



Co-op Comments

Rounding up your monthly bill to help others in the community

Using seven guiding principles to define how Rural Electric Cooperative conducts business within the communities it serves, not only benefits REC's members, but everyone in the community. One of the seven principles is concern for community.



One of the ways REC shows concern for community is offering a program called Operation Round-Up. This program allows REC to help others in need by having the members round up their bill.

The Operation Round-Up program is voluntary for REC members who desire to round up their monthly bill to the next dollar amount. The difference between the actual bill and the next dollar amount is "ear-marked" for use by the Operation Round-Up Board to assist those who qualify according to the rules and regulations of the program.

Operation Round-Up has provided thousands of dollars in assistance to individuals and organizations throughout

this area. People with medical needs, those who have lost homes from fires or natural disasters and non-profit organizations have benefited from this program.

Donations can be made from one account or multiple accounts. The average yearly contribution from each participating cooperative member is about \$6. The most a member would contribute each year is less than \$12 per year per account and the least is zero cents. In addition to the members rounding their bill up to the next dollar amount, REC also applies for grants given by Wal-Mart to add to the money designated for Operation Round-Up.

Since starting in 1999, the funds donated for Operation Round-Up have helped more than 110 families in our area.

The Operation Round-Up Board consists of five individuals who reside in REC's service territory and have a desire to help others. The Board evaluates each application and determines the need for the applicants.

REC cares about helping others in their time of need. By providing the Operation Round-Up program, REC is able to specifically help area residents who have suffered some type of catastrophe and have no insurance or inadequate coverage. In addition to helping individuals, Operation Round-Up also provides funds to non-profit organizations to assist with special projects to benefit the area.

In the past, the Operation Round-Up Board has helped area families who had

lost their home and all of its contents. Also, they have assisted senior citizen centers by helping purchase necessary food needed and pay for repairs to the facility.

If you are not participating in this worthwhile program, you are encouraged to sign up now to help your neighbors and local organizations in their time of need. All the contributions are tax deductible and participation is voluntary.

Anyone needing additional information about this program may contact REC's Member Services Department at 1-800-259-3504 or 756-3104, extension 238.

REC's office will be closed on July 4th



Rural Electric's office will be closed Wednesday, July 4th, for the observance of Independence Day so our employees can spend the holiday with their families. Please call 855-399-2683 to report an outage.

Patriotism in action



According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, patriotism is "the love for or devotion to one's country." Perhaps no other day of the year evokes such a sense of patriotism than Independence Day. With flags rippling in the wind - red, white and blue bunting adorning porches and store fronts and local parades and marching bands on display, it's easy to feel a swell of pride for our country.

Arguably, another, perhaps deeper form of patriotism is active engagement in public and civic life. Involvement in your town promotes a richer community life and ensures institutions thrive and communities remain vibrant, inviting places to live, work and play. Besides being enjoyable, your participation in community events and activities, together with your friends, neighbors and co-workers makes a difference. Simple things like supporting a bake sale or attending a local high school event signals to the young people in your community you care and support them, and the community itself is worth sustaining.

In fact, there are civic engagement opportunities through Rural Electric. You may recall one of our most important cooperative principles is democratic par-

ticipation. If you pay your bill, you are a member of the co-op with an opportunity to provide input through voting during our annual meeting.

Rural Electric, like other types of co-ops, originated to serve a need not being met by traditional for-profit electric companies. We make decisions based on long-term thinking - what decisions will benefit the larger community in which we operate? One of the best ways you can engage with your co-op is by casting your vote when it's time to elect board members. These are folks just like you, from our community, who provide guidance to co-op leadership on a myriad of issues and decisions both short-term and long-term.

Perhaps you haven't voted in the past because you didn't think you were qualified to weigh in on a particular topic, or maybe you simply didn't have time to vote. But you do have an opinion on the issues affecting our community and REC wants your particular perspective.

Everyone has valuable experience which informs their decision-making process. Diverse perspectives benefit the whole community. You may have a different view than your neighbor, but together, those perspectives provide a more balanced view of the community. You could be bringing new information which had not been previously considered. We seek more members participating in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

The next opportunity to vote in the board election is during our Annual Meeting on October 6. I would argue voting, whether in the co-op or in local and national elections is a form of patriotism, as it reflects a devotion to one's community and commitment to ensure it thrives.

Democracy is not a spectator sport; it takes active civic engagement by citizens to thrive. This Independence Day, I hope you will embrace the local celebrations and actively participate in your community - and vote at every opportunity.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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REC hires new employee

Recently, REC hired Nayeli Arballo as a Customer Service Representative. Arballo graduated from Lindsay High School in 2011 and currently lives in Lindsay. She has lived in Lindsay for 10 years and enjoys the small town atmosphere her community provides. 12002

In her spare time, she enjoys being time with her family and loves spending time with her cousin's two children. Other hobbies for Arballo include reading and photography.



Nayeli Arballo

Before working at REC, Arballo worked at the Ranch House, Shopper and Tag Agency in Lindsay.

She offers many years of customer service as well as being fluent in Spanish. She is excited to meet REC's members and helping meet their needs.

"I am looking forward to learning more about REC, as it is already starting to feel like home," she concludes.

Frequently Asked Questions of REC

Q: *I recently bought a piece of property in REC service area, how do I get electricity for this property?*

A: *After filling out the service request form and returning it to REC's office, a representative will contact you to set an appointment with a staking engineer to survey and stake service as well as estimate the exact cost of construction.*

Q: *After my service is built, will REC wire my dwelling or building to the meter?*

A: *REC does not work on services from the meter to the structure, contact a personal electrician for this type of request. Our operations department may answer any questions regarding this if it is a questionable circumstance.*

Q: *How can I go about acquiring the materials I need to have an electrician wire my dwelling or building to the meter?*

A: *If your personal electrician does not have the necessary wire, REC sells materials from the warehouse. Contact our offices for questions about purchasing electrical wire.*

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Classified Advertisement

MISCELLANEOUS-

FOR SALE: Murray riding mower, 46" twin cut, automatic – cheap; Honda 4-wheeler with mud tires.

PH: 405-351-0878

FOR SALE: Invacare Tracer LT wheel chair, excellent condition; lift chair, good condition; Honda, easy start, HR-214 push

Classified 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

Here's a cool tip for your fridge. Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Learn more at www.energy.gov

mower w/bagger, needs work.

PH: 405-756-0878

FOR SALE: Ultra Pro 16-gallon shop vac.

PH: 405-756-0878

FOR SALE: 2 chicken brooders, one larger and one smaller \$200 for both.

PH: 405-320-0028

Employees volunteer at Special Olympics



REC employee, Jacob Trammell, volunteered at the 2018 Special Olympic games in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Oklahoma Electric Cooperatives had 101 volunteers from 18 co-ops helping during the summer games.

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 of \$25

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.

