



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

RR 6, Box 502

Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502

304-624-6365

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 

www.harrisonrea.com

The Cooperative Principles and why they still exist today

As members of an electric Cooperative, we stand out as a unique group of individuals, and yes, we continue to use that same criteria established in 1938 as our standard for providing impartiality to all our members. All this with the goal of providing energy to all those who want it — and at the most reasonable price available.

Furthermore, members just like you created the Seven Cooperative Principles that unite us as one today. I believe these values are what set us apart from other monopolistic energy providers.

Principle No. 1 Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Board of Directors

James Stuart, Dist. 4President
Michael Cross, Dist. 7Vice President
James McMurtry, Dist. 6Secy.-Treas.
C.B. SharpDist. 1
Greg RobertsonDist. 2
Glenn Cox, Jr.Dist. 3
Ron WatsonDist. 5

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

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

Principle No. 2

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights — one member, one vote — and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Principle No. 3 Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital usually is the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Principle No. 4 Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or

Manager's Corner

By
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Principle No. 5 Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public — particularly young people and opinion leaders — about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

Principle No. 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Principle No. 7 Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

The real Saint Nicholas

The real Saint Nicholas was born in Asia Minor during the 3rd Century. His parents died when he was young and left him a considerable inheritance. He was raised by a paternal uncle. Nicholas was very religious from an early age and devoted his life to Christianity. It is said that he gave his fortune away to charity.

After Nicholas was schooled, he received his ordination as a priest and became bishop of the city of Myra. Roman Emperor Licinius, who reigned from 307-324 A.D., tolerated Christians, which allowed the Christian community to develop. Nicholas was well loved and respected, and this popularity helped ensure his position and influence during and after Licinius' rule.

In 324, Licinius was defeated in a war against his western co-ruler Constantine I who reigned over the Roman Empire from 306 to 337. Constantine actively supported Christians, so the church experienced an age of prosperity. However, the peace of his reign brought to the forefront the internal conflict within contemporary Christianity. The conflict was mainly a failure to agree to a commonly accepted concept about God in general and Jesus in particular.

The teachings of Arius in Alexandria, Egypt were gaining support and resulted in spreading tumult across the empire. To address the problem, Constantine called the first Ecumenical Council in 325.

Nicholas attended and was noted as an opponent

of Arianism. It is said that when Arius presented his case against Jesus' divinity to the council, Nicholas hit him and was thrown out of the meeting and jailed. It also is said that the Virgin Mary appeared that night to many of the bishops of the council telling them to forgive Nicholas since he had done what he did out of love for her Son. Nicholas was allowed back in the council the next day. He returned to Myra and kept it free from Arianism.

The destruction of several pagan temples is credited to him, and Nicholas also is known for coming to the defense of the falsely accused, often preventing them from being executed. His most famous exploit probably was when he helped a man too poor to pay a proper dowry for his three daughters. Without a dowry, the girls would remain unmarried and probably would have had to become prostitutes. Nicholas was too shy to openly help the family, so he went to the man's house after dark and threw three purses filled with gold coins through the window.

Because of his help to the poor, Nicholas is the patron saint of pawnbrokers; the three gold balls traditionally hung outside a pawnshop symbolize the three sacks of gold. After he died, people in the region continued to give to the poor anonymously.

Nicholas also is the patron saint of children, the patron saint of all of Greece, the patron saint of sailors and the patron saint of Christmas.

Saint Nicholas lived to a ripe old age and died peacefully in his own bed. Some accounts say he died in Italy, while others say he died in Ireland. At the time, most saints earned their place in heaven by dying for their faith in manners most unusual and cruel, so this made Saint Nicholas definitely stand out.

Saint Nicholas also is unique in that most of his bones have been preserved in one spot; his grave crypt in Bari. It is said that each year the bones sweat out a clear watery liquid called Manna which is said to possess immense powers. Neither the church nor scientists have ever tried to analyze the fluid, so the truth still lies in the eye of the beholder.

Although Saint Nicholas' bones are closely guarded, the Roman Catholic Church did allow for one scientific survey. The survey revealed that Saint Nicholas was barely five feet tall and had a broken nose.

Saint Nicholas Day is a festival for children in much of Europe, related to surviving legends of the saint, particularly his reputation as a bringer of gifts. The American Santa Claus derives from the festivity.

LAST CHANCE FOR PETITION NOMINATIONS

Member Petition Nominations for Board of Directors are due at the Cooperative office by Dec. 21. Director positions up for election are districts 5, 6 and 7.

A petition for each member nominated must list the name, address and account number of the member nominee; must indicate the director position for which the member nominee will run; and must contain the printed names, addresses, phone numbers, account numbers and original signatures of at least 15 members. If you have any questions about the nomination process, please call or stop by the office.

A customer service representative will be happy to assist you.

HREA promotes Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As you know, October is the official month designated to promote breast cancer awareness. Since the best protection against dying from this deadly disease is EARLY DETECTION, we here at HREA decided to do what we could to get this message out to our members.

To begin with, we wrote an article for the October issue of the *Illuminator* in *Country Living* magazine drawing attention to Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

We then created a display in our lobby at the Co-op office and made information packets available to our members. The clerical staff — Cashier/Receptionist April Greathouse, Billing Clerk Missie Stephenson, Bookkeeper Debbie Yerkey and Assistant Bookkeeper Nada McNeemar — all wore pink ribbon t-shirts, pins, etc. for the entire month in order to show support for, and, along with board member Ron Watson, also participated in the “Walk for Women” held on Oct. 7 in Clarksburg.

This event, along with a free health fair, was held at the Caperton Center of Fairmont State University where many organizations and businesses participated. Door prizes were given out (Missie and April both won one), and there was a silent auction where one could bid on different items that were donated by area businesses.

The Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department gave free osteoporosis risk screenings, and Dr. Nancy Joseph was on hand to give clinical breast exams. Mr. Watson, in his capacity as president of the Harri-



son County Commission, read a proclamation that designated October 2006 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Harrison County. He presented the framed proclamation to breast cancer survivor, Kim Helmick, who accepted on behalf of all survivors and participants everywhere.

Participants began the symbolic walk at the Caperton Center, made a brief stop at the court house where Mr. Watson placed a wreath, then continued down Main Street, turned the corner and made their way back to the starting point.

Proceeds from the walk benefited the WV Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program offered by the WV DHHR, the Bureau for Public Health and the Office of Maternal and Child Health. This program is designed to help those women who have no insurance (or insurance that doesn't pay for pelvic and breast exams), no medical card or are not receiving Medicare and meet income guidelines.

To receive this free service, a family of one can make \$1,633 per month; family of two — \$2,200; family of three — \$2,767; family of four — \$3,333; family of five — \$3,900; and a family of six can make \$4,467 per month. For more details, call the Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department at 623-9308, or call Health Access at 622-2708.

In closing, all of us here at Harrison Rural Electric want to stress to our members and to women and men everywhere that “THE BEST PROTECTION IS EARLY DETECTION!”

