



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

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78th Annual Meeting Highlights



More than 350 Flint Hills RECA members and their families enjoyed a great meal and entertainment.

The 78th Annual Meeting of the Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., was held on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at the Herington Community Building. There were more than 350 meals served to 178 registered members and their families. The meal was prepared by Kathy's Herb and Spice, and once again was a wonderful meal.

Operations Manager Damien Hebert presented a program on electrical safety with overhead power lines using a new safety demo trailer and six-year-old Presidential History expert, **MACEY HENSLEY** entertained the large crowd with her latest travels and excerpts from her many appearances on the *Ellen Degeneres* show.

All registered members that attended the meeting received a \$10 energy credit on their April 2016 electric bill courtesy of Flint Hills RECA.

Board President, Roger Zimmerman, called the meeting to order and Bob Reece, General Manager, reported on the 2015 financial status of the cooperative and also commented on the patronage capital payout that began on February 26, 2016.

Trustee election ballots were collected at the meeting, counted, and approved by the members. Randy Heilman, attorney for Flint Hills RECA, announced the trustees elected to serve for a three year term on the Board were:

- ▶ **District 2 – SHAWN POTTS**, Elmdale
- ▶ **District 3 – DUANE CARLSON**, Lincolnvillle.

Guests at the meeting were Carrie Kimberlin, Manager of Creative Solutions for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.; Phil Wages, Director of Member Services and External Affairs, and Jill Taggart, Director of Forecast and Planning, both of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), U.S. Representative for the 1st Dis-



General Manager Bob Reece reports on the cooperative business.

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Operations manager Damien Hebert (left) and Journeyman Lineman Brent Unruh demonstrate the dangers of power lines at the Annual Meeting.



Board President Roger Zimmerman and Macey Hensley share a hug after he failed her presidential history quiz.

trict of Kansas, **TIM HUELSKAMP**, and Nathan Cox, District Representative for Huelskamp.

The 2015 Youth Camp winners were introduced by Diann Diehl, Flint Hills RECA Member Service Manager and presented Youth Camp certificates. **COLTON POTTS**, son of Shawn and Lori Potts, Elmdale, and **ELIZABETH MEYER**, daughter of Mark and Marsha Meyer, Hillsboro, gave a short review of their experiences at last year's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs. They also expressed their appreciation for the opportunity afforded by the cooperative to attend this camp. Elizabeth was also recognized as a returning ambassador for the 2016 camp.

The 2016 camp winners were also announced. They are **PAIGE CRANEY**, Hillsboro High School and **MEGHAN EIDMAN**, Chase County High School. Paige is the daughter of Vince and Jessica Craney, Hillsboro. Meghan is the daughter of D. J. and Alison Eidman, Strong City.

The door prize winners at the Flint Hills RECA's annual meeting were: Edward Esua and Randy Parker – \$25 Energy Credits; Christopher

Stuchlik and Gary Kannenberg – \$50 energy credits; Philip Wilmore –Crock Pot; Russell Sigle – Black and Decker jigsaw; Robert Rhodes – Garmin GPS; Lyle Isaac – Dirt Devil vacuum; Clyde Kasten – Mr. Coffee; Charles Long – ceramic space heater; Tyler Parker – Ninja Coffee Bar; Ella Moloney and Wesley White – lawn chair/with cooler; Barbara Svoboda – toaster oven; Lawrence Biehler – 110 piece tool set; Randy Preheim – hot beverage maker; Bob Gustafson – Sunbeam bagel toaster; Robert Smith – Works TriVac; Ralph Stroda – Skil electric drill; and Jaraine Redger – Lenovo Tab 2 tablet.

The grand prize of a 39" Hitachi HD Television was won by Thomas Hansen, Cottonwood Falls.

Flint Hills RECA would like to thank Kriz Davis, Electri Comm, ETI, KEPCo, KSI, Poor Boy and Altec for their prize donations.



Board member Shawn Potts (right) wishes retired Board member, Bill Hein, farewell.



Tim Huelskamp displays his autographed copy of *Kansas Country Living* magazine.



From left: Colton Potts, Elizabeth Meyer, Paige Craney and Carrie Kimberlin, share Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp stories.



Thomas and Pat Hansen won the 39" HDTV grand prize.

How to Start Saving Energy and Money

Three Quick Tips Toward Energy Efficiency

One way to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 is to make your home more energy efficient. Here are three efficiency tips from energy expert Brian Sloboda of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association:

1 Look around your home for no-cost ways to be efficient. Close the curtains in the summer and open them in the winter. Turn off your computers overnight. Also turn off video game consoles when they're not being used. Better yet, keep them off and send the kids outside to play baseball.

2 Look for small steps you can take and do-it-yourself. Caulk around drafty windows. Check the attic for the correct amount of insulation. Switch to LED light bulbs. Plant a deciduous tree on the sunny

side of your house; in a few years the leaves will cool your home against the sun in summer, then fall off to warm it in the winter. Update your old cable TV boxes to a more efficient Energy Star-rated cable box. If you have a major appliance—like a refrigerator, washing machine or dryer—that's more than 10 years old, don't keep making repairs. Instead, invest in a newer model that will likely pay for itself with energy savings in a few years. Before buying any appliance, look for the Energy Star label and learn to read it and compare products.

3 Call Flint Hills RECA about energy-saving programs. We may be able to offer advice, rebates or a home energy checkup. You might be surprised to find out what's really driving up your energy costs.



I THANKED A LINEMAN TODAY! HAVE YOU?

Thank a Lineman on April 11

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 11, 2016, Flint Hills RECA honors the dedicated men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen are the first responders of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines," said Bob Reece, Flint Hills RECA's General Manager. "Conditions can be dangerous, but they power through to ensure reliable service for our members."

Flint Hills RECA invites you to take a moment and thank a lineman for the work they do. You can post a note on our Facebook page by going to www.flinthillsrec.com website and clicking on the Facebook icon or send a note to our office at P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, to show your support for the linemen who light our lives.



Line Foreman Sheldon Miles (left) and Jordy Clark, Area Maintenance Man, are part of the Flint Hills' team that keep your lights on.



Don't Toy with Your Safety



When playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.

Flying remote-controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- ▶ Never fly kites or remote-controlled toys near power lines.
- ▶ Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines.
- ▶ If you get something stuck in a power line, call Flint Hills RECA Electric.
- ▶ Never touch or go near a downed power line.