

Co-op Comments

December 2016

Youth Programs available for students within REC's service area

Students within Rural Electric Cooperative's service territory could win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., Steamboat Springs, Colorado or Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma this summer. Additionally, high school seniors could win a much needed scholarship to help with college expenses.

A representative from REC will be visiting schools beginning in January and distributing information about these programs. Students may pick up the necessary information at their schools, from the Cooperative or visit www.recok.coop and click on the "Services and Programs" tab, then select "Youth Programs" for program details.

Youth Power Energy Camp is available for eighth graders. These students can compete to be one of eight individuals from REC's service area to attend a four-day camp near Hinton, Oklahoma. The camp is designed to give the students

a better understanding of electric cooperatives, enhance leadership skills, as well as meet new friends from across the state.

To participate in this contest, students must be attending school within REC's service area and write a short essay on a topic provided by REC.

Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. is a week long, all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for three students to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour. These three students will join approximately 70 other high school juniors from across Oklahoma on the trip this summer.

To participate, students must be classified as a high school junior and are required to write a speech on a topic provided by the Cooperative.

Six finalists will be chosen to present their speeches to determine the winners. The top three scores will win the Washington, D.C.



2016 Youth Tour winners from left to right: Savannah Gallegos from Rush Springs, Dylan Wynn from Cement and Lexi Large from Rush Springs.

trip, while the three runners-up will earn a week long, all-expense paid trip to the Cooperative Leadership Conference near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

In addition to these trips, REC offers scholarships to area high school seniors. Seniors whose parents are members of REC are eligible to apply for one of ten scholarships awarded by the Cooperative. Scholarships will be applied to the students' freshman year of college starting in the fall semester of 2017.

REC will award two \$1,500 scholarships and eight \$1,000 scholarships.

All materials for any of these programs will be available at area schools and REC's website www.recok.coop. Students may also contact REC's Member Services Department with additional questions at 756-3104, Extension 238.



2016 Energy Camp winners from left to right: Breanna Speerblecher, Raymond Finley and Greg Smith from Paoli, Joshua Travis from Elmore City-Pernell, Wesley Saltsman from Bray-Doyle, Colton Higgins from Cement and Grace Mize from Maysville.

The future depends on today's planning

This is the time of year we all begin to get excited about something- whether it's hunting season, cooler weather, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Thunder basketball or my personal favorite - budgets.

During this time of year, everyone at REC is evaluating the activities from the past year and beginning to plan for the future.

While reading Wayne Loafman's last Co-op Comments' article, I realized the importance of the decisions made then and how relevant they are still today; and how decisions made today affect the future. The vision Wayne, our Board and the employees had for decisions made years ago allows us to continue to provide safe and economical electricity for our members today.

The article below was written in December 1987 by REC's late CEO Wayne Loafman.

Each year at this time, we pause to celebrate the holiday season, to count our blessings and review the fruits of our labor during the year. We have so many things to be thankful for in this land, but we are especially grateful for our cooperative organization and the part it plays in providing

each of us with a more enjoyable lifestyle.

A cooperative program can only obtain success through people. You can only build program strength by concerned membership and their participation. People make the difference between progress and failure. Member relations are the most important part of any cooperative-type enterprise. Without members, a cooperative cannot exist. A company depends upon their resources. A cooperative organization depends on its members as they are their resources. It takes many people to make a successful electric cooperative: the members, the Board of Directors, management and employees.

A cooperative-type organization must provide for mutual benefits of its members. This type action must serve as a basis for the final decisions affecting the members' interest as well as the cooperative's interest.

These are challenging times for electric-type organizations. We continually face new challenges, but challenges in our business are never simple. The decisions we make today must bear fruit in tomorrow's

continued on page 3



Ed Bevers, Manager of Engineering, (left) shows Wayne Loafman, former General Manager and Systems Engineer, (right) long range plans he made about additional substations. In 2011, WFEC built the Naples substation where Loafman suggested 42 years before.

Co-op Comments

Official publication of Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. CO-OP COMMENTS is owned, controlled and directed by Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is printed monthly and mailed to members in Garvin, McClain, Comanche, Stephens, Grady and Carter counties in Oklahoma.

December 2016

Trustees and Officers

Gary Jones, *President, District 1*
Scott Christian, *Vice-President, District 1*
Brent Bacon, *Secretary/Treasurer, District 1*
Larry Anderson, *District 2*
Johnny Harrel, *District 2*
Terri Hays, *District 2*
Charles Crawford, *District 3*
Randy Griswold, *District 3*
Dan Williams, *Attorney*

Management and Staff

Dale Nye, *Manager/Chief Executive Officer*
Linda Ray, *Chief Financial Officer*
Kelli Lindsey, *Administrative Assistant and Staff Coordinator*
Elaine Gilreath, *Manager of Customer Service and Data Processing*
Ed Bevers, *Manager of Engineering*
David Crull, *System Superintendent*
Greg Watson, *Operations Superintendent*
Megan Lawrence, *Manager of Member Services and Marketing*
Mitch Gilreath, *Manager of Information Technology Services*
Leonard Coffee, *Manager of Safety and Loss Control/Facilities*

Contact Information

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 609
Lindsay, OK 73052
Physical Address
13942 Highway 76
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



Providing notifications and account information to members

SmartHub is a convenient two-way communication program allowing members to access their Rural Electric account information through personal computers and mobile devices, including iPhone, iPad and Android smart phones and tablets. SmartHub is intuitive, easy-to-navigate and provides so much more than just bill payment.

Developed by National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), the same developer REC uses for accounting, E-bill and data management, SmartHub provides the members with instant access to their account and customer service.

SmartHub is a tool to help all of REC's members. Creating an account takes less than three minutes and many of you are already connected. This tool allows the

members to have a better understanding of their account and daily usage patterns.

With SmartHub, members can pay their bill immediately with secure online payments, view monthly electricity usage and history including daily kWh, manage account information directly and track payment history from mobile devices or the web, report an outage, and receive notifications via email or text messaging concerning activity on your account.

Members who sign-up for SmartHub, will not only receive messages about their account but also what is going on REC like line maintenance outages.

To pay your bills or utilize any of the other features, simply go to www.recok.coop and click on to the SmartHub tab at



the top. Also, on our website is a list of frequently asked questions about SmartHub. SmartHub is available on Android and iOS smartphones and tablets as well as on the web. To download the free SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet, click on the App Store icon on your iPhone/iPad or the Google Play icon on your Android phone/tablet, and search for "SmartHub" app. Or use the QR codes below to download the SmartHub app.

Rural Electric is proud to provide our members a powerful, secure and convenient account access, as well as detailed information about your energy usage via SmartHub. Sign up today to experience the new and exciting features of SmartHub.

The future depends on today's planning

continued from page 2

real world.

As we look back into the past, we observe many changes have been made throughout the years. As we look into the future, we will encounter many changes.

The progress our cooperative enterprise enjoys today is a result of decisions made in years past. Planning is important in any business organization. In order to plan for the future, we must determine where we are today, what are our goals for the future and try to determine how tomorrow's changes will affect our cooperative's operations. Where will we be during the next few years will depend largely upon what we do now in preparing for the future.

Even though our economic situation is a bit on the downward side, the future is not all gloomy. We do see some brightness on the horizon with some economic growth now in progress.

Building a better rural America and a better world is one of the goals of every cooperative type. These type goals best describe what rural electric cooperatives are all about and what these type business

enterprises mean to our entire nation.

As my tenure comes to an end, I have enjoyed the privilege of being a small part of a fine program and a fine organization. The past thirty years I have spent here have been a rewarding experience for me. Helping people to enjoy a better lifestyle is something that everyone does have the opportunity to be a part of.

A good reputation has to be earned. That is what Rural Electric Cooperative has been trying to do ever since it was organized to serve its members' needs.

Our work is never finished—it must continue in the future. The task of maintaining good electric service is not always cheap or easy. 743602

Times change, but the commitment and dedication to providing the best service at the least possible cost will always remain the number one priority. I am sure you will continue to see this same type of philosophy from our dedicated Board of Directors, management and employees.

Thanks for the helping hand and support you have given me during my association here.



Classified Advertisement

REAL ESTATE –

FOR SALE OR TRADE: 40 acres in Maysville. PH: 405-473-3318.

FOR SALE: 1998 Pioneer, 16 X 60 mobile home, 2-bdroom, 2-bath, new metal roof, needs work. To be moved, \$6,000. PH: 405-428-0686.

FOR RENT: Small rental houses available. PH: 405-756-6055.

PETS & LIVESTOCK –

FOR SALE: Two litters of feral cats, spayed and neutered. PH: 405-534-6614.

FOR SALE: Registered Angus bull, top bloodlines, gentle disposition, ready to work. PH: 405-756-3377.

FOR SALE: Registered Brangus bulls. 18 months old, AI Sired, fertility tested and ready for cows. Complete EPD and performance data available. Priced individually, starting at \$3,000. PH: 405-867-1421 or 405-207-6921.

RECREATIONAL –

FOR SALE: Fifth-wheel camper, 2011 Keystone Avalanche M-290RL. Well main-

tained, smoke-free, three slides, luxury interior with usual comfort features, \$32,900. PH: 405-331-9808.

MISCELLANEOUS –

FOR SALE: Will brush hog and mow yards around Lindsay. PH: 405-756-6055.

FOR SALE: Antique Singer sewing machine in cabinet, eighty years old. PH:

580-320-0074.

FOR SALE: Farm fresh eggs. PH: 405-756-2892.

Want Ads

are **FREE** to REC members to post noncommercial items. Deadline for ads is the 8th of every month. Call the Member Services Dept. at 405-756-3104 ext. 238.

Happy holidays to all our members



The Board of Trustees and Employees of Rural Electric Cooperative wish the best for you and your family during this holiday season.

Look for your

Capital Credits

on your next bill

If you were a member in 1985 your Capital Credits will be applied to your bill.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons--holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Learn more at
www.togetherwesave.com

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.