Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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800-540-HREA

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
www.harrisonrea.com

2016 director election process begins soon

HREA is governed by a board of seven directors representing seven voting districts the co-op's service area. These directors serve three-year terms starting at the conclusion of HREA's Annual Meeting, which is the third Thursday of every April. The board of directors is generally empowered to oversee the business and affairs of the cooperative.

Those members who have taken the necessary steps and who have dedicated the time to serve on your board of directors have discovered just how important their role is to the overall operation of the cooperative. Serving on the board requires the individual to gain a thorough understanding of many facets of the electric distribution business that they may not have known existed.

Board of Directors

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

Terry Stout, General Manager
Lloyd Mason ..... IT Manager
Sam Satterfield .....Operations Manager
Scott Wyckoff.....Line Supervisor
Jon Paul McAllister.... Staking Technician
Brittany Grover .....Editor
Missie Stephenson..... Accountant

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

It also requires that you put aside your personal agenda and work as part of a team that is focused on serving the membership. The challenges are great, but tough decisions have to be made knowing that a certain percentage of the membership will not agree with those decisions. It is not an easy undertaking. The rewards are not financial; the rewards come in the team participation and in the knowledge that what has been accomplished can better the lives of the membership.

Director positions are voted on "at-large" even though there can be only one representative from each of the designated voting districts. The voting districts were established to spread out the representation across the entire service area and the membership. In so doing, the cooperative gains firsthand knowledge of the situations and challenges on which to base decisions that are beneficial to the entire membership. Additionally, directors are nominated for inclusion on the ballot by a "Member Nomination Petition" that requires the potential candidate to gain the signature and recommendation of 15 members. Of course, the potential candidate must also meet certain qualifications in accordance with Article IV, Section 3, of HREA's bylaws and provide the information as stated in Article IV, Section 4, of the bylaws.

Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout, CEO/General Manager

In 2016, you will be electing directors for District 5 (Grant Magisterial Districts of Harrison County and the members residing in Lewis County), District 6 (Sardis Magisterial District of Harrison County and the members residing in the portion of Doddridge County that is north of the main line of the B & O Railroad), and District 7 (Tenmile Magisterial District of Harrison County and the members residing in the portion of Doddridge County that is south of the main line of the B & O Railroad).

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, you can stop by HREA's administrative office in Charles Pointe to pick up the required forms. If you have questions, you can call me at 304-624-6365.

Petition deadline

The important date to remember is that properly completed petitions and accompanying documentation must be received at HREA's administrative office by 4 p.m. Dec. 3.

HREA welcomes Randolph as apprentice lineman

BY BRITTANY GROVER

In mid-September, HREA hired a young apprentice lineman, Lucas Randolph. Lucas is from the Lost Creek area and has lived there his whole life with his family, who also happen to be members of our co-op!

He graduated from South Harrison High School and continued on to study pre-engineering at WVU briefly before joining the Air Force ROTC and participating in the Silver Wings volunteer program. Before joining HREA, Lucas worked for Wards Pipeline Mowing, clearing right-of-way for the gas lines for Dominion Gas Company.

Lucas's family has a long history with HREA. His great-grandfather Aubrey W. Randolph was one of the co-op's very first board members; he went out into the West Virginia countryside asking farmers to join HREA, back in 1937.

In Lucas' spare time, he plays the bass guitar for his worship team at his church, Horizons. Lucas said he accepted this new job for the great new opportunity and learning experience. He already knows one of our seasoned journeyman linemen, Cristy Foster, through church and looks forward to working with and getting to know the rest of the crew.

HREA proudly welcomes Lucas and is excited to see what he will bring to the team!

Save energy in the kitchen this holiday season

BY BRIAN SLOBODA

The holidays are upon us, which means many of us will be spending a lot of time in the kitchen. Whether you are considering replacing an appliance or simply looking for small ways to be more efficient, read on for tips to save energy and money.

A refrigerator typically runs for several years without any problems, but that doesn't mean it's performing at its best. Older refrigerators use more energy, so upgrading this appliance can bring a major return on your investment.

According to ENERGY STAR, if your refrigerator is from the 1980s, replacing it with a new model could cut your electric bill by $100 a year. If you bought your refrigerator in the 1970s, the savings could be as much as $200 a year.

Cooking can also be a big energy spender, in more ways than one, but there are also a few ways to save energy. Placing the lid on a pot of boiling water will trap heat and cause the water to come to a boil faster. And there is no need to preheat the oven when cooking a large piece of meat, like a turkey or ham (you do need to preheat when baking or cooking smaller dishes). And, if you are planning on using the oven for a long period of time — for instance, when you are cooking one of those large pieces of meat — you might be able to turn down your home's thermostat. The simple act of cooking will add warmth to the home because the heat from the oven can raise the temperature in the kitchen and surrounding rooms. This is especially true if you're hosting a party; once your home begins to fill with people, the temperature will rise.

After the meal is over, there are more ways to save energy. The first is to make sure that your dishwasher is full before it's started. Next, make sure you are using the right setting on your dishwasher. Many newer dishwashers have sensors that detect how clean your dishes are. When these auto cycles are used, they get dishes clean without wasting energy or water. The sanitize setting should rarely be used because it is energy intensive. It's also a good idea to make sure the filter at the bottom of the wash-tub is cleaned because it will help the dishwasher work better.

One of the cheapest and easiest ways to save energy in the kitchen is to replace existing lights with LEDs. Not only do they use less energy, you don't have to replace them nearly as often. Plus, their costs have come down in recent years, making them far more affordable to install. But if you currently have linear fluorescent lamps, converting to LEDs may be too expensive to justify.

BRIAN SLOBODA *is a senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Cooperative Research Network monitors, evaluates, and applies technologies that help electric cooperatives control costs, increase productivity, and enhance service to their consumers. Additional content provided by ESource.*

Winter is coming!
Prepare your home before the cold sets in

BY LLOYD MASON

It's that time of year again. Whether you have big plans for the upcoming winter or you would rather skip it, there are some things we should all do to make sure we are as ready as we can be.

Inspect your heating systems. Right now is the best time to get service. For $80 to $100, most heating and cooling contractors can inspect your home's heating system to make sure your equipment is clean and in good repair. They should also check to see that there are no carbon-monoxide leaks and that the system can achieve its manufacturer-rated efficiency. This service should be done every year before the heating system is turned on for the first time.

Change the direction of all the ceiling fans in the house. By turning the clockwise direction your fan will produce an updraft in the room and force the heated air down from the ceiling. This may make it possible to turn the heat down 1 or 2 degrees and help reduce your heating bill.

Inspect the roof for needed repairs, or a contractor can do the job for you. In doing this every year, we can make sure there will be no surprises that will be much more expensive to fix after the first snow.

Caulk around the windows and doors of your home. Those little cracks let out a lot more heat than it may seem possible. To make sure the gaps are sealed, check for light showing through — those are the places to seal with caulk.

Clean your gutters to help water escape rather than building up and forming ice. If icicles are building up off your home, this generally means that warm air is escaping and is most likely contributing to ice formation. This can be a dangerous situation for the people in the home and can lead to costly home repairs in the future. To avoid ice buildup, go into the attic and add some insulation, again looking for the telltale sunlight showing through cracks. Be sure to seal those cracks with caulk or foam because the insulation can't do its job if cold air is blowing right through.

Turn off exterior faucets to avoid freezing the pipes, which greatly reduces the chance of a pipe bursting in your home, causing untold damage. Again, when it is very cold, this repair is much more expensive because contractors will be busy taking care of all of the emergencies caused by people forgetting this simple step.

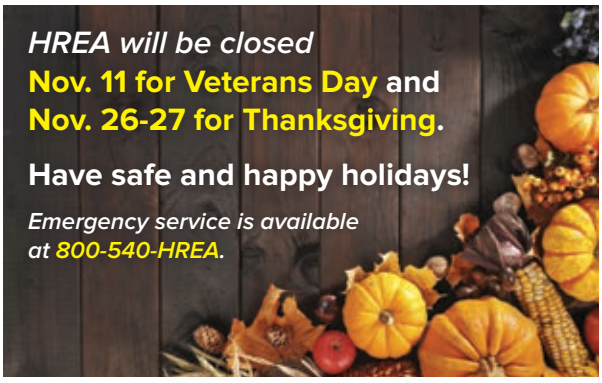
Mulch leaves instead of bagging. Using the lawn mower to mulch your leaves instead of bagging them is done by running the lawn mower over the leaves with no bag. This will cut up the leaves into little bits that will sit down between the grass blades and decompose, feeding and nourishing your lawn for a beautiful growth cycle in the spring. Lastly, this is good for the environment because there will be many less plastic bags sitting in landfills holding leaves that would otherwise decompose naturally.

Test your sump pump. Many of us have sump pumps in our basements. This test is simple. Pour several gallons into your sump well. If the pump turns on, then you know it will protect your home in the coming wetter months. This should be done every few months or so no matter what the season. For details, consult your sump pump's manual for more brand-specific instructions.

By performing these tests and inspections on our homes, we can all side step some of the trouble winter has in store.

'Til next time @TECH CORNER, be safe and happy winterizing!

LLOYD MASON *is the manager of information technology at Harrison Rural Electric Association. He writes monthly on technology issues affecting our cooperative and members.*



If you see these HREA employees this month, be sure to wish them a very happy birthday!

Ron Yerkey, Lineman – Nov. 4

Sam Satterfield, Operations Manager – Nov. 6

The road to becoming a journeyman lineman

BY SAM SATTERFIELD, OPERATIONS MANAGER

The road starts with an apprenticeship program that can take up to five years of training to complete. Each year of an apprenticeship consists of two to five weeks of training at a lineman's training center. In order to complete the years of training, an individual must be prepared to be mentally, physically and emotionally challenged.

The path to becoming a journeyman lineman will have training in a classroom and hands-on in the field. There will also be time spent with on-the-job training. One might think, why classroom time? That's where apprentices will learn how electricity works, how to read prints and diagrams, and what safety rules apply to electric line work, along with many other topics. Hands-on field training will consist of numerous hours of learning to climb poles and structures, operate bucket trucks and digger derricks, construct and repair electric power line systems, and rigging with proper tools and equipment.

All along, the apprentice is working a full-time job that could also turn into working long hours under different weather conditions to repair lines. They will be working and learning at the same time.

In today's age of technology, an individual even learns to use computers that are mounted in the work trucks. These computers have a variety of capabilities, from keeping time to showing outages on a map.

Upon completion of the training, an apprentice should be very proud to have learned the trade and become a journeyman lineman.

Linemen are of a special breed. They have to be able to work long hours in difficult conditions. They must work safely to keep the lights on. If a lineman doesn't take the time to learn the trades of working on live or grounded electrical lines safely, there is a good chance of a major tragedy and even death. Safety matters.

To learn more of about linemen's training and workdays, search online for "electrical lineman."