



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

RR 6, Box 502  
Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502  
**304-624-6365**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
[www.harrisonrea.com](http://www.harrisonrea.com)

## Annual Meeting review

The 2012 HREA Annual Meeting was held April 19 at Liberty High School. In celebration of our 75th anniversary, a baked steak dinner was provided and seemed well received as we heard many positive comments on the meal. The 4-H group served around 260 meals to members that represented about 150 memberships.

We appreciate this opportunity to see and talk with old and new friends from the various areas of the cooperative's service territory. While we try to speak to as many members as we can, the time goes so fast that we just never seem to make it around to speak to everyone. Modern day communication vehicles like this magazine and the Internet may provide a way to cost-effectively reach more members, but nothing can ever replace good old

face-to-face talking.

I was particularly pleased that all of HREA's employees, except one apprentice lineman who was out of town completing required training, accepted our invitation and attended the meeting. I want to publicly say "Thank You" to each and every one of them. That thanks isn't just about their attending the meeting though, it is also a thanks for their hard work and dedication to all of the members of the cooperative.

Over time we sometimes get complacent and start taking the employees' efforts for granted and that is a mistake on our part. We ask a lot of these individuals given that at full employment we have 18 to 19 employees serving about 6,500 meters spread over 1,000 miles of line through the rural parts of seven counties. We occasionally endure internal conflicts, but in the end we are all there

### Manager's Corner

by  
**Terry Stout,**  
CEO/General  
Manager



for each other and the membership when the need arises — just like any other family.

The evenings main proceedings were held in the auditorium where each member was given a special 75th anniversary coffee mug and jar candle as they entered the auditorium to be entertained by Braden and Jocelyn before the start of the business meeting. Their performance seemed well received and we think Braden may have picked up a few new girlfriends before they finished their show and ran to go to their next performance.

We then introduced the cur-

(Continued on page 20)

### Board of Directors

- James Stuart, Dist. 4 .....President
- Ron Watson, Dist. 5 .....Vice President
- Darrell Powell, Dist. 6 .....Secy.-Treas.
- C.B. Sharp .....Dist. 1     Greg Robertson .Dist. 2
- Kent Vance.....Dist. 3     Michael Cross ....Dist. 7

- Terry Stout, General Manager
- Alan Cox .....Operations Manager
- Richard L. Fox.....Staking Engineer
- Scott Wyckoff .....Staking Engineer
- April Greathouse.....Editor

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



CEO/General Manager Terry Stout presents service awards to (from left) Bill Curran (25 years), Sean Bailey (10 years) and Alan Cox (40 years)

## Annual Meeting review

(continued from page 19)

rent board of directors, previous directors, current employees and retired employees.

We then recognized Alan Cox for 40 years of service, Bill Curran for 25 years of service and Sean Bailey for 10 years of service. In the past these recognitions were done at employee meetings where only the employee's co-workers could show their appreciation, but we think that since their service is to all of the membership, the membership should be allowed to show their appreciation also.



We concluded the pre-business meeting portion of the evening by giving special recognition to Nada McNemar and John Holt who plan to retire before our next annual meeting. Despite an effort to keep these recognitions on a professional basis, the emotions of facing the reality that we are going to lose two trusted colleagues, friends and family members crept into the recognitions. Nada and John, I know you were just as uncomfortable on stage as I was, but I hope you gained the full realization that your service is appreciated by everyone, members and co-workers, who makes up HREA.

Thank you, from all of us.



The business meeting went through the short reports by President Sharp, Secretary/Treasurer Powell and myself. The difficult part of these reports, besides being on stage, is thinking about what has already happened. By the time we give these reports we are already in full focus on what we want to accomplish this year and how to overcome any obstacles we are currently facing. The director positions up for election were held by the incumbents as they ran unopposed. The meeting concluded with no questions for the good of the order from the floor and no new or old business brought up. After President Sharp adjourned the meeting, Alan took the stage and began the door prize drawings.

The board, as per the bylaws, held a short meeting to elect officers for 2012-2013. James Stuart was elected as the board president, Ron Watson was elected as the board vice president and Darrell "Jack" Powell was elected as board secretary/treasurer.

We thank all of you for attending and look forward to serving the membership for another year.





## Cool off electric bills with TogetherWeSave.com

Scorching temperatures and high electric bills don't need to arrive hand-in-hand this summer. At Harrison we are committed to providing you with not only safe and reliable electric service, but also with information you need to save energy, and keep electric bills affordable, when the heat is on.

One of the most powerful tools in Harrison's energy-saving arsenal is TogetherWeSave.com. The website offers nine applications focusing on different actions that, once completed, show an actual savings calculation. For example, in the "Lower Your Water Heater Temperature" application, you can virtually adjust the temperature setting on the water heater dial to see a projection of how much money you could save by doing just that.

Take the Virtual Home Tour on TogetherWeSave.com to find even more ways to cut costs. You will "walk" through a home's family room, kitchen, laundry room, bedroom, basement and attic. Each area reveals at least

two actions you can take to improve your home's energy efficiency. As you move through the room and complete the suggested changes you will see a running tally of potential energy dollar savings.

The website also provides access to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives TV Web Portal where you can view short energy efficiency videos. You can even connect with other energy-conscious members by sharing your story about what you are doing to be more efficient. It's remarkable that co-op members just like you from across the country have already visited TogetherWeSave.com and collectively saved an estimated \$40 million by making small energy-related changes at home.

We want to help you reach your energy-saving goals. So go ahead: flip a switch, lower the blinds, raise the temperature on your thermostat and visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little changes can cool off your electric bill.

## 1937 a banner year for HREA!

In 1937, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president of the United States, Adolph Hitler was chancellor of Germany, Joe Louis (the Brown Bomber) became the world heavyweight boxing champion and Amelia Earhart disappeared somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean. People danced the Lindy Hop to Count Basie's number one song, "One O'clock Jump," Disney released "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* was published. The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco opened and the German airship the "Hindenburg" burst into flames killing 35 people and ending the era of airships. A new car cost around \$675, the average house cost around \$4,100, gasoline was 10 cents a gallon, a loaf of bread cost 9 cents, milk was 50 cents a gallon, a pound of hamburger was 12 cents and a letter cost 3 cents to mail. Times were hard, and not much was taken for granted.

Today, most of us take electricity for granted. We flip a switch, the lights come on. We grab our

remote, and presto, the television comes to life. There was a time, however, when rural America was not privy to the convenience of electric power. Electric service was either not available in rural areas, or the cost was too prohibitive to have the existing line extended "across the hill and down in the

valley." President Roosevelt realized that a large number of Americans were not afforded the opportunity to improve their standard of living through electricity, so, in 1935, he created the Rural Electrification Administration

(Continued on page 22)

### Farmers Market opening at Charles Pointe

The newest addition to Charles Pointe is the Bridgeport Farmers Market, which opened in May. The Bridgeport Farmers Market will be in its fourth season of operation. For the last three years the Market has operated in front of Bridgeport High School, but is making the jump to Charles Pointe this summer.

The move was facilitated by the fact that this winter the Market offered an indoor, monthly Farmers Market in coordination with Sunday Brunch at the Bridgeport Conference Center. The established relationship with the Conference Center and Charles Pointe made the move a no-brainer.

The new location will also allow the Bridgeport Farmers Market to take advantage of traffic along I-79, as well as continue to service its established customer base. The Bridgeport Farmers Market has established the long-term goal of a permanent structure and location. The developers of Charles Pointe have begun preliminary discussions on assisting the Market in achieving this goal. A permanent structure would provide vendors a year-long platform to sell locally produced and grown products to Bridgeport area residents. Charles Pointe is committed to community involvement; the partnership with the Bridgeport Farmers Market is another way that this is illustrated.

The Bridgeport Farmers Market will offer fresh fruits and vegetables along with homemade goods, meats, crafts, wood carvings and value-added items. The Farmers Market will be open every Sunday from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. beside the 600 Building at Charles Pointe, off of the Jerry Dove Drive exit of Interstate 79. There are no vendor fees for farmers and producers. If you're interested in participating, please contact Debbie Workman at 304-669-4340. We hope to see you at the Bridgeport Farmers Market!

# 1937 a banner year for HREA!

(continued from page 21)

(REA), whose sole purpose was to help bring power to rural America.

Ray A. Williams was within a mile of electricity in Jarvisville, but he could not get an extension from the investor-owned utility at a reasonable cost. After REA was created, he joined with county agriculture agent John Pierpoint and others interested in obtaining electric power for the purpose of forming a co-op.

In 1937, a few local farmers contacted REA in Washington, D.C., and shortly thereafter, a representative from the Rural Electrification Administration met with a group of about 200 farmers, and a temporary organization was formed. A Certification of Incorporation was issued by the West Virginia Secretary of State on June 17, 1937. The first meeting of the board of directors was held on June 18, 1937, at the Harrison County Farm Bureau at the Clarksburg courthouse. The first officers of HREA were Edwin Van Richardson, president; E.H. Williams, vice-president and Howard Cunningham, secretary/treasurer. Other board members were W.T. Law, J.W. Drummond, A.W. Randolph, J.W. Cork, Ray A. Williams, John Wilcox, M.M. Clelland and H.R. Bartlett.

These men traveled from farm to farm and obtained customer surveys from rural residents obtaining 500 signatures within one week. The canvassing continued until more than 1,000 residents expressed interest in rural electricity. A map was prepared showing the proposed lines and sent to REA in Washington, D.C. REA approved 196 miles of line and allocated \$211,000 for construction of the project. A letter from REA dated July 3, 1937,

noted that HREA had the distinction of being one of the fastest developed projects they had worked with.

Members paid \$5 to join HREA in 1937, and 75 years later, the membership fee is still \$5. The original cooperative was based on five principles: Democratic control (1 member, 1 vote); open membership; limited return on investment; assignment of margins to members and continuing education. HREA, and all the cooperatives across the land, continue to use the same criteria established in 1938 as the standard for providing impartiality to all its members.

On July 20, 1937, a special ceremony was held at the Sycamore Community House. A stake was driven marking the location of the first pole to be installed. Erie substation was the original source of power for the co-op. Now, in addition to Erie, HREA has metering points at McWhorter, Oral Lake, Crystal Lake, Dola, Buckhannon, and has substations at Jarvisville, Chiefton, Big Rock Camp and Bridgeport.

The original office of the corporation was located at 917 ½ Pike Street in Clarksburg. The headquarters of the cooperative was later moved to Sun Valley Road outside of Clarksburg in 1957. The operations department is still at Sun Valley, but the business office is now located at the Charles Pointe development in Bridgeport.

The first annual meeting of the members was held in 1940 at the Carmichael Auditorium in Clarksburg. There were 750 members in attendance at that first meeting. Meetings are now held in the auditorium of Liberty High School, one of the schools that HREA provides electricity for.

A lot has changed since Ray Williams and the other “founding fathers” dreamed of a better life for themselves and their neighbors. Little did they know the impact rural electric cooperatives would have on society. The small co-op they formed with just a few hundred people has grown to serve more than 5,000 members with more than 6,000 meters. As technology has progressed, so has the service HREA provides. With the advent of computers, clerical work has changed as agencies require more information. Cash payments have all but been replaced with online bill pay and credit/debit card payments made by phone. Members no longer have to read their own meters. An automatic meter reading system (AMR) transmits readings back to the office. In the field, digger trucks take most of the work out of setting poles. Bucket trucks eliminate some of the climbing the linemen do. Equipment, like OCRs, works to shut the line down when a problem occurs rather than letting it burn up. Fault finders locate problems making repairs quicker. These are just some of the improvements and upgrades that have enabled HREA to provide their members with better service. Back in 1937, it cost less than \$1,200 to build a mile of line. Today, one mile of three-phase line can cost as much as \$52,000 to construct.

More than 900 electric cooperatives deliver electricity to more than 42 million members in 47 states. Harrison Rural Electric has the distinction of being the only electric cooperative in the state of West Virginia and serves members in Harrison, Taylor, Barbour, Marion, Upshur, Lewis and Doddridge counties.