



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

2100 Sun Valley Road  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

**800-540-HREA**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



[www.harrisonrea.com](http://www.harrisonrea.com)

## HREA Annual Meeting is April 21

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING will once again be held at Liberty High School on Thursday, April 21. The doors will open at 6 p. m., with a baked steak dinner beginning at 6:05 p.m. Entertainment begins around 6:15 p.m. Around 7:30, the business meeting will be called to order and presided over by HREA Board President Greg Robertson. Following a few brief reports, we will hear the results of the director elections. The evening will conclude with Operations Manager Sam Satterfield conducting the prize drawings.

HREA's 2015-2016 Youth Tour and Youth Leadership Council representative, Landon Davis, will give a speech. Landon recently represented the cooperative and the state of West Virginia at the Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, our national trade organization. Each year we solicit area high schools for sophomores or juniors whose parents or

guardians are HREA members to participate in this program. In the last three years, we have offered a \$500 scholarship to the winners, potentially two, who are chosen after an interview process. One of the two is chosen to represent West Virginia on NRECA's Youth Leadership Council, and NRECA provides financial support for them to attend its annual meeting the following year.

We ask that if you are planning to attend the meeting, please call HREA at 304-624-6365 and let us know how many will be attending by April 15. Much has changed at the cooperative over the last couple of years, and there are more enhancements planned for the future. While changes are stressful and sometimes confusing, there really is no other choice but to change and adapt to the current standards that have been established. New technology has become an absolute necessity in the struggle to keep up with all of the regulatory requirements in

### Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,  
CEO/General Manager



a cost-efficient manner. We also expect this technology to help our employees become more efficient in performing their day-to-day responsibilities. In addition to new technology, we have started using some new processes to enhance our ability to better serve the membership. In many ways, we have started taking an in-depth look at everything the cooperative does and determining if there is a way to improve effectiveness and efficiency in a cost effective manner.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting, April 21 at Liberty High School. ☺

#### 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  
Missie Stephenson..... Accountant

#### Office Hours

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

#### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Earth Day is April 22. Plant a deciduous tree near your home (but far away from power lines!). Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your AC a much needed break.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# Critical connections

## *behind the power*

BY ADAM SCHWARTZ

APRIL 11 IS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION Day, so it is appropriate that we take a moment to recognize the people who often work in brutal weather conditions to ensure we all have safe and reliable power. In fact, linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officers.

While linemen work in highly visible settings, there are many people behind the scenes who also labor tirelessly to help keep the lights on.

Terry Stout, **CEO/general manager**, is similar to the head coach of a team. He ensures that all the players — employees — know their roles and perform them at a high level. He also must recruit and retain talent; this is especially challenging in today's highly competitive hiring environment.

The **operations and engineering** department ensures that the electric distribution system is well-maintained. This team is responsible for planning ahead and continually monitoring existing equipment and resources. An equally important area of focus is **safety**. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous task, and helping to foster a culture of safety for all workers is a major priority.

The **customer service representatives** answer calls and questions about billing and energy use. They work with members to identify periods of high electricity use and discuss ways to save on the monthly bill. This department is also responsible for the co-op's annual meeting, outreach to community organizations, and communications like these Harrison Rural Electric Association, Inc., pages in *Country Living*.

The **accounting and finance** department is responsible for the financial well-being of HREA. It includes billing, collections and over-

seeing loans. While we are a member-owned cooperative and operate differently than investor-owned utilities, we are still a business. As such, the accounting department ensures that revenue collected from the membership exceeds our expenses. Typical expenses include the money we pay for electric power, equipment, new technology, upgrades to the infrastructure, employees and other expenditures.

The **human resources department** is responsible for all personnel associated with our co-op — recruiting, hiring, retirements, benefits and training. Continual learning and training for co-op employees is crucial to having a skilled workforce that helps keep the co-op operating at its highest level. This learning element is also one of the seven cooperative principles and extends to our members. For example, HREA sponsors youth scholarships and an educational trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the co-op's Youth Tour program each summer.

Many different people and departments work closely together to serve you because you, the member, are at the heart of everything we do. From sponsoring a local school's baseball team to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community. The electricity we provide literally powers our communities. And it takes every person in the co-op to deliver on this promise. ☞

**ADAM SCHWARTZ** is the founder of *The Cooperative Way* a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or e-mail him at [aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop](mailto:aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop).

OHIO'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

#thankalinenman

Our linemen are dedicated to maintaining our power lines and promptly restoring power if the lights go out.

April 11 is **Lineman Appreciation Day** — a day to honor their hard work.

When you see linemen, please thank them for their commitment to excellence and their service to our cooperative.

Your **power** is their **priority**. Always.

April 11, 2016

**LINEMAN**  
— Appreciation Day —

# Change your passwords today

BY LLOYD MASON

LOCKS AND KEYS are the kind of security we have all known for a long time. Now it is time to truly consider your digital identity and the way you are protecting it. We have all heard of or are using online resources to make our lives more convenient. We can now bridge long distances without a car to shop in places unavailable to us without the internet or a plane. We plan for our financial future, do our taxes, plan a trip, share with friends and so on. So where do you put the lock to secure your identity? That lock is put in place by the websites we visit and the key is the username/password combination. Unlike our locks at home, these locks are being constantly probed for weaknesses. Here are some simple rules to follow when making a password or changing an old one.

- 1) No birthdays, pets' names, or spouses' names — these are all easily found on social media sites
- 2) No default passwords from out-of-the-box devices, such as routers, switches and modems
- 3) No generic passwords we may have learned from a textbook — the bad guys look for this

OK, I get it: We already have too many passwords, right? I have to agree with that. Here is a tip to make it easier to be safe and rotate your passwords often: I like to pick a schema that will allow a partial change that can be followed to guide the next password choice. The thing we must all remember what makes us safe online is regular security activity. Change your password monthly. That is the single strongest way to protect your identity and, most likely, your money along with it.

*Till next time @Tech Corner, surf safe — it's up to you! ☞*



## Don't TOY with your SAFETY

When playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.

