

Co-op Comments

January 2017

REC recognizes two employees for Employees of the Year in 2016

Every year REC recognizes employees who exceed in their defined job description, achieve outstanding results in certain areas and demonstrate loyalty to the Cooperative, and this year wasn't any different. Since 1994, REC has honored these employees as its Employees of the Year. Beginning in 2010, REC started recognizing two employees – one from administration and one from operations.

The 2016 Employees of the Year strive to assist the members the best way they can and continue to look for the best solution or how to make a situation better after initial call to the Cooperative.

Eric Neill was named the 2016 Administrative Employee of the Year. He was hired in January 2015 as an Information Technology Systems Engineer and continues to serve in that role today.

Neill is dedicated, dependable and knowledgeable about his job and is always willing to serve in any capacity necessary to complete the task. He continues to learn about the technology the Cooperative is using and strives to reap the benefits of the software the Co-op is using. He grew up in Lindsay, Oklahoma and is married to his wife Melanie. They live in Lindsay with their daughter Kaylie. Neill serves on the Lindsay Municipal Hospital Board and enjoys being outdoors with his family and playing his guitar.

"REC has been a great place to work," Neill says. "I have enjoyed learning about the Cooperative and working on new tasks to find solutions to help our membership."

While Neill may be less visible to our members and working behind the scenes,



REC named Eric Neill (left) and Gina Beam (right) Employees of the Year. Neill was named REC's 2016 Administrative Employee of the Year and Beam as REC's 2016 Operations Employee of the Year.

the 2016 Operations Employee of Year, Gina Beam is many times one of the first people in which our members will interact.

Beam started as the Secretary for the Member Services Department in May 1983. In 1986 she transferred to the Billing Department where she was the Billing Clerk. In 1997 she moved to the Engineering and Operations Department and holds the title of Dispatcher/Clerk.

Beam manages the paperwork for the Engineering Department and keeps all the jobs organized for the line crews. She is always willing to help any department and find the best solution for the task at hand.

Beam is from Lindsay and continues to live here with her husband Kevin. They have two sons; Zach and Kaleb, two daughter-in-laws; Anderlynn and Meredith and two grandchildren, Liam and Norah and is expecting another granddaughter in March. She is active in her church and helps with REC's Relay for Life team.

"I was completely shocked when they called my name as Employee of the Year," Beam says. "I love being able to work with my REC family and assist our members from the beginning of setting up a new service to the end of knowing the power has been restored during the event of an outage."

You are in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping to create a better world



A fair question people often ask is, "What's in it for me?" This makes sense, as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. However, the cool thing about co-ops is we answer the question, "What's in it for me?" with, "This is what's in it for we."

When the market refuses to offer a good or service, or does so at such a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision to best suit the needs of everyone.

Seventy-nine years ago, when Rural Electric was formed, members from within our community shared the same goal of wanting electricity. The desires of wanting electricity allowed the community members to work together to make a difference in their rural area. During the 1930s, many Americans living in rural parts of the country needed electricity, which led to the formation of electric cooperatives

across the United States. The cost associated with serving individuals in rural areas was too high which is why many did not have electricity. So those individuals acted in their own self-interest leading to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve over 42 million people in 47 states.

Knowing your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of Rural Electric allows you as the member to know your local cooperative is working for you and your concerns. Many of the employees of REC are also members of the cooperative.

People coming together to meet a particular need is at the heart of every type of co-op. Local credit unions offer financial services to people which banks are unable to serve. In urban areas and college communities, housing co-ops offer people a safe, reliable and affordable place to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy (Land O'Lakes), grapes (Welch's), organic milk (Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food products co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they too have a common self-interest of staying in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe's.

Today, it is estimated more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as cooperative members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder, you are in good company with your local neighbors and with people all around the world.

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January 2017

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1-800-259-3504 or 1-855-399-2683
Visit REC at www.recok.coop
and like us on facebook



Be prepared for winter storms

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. REC cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared. 352901

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- Stay warm – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power

outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

- Stay fed – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

- Stay safe – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is

best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 855-399-2683, if possible. In the event of a major outage REC will use its resources to restore power to as many members as possible. If you have a medical necessity requiring electricity make plans before the storm to handle your needs.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. REC is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips, visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.



Checklist for Emergency Supply Kit

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains

canned food)

- Local maps
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank records in a water proof, portable container
- Cash and traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes

- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper - *When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, it can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.*
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and Pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Classified Advertisement

AUTOMOTIVE –

FOR SALE: 2004 Toyota Camry, heated leather seats, 139,000 miles, clean car. PH: 580-222-1399 - no texts please.

FOR SALE: 2016 Titan cargo hauler, 5'x8', insulated, excellent condition-only pulled three times. PH: 405-615-3418.

RECREATIONAL –

FOR SALE: 1987 Winnebago motor home, new tires, new refrigerator, runs good, in Elmore City. PH: 580-453-1615.

FARM EQUIPMENT –

FOR SALE: Plow blade, complete, fits Massey Ferguson 135, works good. \$500 obo. PH: 405-207-7722.

WANTED: Old blacksmith anvil. PH: 580-658-6846.

MISCELLANEOUS –

FOR SALE: Two cemetery plots located at Sunnyside Cemetery, 4000 SE 29th Street, Del City. Market value for both plots is \$3,695, asking \$2,500 for both. PH: 405-201-7430 or 405-527-5191.

FOR SALE: Round bales of grass hay. PH: 405-926-7343.

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

NEEDED: Houses to clean, reliable service. PH: 405-779-8440.

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.

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.

Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections Card to save you money on lodging, photographs, oil changes and other items. You can also save on prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab work and imaging and chiropractor services at participating locations. Your card is a discount card. If you have misplaced your card, contact REC for a replacement card and use it to save yourself some money.

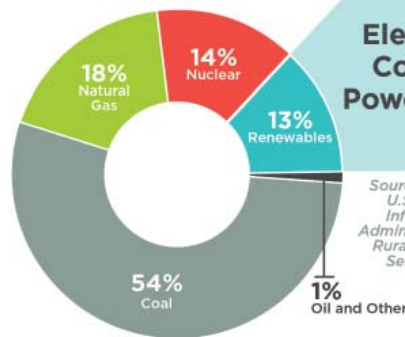
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models. Learn more at www.EnergyStar.gov

Electric Cooperatives Focus on Renewable Energy

Electric cooperatives use a diverse mix of fuels to supply members with safe, reliable and affordable power.

Renewable resources provide 13 percent of cooperative power needs nationwide, in line with the national average.



Electric Co-op Power Mix

Sources: 2014 U.S. Energy Information Administration, Rural Utilities Service and NRECA.



Hydro
10,000 MW
federally owned
685 MW
co-op owned/operated

Wind
5,497 MW

Biomass
541 MW

Solar
195 MW

Geothermal & Heat Capture
54 MW

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.