

Co-op Comments

April 2017

Mark Finch appointed to fill vacant Board Member seat

After 28 years, Ray Anthony submitted his letter of resignation from his Board of Trustees office in July 2016 to retire from his seat. To fill the open office, a nominating committee was formed by REC members and they began the process of filling the position of the Board.

Being a member for over 20 years and serving on several committees, Mark Finch wanted to become more involved with REC.

"I like being involved with organizations like REC," Mark adds. "We have been members ever since we moved here over 20 years ago. Working for a company that is a big electrical user has lead to a deeper understanding of the industry and a desire to know more."

Mark and his wife Rhenada live in the Cox City area on Rhenada's grandparents land. Mark and Rhenada purchased the property from her grandparents when they moved to Marlow in 1994.

Mark is semi-retired from Gen-Materials in Oklahoma City, a sand and gravel company. Rhenada teaches piano lessons and is an accompanist to vocal students at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. They have three children, their son lives in Chicago, Illinois and is a mechanical engineer for Caterpillar, their middle daughter is a Physician Assistant in Duncan and lives in Norman with her husband and three children and their youngest daughter lives in Denver, Colorado pursuing a career in photography.

Mark is originally from south of Colorado Springs, Colorado but has lived in Oklahoma since 1994.

Mark's involvement with electrical

generation throughout his career, lead to his decision of wanting to serve as a Board Member for REC.

"Gen-Materials purchases power from OG+E and Oklahoma Electric Cooperative," Mark adds. "I have attended several of OEC's meetings on behalf of Gen-Materials. Electrical generation is important for our economic development and it is important to learn about all the areas of the electrical industry. The knowledge I have

gained throughout my career has peaked my interest and my desire to learn more."

Mark is looking forward to serving on the Board and gain understanding of the different responsibilities of being a Board Member and helping any way he can.

"While I have lived here for over 20 years, I have always worked in Oklahoma City so I am also looking forward to meeting the members and being more involved in my community," he concludes.



Board of Trustees President Gary Jones reads Mark Finch the Oath of Office and Loyalty Pledge before filling the District 3, Office 3 open position. Finch was appointed to the Board of Trustees during the February board meeting.

Active participation and engagement are critical for success



Rural Electric members in good standing have the right to seek election to be a Board of Trustees member. While serving on a board is certainly not for everyone, it is healthy for any co-op to have an engaged

REC sells Western Fuel Company

Recently, Jackie and Linda Pitmon of Davis, Oklahoma signed a contract with REC Services, Inc. to purchase Western Fuel Company, LLC in Maysville, Okla. Since 2005, Western Fuel Company, LLC has been a subsidiary of Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"This is a positive move for both REC and Jackie and Linda Pitmon," said Dale Nye, REC's CEO. "Jackie and Linda have extensive knowledge and experience of the propane and fuel business."

Upon the completion of the sale, Western Fuel Company will continue to operate under the same name and with the same personnel. 1229201

"Western Fuel Company customers can expect the same exemplary service they experienced in the past," concluded Nye.

membership with a portion of the members interested in serving in leadership.

REC is governed by a nine member Board of Trustees elected by the membership. Board members provide strategic direction and guidance to ensure REC will continue to serve the interests of you, the member-owner.

While democracy itself is an imperfect system, it remains the best way to ensure the maximum number of voices is heard. Democracy cannot and should not be taken for granted.

The electric co-op's mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power has been achieved. Now, as the utility industry enters an era of change, when people have more choices for the way they receive electricity, it is critically important we hear your voice and the voices of the most diverse group of members. Through active engagement and participation of the membership, the co-op can ensure it is leading in a direction the members will want to follow in the future.

In addition to ensuring the co-op serves the best interests of its members, the Board of Trustees is committed to providing solutions to maintain the vibrancy of our local communities. Being a Board of Trustees member requires a real commitment of time and effort. Also, it requires an attitude of being a servant leader, meaning they should want to engage to make a real contribution to the membership and communities REC serves.

One of the greatest resources of south central Oklahoma is our people and their willingness to help when asked. We are always looking for interested members who want to serve on REC's different committees throughout the year. Members who have interest in serving should contact REC for consideration.

Co-op Comments

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April 2017

Trustees and Officers

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Johnny Harrel, *District 2*
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Lindsay, OK 73052

405-756-3104 or 1-800-259-3504
To report an outage call
1-800-259-3504 or 1-855-399-2683
Visit REC at www.recok.coop
and like us on facebook



Repairing the system after a spring storm

Lights out? Thirty-one percent of power outages are triggered by the weather. Lineworkers must battle the elements to find problem areas and restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

“We know our members want to know why the lights are out and when will their lights be back on,” shares Dale Nye. “First, we must find the problems. Then, we follow a series of steps to bring the lights back on.”

Efforts are made to restore power to the largest number of members as quickly as possible. Then, crews fix problems impacting smaller groups of members.

When an outage occurs, line crews work to pinpoint problems. They start with high-voltage transmission lines. Transmission towers and cables that supply power to thousands of consumers rarely fail. But when damage occurs, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

Next, crews check distribution substations. Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members. When a major out-

age occurs, line crews inspect substations to discover if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in communities or housing developments.

If local outages persist, supply lines (also called tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your home may need to be repaired. Always call us at 855-399-2683 to report an outage. This helps crews isolate local issues.

Members can check our website, www.recok.coop, and our Facebook page for updates on the storm restoration progress.

Safety tips during thunderstorm season

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying

inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Classified Advertisement

REAL ESTATE -

FOR SALE OR TRADE: 40 acres with two houses and two barns. PH: 405-473-3318.

AUTOMOTIVE -

FOR SALE: 2014 Cherokee Latitude Jeep, 4X4 wheel drive, 27,000 miles, active II transmission, many extras, call for price in Wynnewood area. PH: 972-816-6975.

FARM EQUIPMENT -

FOR SALE: 3-point hookup with arms and all hookups to fit a 1586 International. PH: 405-222-2752.

LIVESTOCK & PETS -

FOR SALE: Angus bulls, 16-24 months old, guaranteed sound & fertile, \$2,500 each or lease for \$300 a year. Bred and open heifers available as well.

PH: 405-207-1243 or 405-665-2502.

MISCELLANEOUS -

FOR SALE: Farm fresh eggs.

PH: 405-996-6300.

FOR SALE: 2 7/8" and 2 3/8" X 8' pipe-several pieces. PH: 405-615-3418.

FOR SALE: Whirlpool ET18DK refrigerator-freezer, beige, 18.1 cu ft, 66X30X30. Great size for small home or garage, \$125. PH: 405-331-9808.

FOR SALE: Sharp 950 watt carousel microwave oven. Black cabinet with vent fan

for wall installation above kitchen range, \$50. PH: 405-331-9808.

WANT TO BUY: Gallon size bags of costume jewelry for costume project. Will pay up to \$5 a bag. PH: 580-444-3697.

FOR SALE: Rustic western style, wooden dining table with six padded chairs, \$450. PH: 405-613-8840.

FOR SALE: 2008 Grand Junction fifth-wheel w/3 slide-outs, new carpet, new

refrigerator, dual H/A, all wood cabinets and corian countertops, all-weather trailer. PH: 405-431-0563.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT -

Outdoor vintage and junk sale with multiple vendors in Wayne on May 12-13. \$3 entry fee, one mile south of Dollar Store. Visit us on Facebook at: Owl Creek Vintage Market. PH: 405-314-7854.

Lineman Appreciation Day set for April 10



**NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION
DAY.**

APRIL 10, 2017

#ThankALineman

Account number worth \$10 bill credit

Locate your account number in an article of this issue; it will be good for a \$10 credit on your electric bill. To claim the prize, you must locate the account number - if the number is yours, contact REC by the 10th of the month and we will credit your account. Only the member assigned that number is eligible for the prize. If you don't know your account number, it can be located on your electric bill.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Dishwasher Efficiency Tip: Air dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

Learn more at www.energy.gov

Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

Backroads Boutique, Lindsay -

5% off everything excluding special order and sale items

Best Western, Chickasha -

15% Off Regular Room Rate

Blue Moose Outdoor

Portable Rentals, Elmore City -

5% Off Septic Tank Pumping, Tent Rental and Special Event Toilet Rentals

Chickasha Diesel Services, Chickasha -

\$50 off any big diesel oil change

Edwards Canvas, Pauls Valley - 5% Off

Jenny's Pics Photography, Lindsay -

10% Off \$50 or More Purchase of Pictures

Lindsay Tire and Lube, Lindsay -

\$5 Off Any Full Service Oil Change;

M & M Furniture, Chickasha -

10% Off Any Purchase

Mazzio's Italian Eatery, Purcell -

10% Off Purchase

Photos by Ginger, Pauls Valley -

1 Free 8x10 Print With First Order (\$25 Minimum)

The Leopard Lasso, Wynnewood -

10% Off Purchase

4 Seat Saddles, Boots and Hats -

10% Off \$100 or More, or 5% Off Repairs

Western Fuel Co., Maysville -

2 Cents Off Per Gallon of Propane on a Minimum of 125 Gallons. Cash Sales Only. (No Other Discounts Allowed)

Pharmacy Discounts -

Check out the discounts available using your Co-op Connections Card at participating pharmacies throughout our area. For a complete list of pharmacies, visit REC's website to see if your pharmacy is offering discounts to Co-op Connections Card holders.