



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



www.harrisonrea.com

The future of our Co-ops rests in your hands

For those of you new to Harrison Rural Electrification Association (and for those old hands who might need reminding), allow me to introduce each of you to one of the seven fundamental concepts upon which Cooperatives are founded — *Democratic Member Control*.

That means you, as member/owners of our Cooperative, ultimately will decide who gets elected to the board and will determine the strategic direction of this organization.

How do you, as members, exercise control? When it is time to select directors to serve on the board, you attend the annual meeting (and/or regional meetings), and you mail in your ballot with your vote. The directors, as your elected representatives to the Cooperative, in turn, hire me. I am

responsible for the employees who carry out the business of bringing you electricity. Hiring me, however, is not where the directors' duties end — by no means.

Our directors constantly must consider policies affecting the operation of our Cooperative, such as: How much must we spend on maintenance? Do we need a new substation? How will we build it? How will we finance it? How often do we update our technologies and facilities to keep our business efficient?

Being a director is not for everyone. The responsibilities are numerous, and the time commitments are considerable. Besides attending hours of meetings every month, each director must continuously educate him or herself about the complex business of electricity production and distribution. Additionally, your directors do not enjoy the same legal protection from lawsuits as those who serve on public agencies and boards. Directors can be sued as individuals and are exposed to a certain amount of personal and financial risk simply by being on the Cooperative's board.

Your directors attend training on their own time on such subjects as understanding the electrical industry, strategic planning and financial decision-making. Our directors can take a series of courses and receive their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification, but the learning doesn't

Manager's Corner

By
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



end there. Numerous other classes and seminars cover topics that become part of the director's pool of knowledge as he or she tries to keep abreast of issues affecting this ever-changing industry.

After learning the business, directors begin making the sometimes difficult choices that will affect the Co-op's future. The Co-op leadership shares the concerns that you, the member, have. In these days of soaring profits and acquisitions, you can be sure, that as locally-owned-and-operated businesses, electric Co-ops have a real understanding of the people we serve.

Finally, your greatest opportunity to make yourself heard is at the annual meeting. In our democracy, participation of members is crucial. That is why it is important for you, if you care about how your Co-op is run, to attend these meetings, let us know when issues arise that need our attention and consider giving of your time, whether in service on the board or on other committees.

Co-ops are different from other forms of business because of their members and because of the way decisions about the business are made. We welcome and encourage your involvement. After all, it's YOUR Co-op.

Board of Directors

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Darrell Powell, Dist. 6Secy.-Treas.
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Glenn Cox, Jr.Dist. 3
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Office Hours

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



