



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box B  
1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, KS 66846  
620-767-5144  
[www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com)

## FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



# NEWS

### Flint Hills RECA

#### Board of Trustees

**Roger Zimmerman**  
President

**Shawn Potts**  
Vice President

**Korby Effland**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Dale Andres**  
Trustee

**Cary Granzow**  
Trustee

**Tim Miser**  
Trustee

**Terry Olsen**  
Trustee

**James Witt**  
Trustee

#### Staff

**Chuck Goeckel**  
General Manager

### 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 our website at [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

### FROM THE MANAGER

## Are You Prepared for Winter?

As the colder months hit, many of us are not prepared for Old Man Winter's potential wrath.

Although our No. 1 goal at Flint Hills RECA is to provide safe and reliable service — to do all we can to keep the power on — weather conditions can tie our hands. Snow and ice can cause trees to fall, hitting power lines and disconnecting power.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises everyone to ready their homes and cars, prepare for possible power outages, and to check on older adults. Be sure to have plenty of non-perishable food on hand and extra water stored in clean containers. If bad weather is forecasted, avoid travel, fully charge your cell phone, and keep an up-to-date emergency kit on hand.

Specifically, the CDC recommends taking the following steps so you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall:

#### Winterize Your Home

- ▶ Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows.
- ▶ Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- ▶ Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.



Chuck Goeckel

#### Check Your Heating Systems

- ▶ Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- ▶ Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- ▶ Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- ▶ Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.

*Continued on page 16B ▶*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**LAUNDRY TIP:** Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.  
Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## 2020 FLINT HILLS

Trustee  
Nominating  
Committee

## District 1

**Roger Zimmerman,**  
Trustee (3-year term)

**BRAD BECKER**

Alta Vista  
785-499-5289

**DENNIS BOLLER**

Junction City  
785-499-2938

**WAYNE ERICHSEN**

Junction City  
785-238-7562

## District 2

**Korby Effland,** Trustee  
(3-year term)

**TYLER PARKER**

White City  
785-466-6290

**LEE AYERS**

Cottonwood Falls  
620-343-5367

**JERROD LAUDEMANN**

White City  
785-410-0002

## District 3

**Tim Miser,** Trustee  
(3-year term)

**AMY BETTS**

Matfield Green  
620-273-1106

**ARLENE BAILEY**

Matfield Green  
620-753-3438

**JOEL SUDERMAN**

Marion  
620-647-5419

## 2020 Nominating Committees Announced

The members listed in the accompanying chart have been appointed by the Board to serve on the 2020 Nominating Committee.

Each of the district Nominating Committees are to propose two candidates for Trustee from their respective district. District nominees will be voted on by the membership with a mail-in ballot that will be mailed out the 1st week of March 2020. Those Trustees whose terms will expire at the 2020 Annual Meeting are: **ROGER ZIMMERMAN**, District 1, **KORBY EFFLAND**, District 2 and **TIM MISER**, District 3.

The Nominating Committee will receive a list of members in their district, which will be of assistance in seeking nominations. The committee members are to nominate two

candidates for each Trustee position of their respective districts and proposed candidates should be contacted prior to committee meeting to determine their willingness to serve on the board. All Nominating Committee meetings will be held at the Flint Hills RECA offices, 1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 11:30.

Nominations for a qualified candidate may also be made by petition, filed at the Council Grove office on or before the close of business on the fifteenth (15th) day following the nomination committee's selection of trustee nominees.

For more information on the cooperative's voting process, visit Article V in the Member Bylaws located on our website [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com).

Are You Prepared for Winter? *Continued from page 16A* ▶

## Prevent Carbon Monoxide (CO) Emergencies

- ▶ Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries in the fall and spring.
- ▶ Learn symptoms of CO poisoning that include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.
- ▶ Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- ▶ Use fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- ▶ Leave your home immediately if the CO detector goes off and call 911.

## Prepare Your Car

Get your car ready for cold weather. Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level; check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires. Also:

- ▶ Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- ▶ Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer reservoir.

## Prepare Emergency Kits

Avoid driving, but in case you get stuck in bad weather or become stranded, an emergency kit for your car should include:

- ▶ Cell phone and portable charger
- ▶ Blankets
- ▶ Food and water
- ▶ Booster cables, flares, tire pump and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction)
- ▶ Compass and maps
- ▶ Flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ▶ First-aid kit
- ▶ Plastic bags (for sanitation).

## Items for an In-home Emergency Kit

- ▶ Battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a NOAA Weather Radio and lamps.
- ▶ Extra batteries and pre-charged portable phone power source.
- ▶ First-aid kit and extra medicine.
- ▶ Cat litter or sand for icy walkways.

Don't forget specific items you or members of your family might need during an emergency. For additional winter prep tips, consult the CDC ([cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)), Red Cross ([redcross.org](http://redcross.org)) or [ready.gov](http://ready.gov).



The 2019 Flint Hills RECA Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners (from left) Brandon Nguyen, Landry Hinkson and Caleb Stout.

# Apply to Win a **Free** Trip of a Lifetime

The Flint Hills RECA is sponsoring two all-expenses-paid trips to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, on July 10-16, 2020. This trip is part of a four-state Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, sponsored by rural electric cooperatives in Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Contest winners will learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy problems and interpersonal communications. The contest is open to all current high school sophomores and juniors in Flint Hills' service area, whose parents or guardians are members

of Flint Hills RECA. Contest entrants will be interviewed and required to take a brief written test covering material available to each contestant.

If you are a high school sophomore or junior and are interested in this trip, please complete the application form below and send by **FEB. 4, 2020** to: Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Travis Griffin, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846. Once we receive this form, material will then be sent to you for the interview process.

## Contest Application for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp – Due Feb. 4, 2020

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Travis Griffin, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or [travis@flintheillsrec.com](mailto:travis@flintheillsrec.com) by **Feb. 4, 2020**.

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND TRUE.**

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

**I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION FOR \_\_\_\_\_ TO APPLY FOR THE 2020 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP SPONSORED BY FLINT HILLS RECA.**

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

## Do Your Homework Before Buying a Home Generator

Generators are classified by how much power or watts they can produce. That wattage measurement is important because it determines how many devices you can power. According to Consumer Reports, the typical home requires 5,000 watts to cover the basics.

When considering which generator to buy, decide what you can't live without when the power is out. Then add up the wattages to get an idea of how much power you will need.

For example, a refrigerator typically takes 600 watts to run; a sump pump requires 750 to 1,500 watts; a portable heater can take 1,500 watts; and lights can require from 60 to 600 watts depending on how many you power and the size of your home.

Safe Electricity and Flint Hills RECA offer this background information on four types of supplemental power sources:

### Portable Generator

Because these usually run on gasoline, they are extremely dangerous since they can produce carbon monoxide (CO). Because of that, never run generators in-

doors or in an enclosed space and always keep them at least 20 feet from your home when operating. Additionally, do not use them in damp or wet conditions. Some newer models feature a built-in CO sensor that triggers an automatic shut-off feature if it detects CO buildup. Other advanced models are designed to emit less poisonous fumes; both of these safety features help save lives. Prices range from \$400 to \$1,000.

### Inverter Generator

This type of generator has a more complex engine than its portable cousin. Because of that, inverter generators usually cost more than portable versions. They are much quieter than portable generators since they throttle up and down to match demand, instead of running at constant full power. They also boast more advanced exhaust systems, which also helps with noise levels. Inverter generators typically cost \$500 to \$4,000, and if you pick this kind of generator, you should follow the same safety precautions you would with a portable version.

### Standby Generator

This is the most expensive type of generator and models range from 5,000 to 20,000 watts. Standby generators are also the most convenient, since they are permanently mounted and kick on automatically when the power goes out. They run on propane or natural gas and cost \$3,000 to \$6,000, not including installation. Installing them is not something you can do yourself; they must be installed by an experienced electrician to ensure safety for you and electric lineworkers.

### Portable Power Stations

These stations don't use gasoline or propane; instead they are powered by a battery that can be charged by electricity or by a solar panel. They cost more than traditional portable generators at \$750 to \$3,000. They are extremely quiet and they don't produce fuel emissions so you can use them indoors. The downside is they don't power as many appliances as portable generators and they don't run for an extended period of time.



From our cooperative family to yours, Flint Hills RECA employees would like to wish our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lloyd Anderson, Corey Annan, Jodi Blackburn, James Blue, Sharon Brooks, Adam Dirks, Chuck Goeckel, Travis Griffin, Damien Hebert, Travis Hirt, Tim Jirak, Rex Johnson, Scott Kelsey, Evan McCreath, Gina Muhlig, Brock Nieman, Tracy Ryff, Matt Sigle, Bernice Spinden, John Stohs, Brent Unruh, Bill Wessel, Kerry Zimmerman