



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS



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FROM THE MANAGER

The Power Behind Your Power



Chuck Goeckel

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages.

While Flint Hills RECA strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals who spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op linemen.

specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect linemen from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their iPads to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Flint Hills RECA's linemen are responsible for keeping over 2,500 miles of line across 10 counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that linemen use have changed over the years, namely

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One of the Most Dangerous Jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, linemen often climb 35 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., linemen must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, linemen wear

Member Services

- ▶ Viasat Internet Services
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit www.flinthillsrec.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

2018 Flint Hills Trustee Election Results

Thank you for submitting your mail-in ballots for the 2018 Flint Hills RECA Trustee elections. Check our website, www.flinthillsrec.com, for election results.

The Power Behind Your Power Continued from page 16-A ▶



Thank you to our line crew for keeping the lights on year around, day or night. Front row, left to right: Scott Kelsey, James Blue, Kerry Zimmerman, Tim Jirak, Rex Johnson, Damien Hebert and Brent Unruh. Back row, left to right: Jordy Clark, Corey Annan, Lloyd Anderson, Evan McCreath, Tracy Ryff and Brock Nieman. (Not pictured: Sheldon Miles and John Stohs.)

the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, the job is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During snowstorms,

wildfires or thunderstorms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineman.” Flint Hills RECA is proud of its linemen and year-round hard work they do for our members.

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 9. During the month of April, if you see a lineman, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

Spinden and Nguyen Selected for Youth Leadership Camp

BRANDON NGUYEN and **MORGAN SPINDEN** were selected by Flint Hills RECA to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July. Morgan is the daughter of Mike and Bernice Spinden, Cottonwood Falls, and Brandon is the son of Shawn and Tiodora Nguyen, Marion.

To win this trip students had to complete an application, attend a personal interview before the judge and take a quiz about cooperatives.

These local youth will join approximately 100 high schoolers from across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming to participate in the leadership camp sponsored by the electric cooperatives in each state.

As part of the week-long adventure, the students will establish a candy cooperative business, in which they elect a general manager and board of directors, participate in daily membership meetings and pay their dues membership of 50 cents to the newly established co-op business.

“The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is specifically designed to empower student leaders and help them better understand the cooperative business model,” said Chuck Goeckel, general manager of Flint Hills RECA. “This camp not only highlights the co-op’s commitment to their communities, but it also helps teach the students to become community leaders.”



Brandon Nguyen



Morgan Spinden

When not tending to their candy cooperative, the students will learn about electric co-ops, witness a high-voltage safety demonstration and build a transmission line from craft supplies. The youth will go on a river rafting excursion and tour local sites like Steamboat Springs, Fish Creek Falls, Trapper Mine and Craig Power Plant.

Flint Hills RECA sponsors two students each year as part of our commitment to community and our mission to help develop our next generation of leaders. For more information about the trip contact Youth Tour Coordinator, Diann Diehl at diann@flinthillsrec.com.

Keeping You Safe in Summer Storms

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Flint Hills RECA encourages you to practice safety with these reminders—for during and after a summer storm:

- ▶ **Avoid wires and water** – When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.
- ▶ **Skip the makeshift shelter** – During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures increase your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.
- ▶ **Portable generators** – Take special care when using portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and

electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

- ▶ **Flooded areas** – Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Flint Hills RECA by calling 620-767-5144 immediately.
- ▶ **Electrical equipment** – Never use electrical equipment that is wet—especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard. Flint Hills RECA has been a proud member of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives since 1998. Along with 750 electric cooperatives nationwide, we have partnered with Touchstone Energy to put safety as our number one priority. For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety.

Board Member Retires after 26 Years of Service



President Roger Zimmerman, right, presented retiring board member Duane Kaiser a plaque for his 26 years of dedicated service as a Flint Hills REC board of trustee.

DUANE KAISER announced his retirement from the Flint Hills RECA Board of Trustees and was presented a plaque by President Roger Zimmerman as a token of appreciation for his years of service as a board member at the Feb. 19, monthly board meeting.

Kaiser has served as a board member for 26 years. "There have been so many changes in the cooperative world in the last 26 years, and I am sure there are a lot of challenges ahead. I have enjoyed my time on the Board of Trustees," said Kaiser.

During Kaiser's 26 years as a board member he earned the highest degree of education offered for trustees. He was awarded the Credentialed Cooperative Director, (CCD), the Board Leadership Certificate, (BLC) and most recently the Director Gold Credential. His dedication for furthering his education demonstrated his commitment to the cooperative's success going forward. Kaiser was also Flint Hills REC's representative on the Board of Trustees for Kansas Electric Cooperative (KEC) for many years.

Kaiser's final day as a Flint Hills Trustee will be at the 80th Annual Meeting held on March 20, 2018.

Flint Hills RECA employees, and board members would like to thank Kaiser for his dedication and commitment to the cooperative and its members throughout the past 26 years.



GETTY IMAGES/SB69382

Prepare for the upcoming summer storm season by reading the tips above to stay safe during and after a storm.

Help Us Locate Former Flint Hills RECA Members

Flint Hills RECA has been unable to locate the former members listed below who have unclaimed Capital Credit refunds that were retired more than three years ago. If you know any of these former members, please have them call us at 620-767-5144.

In accordance with the cooperative's by-laws, failure to claim the refunds within 60 days of this notice (May 30, 2017) will cause the total amount of the refund to be irrevocably gifted back to the cooperative. A list, which includes the city and state of the last known address listed on the cooperative's records, is located on our website www.flinthillsrec.com.

Steven Acker	Kenneth Douglass	Frank W Koehn	Louis E Satterlee	Roy E Vaughn
Mark Allen	Magdalen Dvorak	David Lambert	Curtis Scribner	Vickers Refining Co
Cecil Anders	Eugene Eilerts	Ira G Laney	Richard Shanks	Voth Investment Co
Wanda L Anders	William D Elliott	John D Lawton	Mel F Shiroky Est	Wagon Master
Clifton H Atwood	Ronald L Ellis Sr	Walter J Leonard	Jill E Shupe	Walker Oil Co.
Billy Bacon	Darrell D Emerson	Ronald Lindquist	Simpson Ranch	Marie P Werner
J Chris Baker	David B Ferison	Albert Makovec	Lyle B Slagle	Floyd West
Bam Energy Inc	James E Fitzgerald	Bernie Manring	Vinita Stenstrom Est	William J Mercer
C A Barnes	Hilda M Franz	Terrance L Markus	Stanley A Stoelzing	E O Williams
R J Bartel	Elizabeth Fry	Robert Masters	Harold Strickland	Lyle Williams
David Boller	Timothy B Funke	John Mcguire	Irene J Tajchman	Steven D Windham II
James M Bond	Veva D Galliher	A E Messenheimer	Taylor Inc	Rodney Wolf
Robert B Boss	Wayne Gibson	Sam J Methvin	Frances Thompson	Russell Wright J
Joanne Brookshier	Jack L Givens	Mitch Mezzulo	Gregory S Topham	Lena Zimmerman
L H Brunner	Annie Glessner	Sherril Mondzak	Union Exploration Co.	
Kenneth Bumgarner	Grady Bolding Corp	Jim Moore	Union Texas Natural Gas	
Ron Burgos	Stuart M Griffin	Paul Mosiman	Debra A Vannatta	
George R Burkhart	Georgia Griffith	Milam Mounts		
John W Burns	Wilbur D Griswold	L E Mowrer		
G R Byrd	Rena Guhr	Neosho Construction Co		
Raejeanette Byrd	Teresa Hagerty	Carl Nichols		
William D Carson	James F Hart III	Rudolf H Nickel		
Carstan Oil Co Inc	Jesse W Harvey	Catherine E Palcheak		
Cascade Oil Co.	John Heim	William H Peterson		
Fred Chafin	Geraldine Hett	Petroleum Prod. Mgmt, Inc		
Lee Champ	Horace Hansen	Michael J Prohaska		
Clayton Koehn	Peggy Hunt	R G R Petroleum		
Bob Clemence	J. C. Raceway	Amy A Raboin		
William V Crook	Cal Jones	Jim Rader		
R K Cunningham	Kansas Crude	Dennis F Radle		
Josef J Daneri	Michael P Kelley	Gordon D Rahmes		
Leo F Davis	Denise J Kickhaefer	Ernest R Rexford		
Davis Ranch	Vince Klenda	Debra A Rhodes		
Discovery Oil Ltd	Agatha Knak	James C Robinson		
Harvey L Domann	Edward R Knox	Charlot F Roland		
C Dewayne Douglas	Theodore Knust	Thomas D Roy		

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$15 billion to members since 1988, and \$1 billion in 2016 alone.

Because electric cooperatives operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

