselves. The building has many uses, and the Council encourages people in the surrounding communities to take advantage of its availability. Many area churches hold meetings there, and the Council provides parties for children at Easter, Halloween and Christmas. Your Board of Directors used the building on one occasion to hold one of its off-site monthly board meetings. The building houses a food pantry where needy families can come for food supplies. The food pantry committee, headed by Sondra Gaynor, meets monthly. They have provided food to as many as 50 families with an average of four people per family.

Organizations can use the building free of charge for meetings, but must pay a fee if there is some sort of fundraising activity. Private citizens can rent the building for baby and wedding showers, birthday

parties or family gatherings that may be too large to have at home. The cost to rent the building is \$40. In addition, a \$35 security deposit and a \$10 holding fee is required, but is returned to the renter if the

building is left in the same good condition that it was before the event.

In order to raise money to maintain the building, the Council sells apples in the fall, and holds periodic hot dog sales. Recently, they also have been having rummage sales in order to bring in some much-needed funding.

The Sardis District Community Council is headed by President Ed

Parmer, with Darrell Knight acting as both vice president and trustee. As mentioned before, Sondra Gaynor is committee chair for the food pantry and also serves as secretary/treasurer. Trustees include Mary Strother, Sue and Bill Hurst, and Don Gaines. Glenda Gaines is activities director and welcomes any suggestions for activities, especially for children.

We all can help keep this project going by donating money, nonperishable food items, household goods and clothing for the rummage sales, but mostly we can use the building for the betterment of the community. That's really what the Council and the Community Center are all about.

Many thanks to Don and Glenda Gaines who provided the information that made this article possible.

Bylaws

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The Co-op shall at all times be operated on a cooperative nonprofit basis for the mutual benefit of its patrons.

Tenth, Patronage Capital: The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron all such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses ... before retiring any capital credited to any patron's account, shall deduct therefrom any amount owning by such patron to the Cooperative.

Those are just a few of the many rules that guide the operation of your Cooperative. For your own copy of the bylaws, stop by the office or pick one up at this year's Annual Meeting of the Members to be held on April 20 at Liberty High School.

I look forward to meeting with all of you at that time.



Birthday greetings!

Three employees of your Cooperative celebrate birthdays this month: Harold Gains, purchasing agent, with six years seniority; Sean Bailey, lineman, with five years seniority; and Rick Fox, staking engineer, with 23 years seniority. Now, we're not going to tell you how old these guys are, but collectively they have racked up 137 years. We can say, however, that Sean is definitely the "baby" of the group.

Please join us in wishing these men a very happy birthday!



Harold Gains



Rick Fox



Sean Bailey

IT'S ANNUAL MEETING TIME!!!

Be sure to attend your Annual Meeting of the Membership
April 20.

The meeting will be held at Liberty High School

REGISTRATION BEGINS 6 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT 6:30 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING 7 P.M.

Come out and visit with your neighbors, enjoy the entertainment and refreshments.

Take home our gift to you and receive an energy credit on your electric bill just for attending the meeting. **See you there!**

Employee spotlight

This month's employee spotlight shines on staking engineer Rick Fox. Rick has worked for your Cooperative for the last 23 years. He began working for HREA in 1983 as a right-of-way inspector where he spent most of his time walking miles and miles of line. He then moved on to warehouseman and purchasing agent.

Since Rick was in the warehouse most days, all repair work around the Cooperative office was performed by him. Talk about your "jack of all trades," Rick was a plumber, an electrician, a carpenter, etc. If something needed done, Rick always was the man everyone turned to.

When former staking engineer Don Gaines retired, Rick became HREA's new staking engineer, and that is the position he still holds today. Rick is responsible for staking and inspecting all new services and meets with hundreds of members each year. If you have had the opportunity



to meet with Rick, you know what a dedicated Co-op employee he is. Rick always is ready to go the "extra mile" for our members and often helps out in ways that far exceed his actual job description. Also, when the operations manager is absent for whatever reason, Rick directs operations in a most capable manner, whether it be a normal work day or an outage situation.

Rick was a volunteer fireman for many years, as well as a trained EMT. He also is certified as a master electrician.

Rick and his wife, Sandy, live in Salem and have four sons (H.R., Steven, Troy and Daniel) and one daughter (Wendy). They also are the proud grandparents of Emily, Cami and Castle.

In addition to being an active participant in his grandchildren's lives, Rick enjoys riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles and likes to fish and play golf.

New energy efficiency tax credits take effect

The energy efficiency tax credits signed into law by President George W. Bush have gone into effect, making it easier for American families and businesses to reduce energy costs at home, work and on the road. The various tax credits designed to improve America's energy efficiency went into effect on Jan. 1 and are available for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient appliances and products, as well as the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles such as hybrids.

"While there are easy, immediate steps that families can take to reduce their energy bills — such as turning down the thermostat or weatherstripping doors and windows — these tax credits will help with the purchase of bigger-ticket items," said Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman. "By reducing overall energy demand one family or business at a time, we also are increasing America's energy security."

The energy efficiency tax credits will allow consumers to reduce their 2006 tax bills on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to the amount allowed under the law. For example, consumers who purchase the most fuel-efficient vehicles could reduce their tax liability by up to \$3,400, while those who install certain products such as energy-efficient windows, insulation, doors, roofs and heating/cooling equipment in the home can receive up to \$500 off of their federal tax bills.

Specific tax benefits for the home include:

- \$50 for purchasing an advanced main air circulating fan;

- \$150 for installing a highly efficient furnace or boiler;
- \$200 for installing energy-efficient windows;
- \$300 for purchasing a highly-efficient central air conditioner, heat pump or water heater;
- 30 percent, or up to \$2,000, for the purchase of solar water-heating equipment (this does not apply to equipment used to heat swimming pools or hot tubs).

Businesses may be eligible for credits such as:

- 30 percent tax credit for the installation of qualifying solar equipment on buildings;
- Business tax credits for companies that build highly energy-efficient homes;
- Credits for companies that manufacture energy-efficient appliances such as dishwashers, clothes washers and refrigerators.

The energy efficiency tax credits were signed into law in August 2005 as part of the first comprehensive energy legislation in more than a decade. The landmark energy bill contains provisions to promote greater energy efficiency and conservation, improve the reliability of electricity delivery and encourage increased domestic energy production, including energy from renewable sources such as biomass and wind.

For more detailed information about these tax credits, visit www.ase.org/taxcredits or www.energytaxincentives.org.