



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

YOUR CO-OP CARES ABOUT YOU

The holidays bring many things to mind: happy memories of seasons past, good food (and expanded waistlines!), gatherings with family and friends, and long-awaited gifts. And, if you're like me, the holidays bring thoughts of giving back, spreading love, and sharing joy.

Perhaps you commit random acts of kindness like sharing a cup of coffee with a friend in need, or cooking and serving food for the hungry. Maybe you give your time or money to international charities. Or perhaps you simply try to embrace the season by showing gratitude and kindness to those around you.

However you share your own unique holiday spirit, know that we here at HREA strive to share our cooperative spirit with you.

We hope you see it reflected in your utility bill. Even during the holiday season, when many people are lighting their homes with festive decorations, or staying up late entertaining and cooking for family and friends, we are still working to provide you with the most affordable and reliable electric service possible.

We help members keep energy use in check by providing energy efficiency tips — find them online at

Harrisonrea.com. We help you save time by providing convenient payment options, such as online payments. We also help keep your family safe by providing electrical safety tips, which are especially important this time of year, in these pages of Ohio Cooperative Living or online at Harrisonrea.com.

Another great benefit we offer is the Co-op Connections® Card. If you haven't used your card yet, I highly recommend checking out the coupons offered before you start holiday shopping. You could save on everything from the gifts you place under the tree to your holiday ham.

I hope you see how much we care through the benefits, savings, and services we provide, but I also hope you see it in the ways we give back to our community.

We are nothing without our members. We recognize that and understand that we cannot thrive unless you thrive, so we do all we can to make sure our community is strong.

From all of your friends at HREA, we hope you have a happy holiday season!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Holiday lighting tips

This year is rapidly drawing to a close, and that means the holiday lighting season is back. If your home space is in need of a decorative refresh, here are some tips to take your artistic stylings to the next level. There are two areas to cover, so let's get started.



Safety is up first. If your lights are ground mounted or can be installed standing on the floor or ground, you can skip ahead.

However, since most decorations involve some installation at height, you need to do the following:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations — an invaluable part of safety and for keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners, and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
3. Don't overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
4. Don't overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous, as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.


Light selection is next. If at all possible, invest in LED lights this season. Unlike the first versions to hit the market that were characterized by rather harsh and unattractive colors, the newest generation's colors are reminiscent of the incandescent lights of yore. You can even choose "warm white."

Why go the LED route? Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons. Unlike incandescent lights, LEDs will last for many years. LEDs have no filaments to burn out. Aside from physically destroying the bulb, the LED is amazingly robust. You can expect LEDs to last seven or more years.

Then there is the cost of operation benefit from LEDs. These gems of technological advancement truly sip electricity. A reasonable estimate of power consumption is 7 watts per 100 lights. How does that compare to the old incandescent? Each of those bulbs used 12 watts, so a string of 100 devoured 1,200 watts.

Truly want to manage the cost of operating holiday lights? Invest in timers to turn the lights on and off automatically. Really into gadgets? Invest in a smart plug for your lights you can control from your smart phone.

Once you have your design finalized and installed, consider leaving the outside portion of lights in place. No, don't be that person who leaves the holiday lights on all year. Simply disconnect them after the holidays, protecting the plugs and sockets from dirt and debris.



END OF THE YEAR

In many ways we are more than ready to put this year to rest. We have faced challenges on fronts that we never expected this year, but thankfully had the Cooperative's Bylaws that did address such remote possibilities. While the bylaws laid out what we had to do, they did not make it any easier to actually carry out and follow through with those rules. Our wish is that those affected find the strength, determination and perseverance to face their personal challenges.

Looking forward, we are preparing for a new year and new challenges. We recently met with and awarded right-of-way and pole inspection contracts for 2017. The planned right-of-way areas to be cleared are Swiger East, Dola and Chiefton North/East. Over the last three years we have addressed nearly 60 percent of our existing rights-of-way and have plans to complete our entire right-of-way by the end of 2018. At that point we will put in place a six-year cycle, and we have identified which circuits are to be completed each year. The six-year cycle requires the identified circuit to be completed from source to the end of line — including all side taps — in the same year. This is dramatically different from past practice and should enable us to better manage the program. Picking up where we left off last year, pole inspections will involve around 1,200 poles in the Bridgeport-toward-Erie and then Bridgeport-toward-Oral Lake areas. We have been looking into some less-invasive testing companies, but to date have not found a reasonably priced alternative of equal quality.

Other matters for the new calendar year include internal projects to add/stabilize cooperative standards by writing standard operating procedures and management policies to cover everything we do. This is a huge task, but has been needed for a long time to help ensure that we are being fair and consistent to all members, employees, etc., in all situations. It also ensures that all of our practices and procedures are in compliance with any and all regulatory rules. We will continue to ramp-up our training program year-in and year-out. As a small utility, our employees must be able to handle all sorts of situations because we do not have the luxury to create "specialty" jobs. Projects are still being considered for line upgrades, etc., as we await receipt of the sectionalizing study we contracted. The main focus will be on lowering long-term debt, standard operating procedures, and training.

Finally, we ask all of you to join us in wishing for Mike and Karen Cross the strength to deal with their current challenges. Mike recently resigned as the District 7 Director due to some personal issues. He served the cooperative family locally both as the CEO/General Manager of HREA and as a Director. In addition, he served NRECA International in Bangladesh, where he assisted in bringing electrification to people in parts of that country who still did not have any access to it. We will miss the experience in this industry that he brought to the boardroom and utilized in his service to HREA. He has always had a big heart and was always willing to take the extra step to help others. Good luck, Michael — don't be a stranger, and come back to visit us.

It is also the holiday season, so we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please be safe in your travels.



HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION LOCAL PAGES

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The office will be closed Dec. 22 and Dec. 25 for Christmas, as well as Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.



Go brighter and greener with LED lights

LED lighting products account for 60 percent of the holiday and seasonal lighting sold in the U.S. each year.

A 1,000-bulb strand of miniature incandescent lights uses **408 watts** of energy, while a 1,000-bulb strand of LED mini lights consumes **48 watts** of energy.



Source: Underwriters Laboratories

Happy Birthday!

If you see this HREA employee this month, be sure to wish him a very happy birthday!

Scott Stout

December 5

Jason Manear

December 12

Jimmy Cain

December 22



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov/productfinder for a full list of efficient products.

Source: energystar.gov



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