



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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## A new year in progress

WE HAVE WRAPPED UP most of our planning for this year. We have contracts in place for our vegetation management plan and pole inspection plan, and are still prioritizing the work that goes along with our sectionalizing study. We have a new board member in District 7, a new in-house right-of-way crew, and a few administrative positions to fill. Requests for new commercial services continue to come in and construction continues on other services. For a whole second or two, we can feel we are ready for what is yet to come.

We previously told you that this year's right-of-way clearing would involve Swiger East, Dola, and the Northeastern portion of Chiefton. We can now add that Penn Lines will start the year with the Swiger East circuit that encompasses approximately 71.5 miles between Lost Creek and Buckhannon. This circuit also includes a few miles back toward Mt. Clare. As always, they will address as

many miles as possible that can be aerially cut before the leaves come on, while ground crews will begin at the source and work their way down line. Upon completion, they will move to the Dola area and begin there. Depending on weather and other external factors, they may bring the helicopter in to do as much aerial cutting as they can well before the ground crews get started. The Dola circuit encompasses approximately 53 miles.

While that's happening, a new company, The Energy Group, is going to begin work on the approximately 17 miles of the Northeastern Chiefton circuit. If something should go awry with this circuit, we have Penn Lines ready to take over and complete this project. That's about 141.5 miles for the year, making for a total of 530 miles over the four-year period since we began our new vegetation management plan and putting us on pace to achieve our goal of a six-year rotation.

With this overall increase in annual right-of-way clearing, we expect that there will be less need/use of time and material crews for hot-spot-

### Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,  
 CEO/General Manager



ting, danger trees, etc. Because of the concern over ash trees, we have opted to start an internal crew to handle these situations and to be available for storm trouble or other situations where they can assist line crews.

We will again be utilizing Osmose to perform our pole inspections. They are a national leader in this industry and have provided the cooperative with several years of quality service. Their ability to inspect and treat poles helps keep costs lower and pole lifespans longer. As always, though, there will be some replacements necessary, and we have been in discussions with a couple of alternatives to get to those poles in hard-to-reach areas. Pole inspections are performed on a 10-year cycle, so they will be picking up where they left off in 2016 — inspecting around 1,200 poles.

We are still analyzing the recent

(Continued on page 20)

#### Board of Directors

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 James Stuart, Dist. 4 .....Sec.-Treas.  
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Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday



The office is closed Jan. 2. Emergency service is available at  
**1-800-540-4732.**



# Are you ready for Apple Pay?

BY LLOYD MASON

IF YOU ARE LIKE ME and many other folks in the U.S. this year, you got your hands on your first Apple Pay device. On May 14, 2016, Kohl's department store became

the first U.S. retailer to integrate Apple Pay into their retail point-of-sale (POS) system.

This was a landmark for techies, bankers, and retailers alike. Now with hundreds of places accepting Apple's new form of digital payment, more and more people are getting the chance to try out the wave of the future. This tokenized "secure" form of payment rides atop a wave of identity theft that should be described as massive. The effort to thwart the regular theft attempts of credit cards is known as PCI compliance — it describes the level of security applied to the handling of credit card payments over a given network. We all have networks at home and at work where payments can be made for any number of goods and services, and it is safe to say the winds of change are blowing.

We all know there are lots of smartphones out there, but how many could actually replace your wallet? Well, of the 187 million Americans that have a smartphone, we know that 43 percent of those are an iPhone. Apple estimates that there are somewhere near 24 million Apple Pay-compatible phones (6s/6sPlus) in the United States right now. An online resource known as [www.pymnts.com](http://www.pymnts.com)

puts the number of people who have tried Apple Pay to about 15 percent of the potential devices — or 3.6 million people. That, in my opinion, is a telling number, proving the decline of paper check-writing is moving very quickly now. Most surveys attribute the use of paper checks to the age of the participant. In today's economy, debit cards make up around 43 percent of all purchases, followed by 22 percent preferring credit cards. A strong 30 percent still prefer cash, and just 3 percent of U.S. consumers are using a paper check to conduct business at home or work.

With a number that low, it's clear that change has already happened. The paper check is on its way out — and why not? The paper check was easy to damage, hard to verify, and could be made out to whatever amount the author had in mind, making it a risky lesson in trust from there on out. Of course, the paper check had its day in the sun; in 2006, it was estimated that the U.S. economy uttered 33 billion checks. That staggering number has been decreasing ever since.

As the world turns, we can count on one thing: change. Change is here to stay, and it will be coming again soon. We live in exciting times — I just wonder what's coming next.

*Till the next time @techcorner. ☞*

**Lloyd Mason** is the manager of information technology at Harrison Rural Electric Association. He writes monthly on technology issues affecting our co-op.

## A New Year (—continued from page 19)

Sectionalizing Study that was performed by our independent engineering firm. The main purpose of this study is to evaluate various factors on our lines to determine if the system coordination is set up properly and protected. We have already completed some of the items identified in this report, such as changing out the three-phase breaker at the Buckhannon metering point with an electronic NOVA triple single breaker. This should eliminate the issue of a fault knocking out the entire metering point. There are also some down-line upgrades that go along with getting the coordination right, but the NOVA can be adjusted to compensate as those are installed. Obviously, we will address the main three-phase lines first because they have to work properly for other side taps to work properly. These types of studies have to be completed every few years to make sure we are keeping up with the load demands on the system. It is not by accident that this study coincides with our progress in our vegetation management plan.

In the board room, Jeff Nelson was selected by the board to fulfill the remaining current year of the District 7

director position. Letters were sent to members in District 7, and notices were placed in the Clarksburg and West Union newspapers, allowing any interested members to apply for the current year and file a nomination petition to appear on the ballot for the final two years of this position. The next annual meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2017, and the directorships up for election/re-election are District 4 (currently held by James Stuart), District 5 (currently held by Glen Cox), and now District 7 for the remaining two years. As of this writing, nominations petitions are due, so we cannot yet determine if any of the positions are being contested. If there is only one candidate for a position, that candidate will win by acclamation and a ballot will not be necessary.

We are looking for an accountant and possibly a right-of-way manager/forester. Besides having the proper education, credentials, integrity, and experience, these individuals must adjust to the cooperative environment — putting others' needs before their own, taking on whatever comes their way, and being a productive, inclusive team member. We're not big enough to afford specialization or "me first" attitudes.

Finally, we wish all a safe and successful New Year. ☞



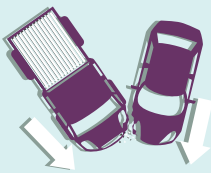
# 5 DISTRACTED DRIVING STATS YOU SHOULD KNOW



# 3,179

Number of people killed each year in vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers

*(Federal Communications Commission, 2014)*



# 1 in 4

The probability that a vehicle crash involved a cellphone

*(National Safety Council, 2014)*

# 60%



Percentage of people who use cellphones while driving

*(Harris Poll, 2011)*

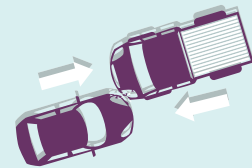
# 21-24

 Age group most likely to send a text or email while driving

*(Distraction.gov, 2012)*



# 4X



How much using a cellphone increases your risk of crashing

*(National Safety Council, 2014)*



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES



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# 2017 Energy Efficiency Calendar

***Start the new year off by being more energy efficient!***

Each month, try changing your energy use habits by using the tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.

	<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p>Turn off lights when you leave a room.</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.</p>	<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>Turn off water while brushing your teeth.</p>
<p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p>Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.</p>	<p><b>MAY</b></p> <p>Clean or replace your air filter. You may need to ask an adult to help.</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b></p> <p>Keep the thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit during summer months.</p>	
	<p><b>JULY</b></p> <p>Close curtains and blinds during the day to block the sun.</p>	<p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p>Keep all doors and windows closed while the AC is running.</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p>Dry clothes outdoors on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.</p>
<p><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p>Only open the refrigerator door for short amounts of time when necessary.</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p>Take short showers instead of a bath.</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>Decorate your home for the holidays with energy-saving LED bulbs.</p>	