



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

2100 Sun Valley Road
Clarksburg, WV 26301

800-540-HREA

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



www.harrisonrea.com

The year ahead

WE START ANOTHER YEAR with a whole bunch of things to get accomplished before another new year is upon us. As always there will be construction and maintenance projects on infrastructure to go along with some changes that need tweaked and decisions to be made on what direction we proceed in the future. Our major goals remain the same in that we want to increase reliability, decrease long-term debt and find ways to increase efficiency as cost effectively as possible.

One project that was scheduled for last year but got delayed due to weather and crew availability was the Cunningham Run right-of-way project. There are still about five miles remaining to be completed. We put bids out in early November and met with contractors in early December, but at this writing we do not have a firm work schedule. We have planned for another 150 miles of right-of-way clearing for 2016 but have not yet finalized all of those

agreements with prospective companies. The targeted priorities are Swiger/Lost Creek west, Chiefton toward Dola, mopping up Jarvisville and part of Swiger/Lost Creek east. Aerial cutting may be used where practical since it tends to be the most efficient manner to complete side cuts in the shortest amount of time.

We have increased our pole inspection program from around 1,200 poles to around 1,800 poles. Our engineering firm is studying data from the advanced metering infrastructure and geographic information system (GIS) to identify and prioritize other maintenance projects in preparation for the new four-year workplan.

The cooperative continues to work on making corrections and improvements to the GIS data so that we can fully use the outage management system. Proper identification of all the protective devices within the connectivity model is essential to the overall effectiveness of the system, especially now that the trucks have been equipped with devices that give them access to the data in the field.

Late last year, we transitioned to a new after-hours answering service that has access to some of our data. We discovered some issues with the telephone lines and use of our local numbers, creating a bottleneck on the incoming calls getting through. Effective Jan. 1, we ask that everyone

Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,
CEO/General Manager



use our toll-free number, 800-540-4732, to report outages. In instances of high call volume, an integrated voice recording (IVR) system will kick in where members can leave their information. The IVR system will automatically update the outage management system with these calls just like talking to a live person. Additional technological improvements will be researched throughout the year.

There has been considerable time spent investigating various energy supply options as the push to eliminate fossil fuels escalates. While most of this rhetoric surrounds environmental issues, there are also those profiteers trying to find ways to take advantage of the current political environment. For the cooperative, the focus is on ways to decrease our reliance on conventional grid power due to changing billing methodologies from PJM, the regional grid operator, that seem to reverse the cost stabilization component of why they were formed in the first place. Nobody has been able to explain to our satisfaction why there is a premium charge for making capacity available to the grid when the generators are already making

(Continued on page 20)

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.

Happy New Year

BY BRITTANY GROVER

THE NEW YEAR BRINGS new resolutions, new adventures and, most of all, new beginnings. It saddens my heart to inform you that this will be my last article for Country Living and for you, the co-op members. I have been offered and accepted a wonderful new opportunity that will relocate me to the south. I am looking forward to see what's in store for me down the road, and I wanted to wish you all a very happy New Year one last time! Thank you for letting me serve the membership monthly with a new article that delivers what's happening in your co-op. I am truly going to miss everyone I've worked with these past couple of years, and everyone I have met along the way. Best wishes to my HREA family and to the membership.

Youth Tour 2016

Youth Tour 2016 is fast approaching! This is a shout-out for any and all sophomores or juniors in high school who are interested in a FREE weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. On this trip you will have the opportunity to meet and learn from your U.S. congressional leaders and have a chance to make new friends from across the country. You'll visit many of the famous Washington sites and gain a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will stay with you for years to come.

Again, this is a FREE all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. that takes place June 10-16. If you or anyone you know meets the qualifications*

and are interested in this opportunity, please contact the HREA business office today to apply. Two students will be selected for this year's Youth Tour trip, and HREA is proud to announce that BOTH participating students will also receive a \$500 scholarship toward continuing their education! So don't delay, apply today!

All applicants must be a high school sophomore or junior and a son/daughter/legal ward of a Harrison Rural Electric Association member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.

YES! Send me an application!

Student Name: _____

High school/grade: _____

HREA account #: _____

Member name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

If you are interested in this amazing opportunity, please contact the HREA business office today at 304-624-6365, or return this ticket to:

**HREA
Attn: Youth Tour
P.O. Box 4247
Clarksburg, WV 26301**

All applicants must have proper forms submitted no later than Feb. 29.

The year ahead

capacity available for their own needs and their wholesale power customers they have contracts with. They have a built-in margin on the power contracts already, and if it is for their own use, then they are taking money out of one pocket to put in their other pocket. Rant over (for now).

The issue with alternative generation is they involve higher base costs. These generators tout that they have been successful in Europe and other areas for years. What they don't mention is that those successes tend to be in geographical areas that do not have the insatiable appetite for electricity that we have here in the U.S. According to 2010 report from Enerdata via the World Energy Council, the average annual electricity consumption per house-

hold in the U.S. was 11,698 kWh compared to 5,513 kWh in Japan, 4,648 kWh in the United Kingdom and 3,512 kWh in Germany. This disparity suggests that true success will become a lifestyle change and a re-assessment of how we differentiate necessities from luxuries. While that is food for thought, we must still face the challenge currently before us, and that is how to lock in the best power cost we can for as long as we can. We are in discussions with various entities on the possibilities of integrating some solar, hydropower or other renewable energy source into our overall power mix.

From all of us here at HREA, we wish you a happy New Year and look forward to the great unknown of the year ahead. ☺

(--continued from page 19)

Science is our friend

BY LLOYD MASON

REMEMBER THE DAYTIMER? Appointment books using pens and pencils for valuable time management? A fatal flaw of the DayTimer was the obvious fact that the only time it reminded us of anything was when we remembered to look at it. So the only solution for most to prevent forgetfulness was to keep the DayTimer on hand at all times. To remind us of what we may have forgotten. OK, we can all snicker at that for a second or two. Remember fumbling with keys to your car door? Oh and asking people along our intended trip route for directions to our desired destination? Everyone had at least one phone connected to the home. A car was used to find people, places and things we needed. How about waiting in bank lines? Banking was a very time-intensive thing.

Cut to now.

It is all too common these days to be reminded of something by a machine. Now we delegate data in large amounts to our calendars, with the expectation of a machine taking the role of personal assistant. This machine can find our cars, open the locks on them and, in some cases, can even advise you of the maintenance schedule. Further, with navigation as an option on every level of vehicle, we rarely need directions to

anything. Banking used to take the better part of a morning of one of only two days off from work we had. This was very time consuming. Now, our machines can talk to other machines, enabling a new world full of automation, virtually eliminating many mundane tasks we all took for granted as the only way.

We could only have dreamed about these time-saving advances a couple of decades ago, and now they are commonplace. The Internet has provided a place for innovation, open opportunity and digital creation. By protecting the Internet as a level-free and open meeting place, we can expect more from ourselves and from others. Anyone now can sort through an easily accessed volume of information so massive in scope it is impossible to tell how big it really is. This digital opportunity must keep growing so that our children will have the chance to make a real chronological comparison, such as the one extended here.

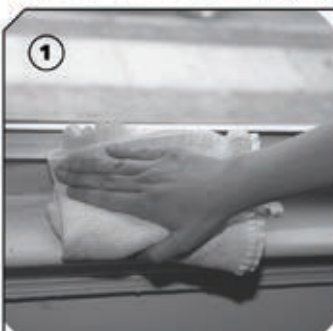



'Til next time @TECH CORNER. ☞

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

SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly **HALF OF YOUR HOME'S ENERGY USE**? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with **BIG ENERGY SAVINGS**.

**Approximate cost: \$5-\$30 *Energy savings: Approx. 5-10 percent - Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*

| MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED | | |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caulk• Caulk gun• Knife or tool to cut• Rags• Water |  |
|  | <p>1. PREP Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk. Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.</p> <p>2. LOAD You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun. Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.</p> <p>3. APPLY To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought. Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material. Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.</p> <p>4. RELEASE Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.</p> <p>5. CLEAN Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.</p> |  |



CAUTION

Be prepared for **WINTER STORMS**

BY **ABBY BERRY**

WHEN WINTER TEMPERATURES DROP and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. HREA cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared. Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

Stay warm:

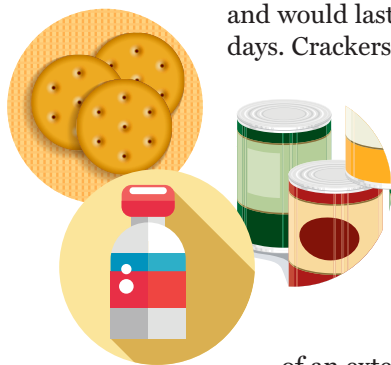
Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove, during a power outage.

These are great options to keep you warm, but exercise caution when using them, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gas-line-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.



Stay fed:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends keeping on hand a supply of food that does not need to be cooked and would last for several days. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.



Stay safe:

When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is not a good idea to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 800-540-HREA if possible.

If using a portable generator, make sure to follow all the manufacturer's instructions and operate them in a dry, open space. Generators can cause serious harm or even electrocution of a home's occupants or the linemen working to restore power, if they're used improperly.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Harrison REA is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too.

ABBY BERRY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

