



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box B
1564 S. 1000 Rd., Council Grove, KS 66846
620-767-5144
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

Trey Hinkson
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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

FROM THE MANAGER

Hope, Comfort and Continued Blessings for the New Year



Chuck Goeckel

At this point in 2020, most of us are exhausted from the onslaught of political and pandemic messaging and are counting down to the new year with

hopefulness in our hearts and minds.

The nation is just days removed from an election that, no matter what the outcome, will change the trajectory of our country. Whether our candidates won or lost, we must take into account that we are all Americans and we must pull together for the benefit of this country's future. Just as Cooperative Principle No. 6 — Cooperation Among Cooperatives — suggests, working together is the best strategy to

empower all of us and build stronger co-op communities.

Even though our daily lives experienced upheaval in relation to the pandemic, cooperation within our rural communities hasn't wavered, even with social distancing and other new protocols in place. Homegrown small businesses with fewer than 20 employees, the heart of our rural communities accounting for 89% of all U.S. businesses, continue to find creative ways to adapt to the new reality of the coronavirus. And we, their friends and neighbors, continue to support their endeavors to keep our community strong. I'm not saying things have been easy. Far from it. But every day I witness the encouragement and care for those striving to keep their businesses going despite the obstacles.

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2021 FLINT HILLS Trustee Nominating Committee

District 1

Dale Andres,
Trustee (3-year term)

VERNON BOHN

Dwight
785-238-3857

CLARK CARROLL

Dwight
785-234-4576

SHIRLEY HOCH

Dwight
785-482-3347

District 3

James Witt, Trustee
(3-year term)

RICHARD BANDY

Canton
620-628-4566

DEMITRY EVANCHO

Marion
620-983-4365

BRIAN HELGESON

Canton
620-654-6107

District 4

Terry Olson, Trustee
(3-year term)

GORDON ENTZ

Peabody
620-382-6492

TIM MISER

Cottonwood Falls
620-273-6283

JOEL SUDERMAN

Marion
620-647-5419

Hebert Retires after 20 Years

Flint Hills RECA wished our Operations Manager **DAMIEN HEBERT** a happy retirement on Nov. 13. Herbert worked for Flint Hills RECA for 20 years and had been in the electric cooperative industry for more than 40 years.

CEO Chuck Goeckel presented Herbert with a retirement gift from the cooperative. Thank you for your 20 years of service to Flint Hills RECA, Damien! We will miss you!

Operations Manager Damien Hebert holds a meter lamp in honor of his retirement after serving Flint Hills RECA for more than 20 years.



2021 Nominating Committees Announced

The members listed in the accompanying chart at left have been appointed by the board to serve on the 2021 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, mailed the second week of March 2021. Those trustees whose terms will expire at the 2021 annual meeting are:

- ▶ **DALE ANDRES**, District 1
- ▶ **JAMES WITT**, District 3
- ▶ **TERRY OLSEN**, District 4

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 the committee meeting to determine their willingness to serve on the board. All nominating committee meetings will be held Tuesday, Jan. 5.

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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like house guests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save. **Source:** energystar.gov





ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 14-21, 2021



YOUTH PROGRAMS

BUILD

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, MEMORIES

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



COLORADO

JULY 16-22, 2021



TWO WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED TO RECEIVE A TRIP AND A \$500 SCHOLARSHIP

TOUR THE NATION'S CAPITAL



During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., students meet with our elected officials. This year's tour will be June 14-21, 2021.

Imagine — a chance to visit our nation's capital for one week, meet with 35 other student leaders from across the state and visit with Kansas' senators and congressional representatives. The **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR** in Washington, D.C., is jam-packed with visiting many of the major memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and the brand-new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. To see what's in store, visit <http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015>.

ADVENTURE IN THE ROCKIES



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 16-22, 2021.

How big is a bald eagle? How thrilling is white water rafting? Can I help run a successful cooperative? Find the answer to those questions and more at the **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP**. Enjoy nature like never before in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. Meet nearly 100 students your age from cooperative communities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming while creating memories to last a lifetime. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cyclcvideo>.

Contest Application – Due Feb. 5, 2021

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Travis Griffin, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or travis@flinthillsrec.com **BY FEB. 5 2021**.

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 2021 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP OR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR SPONSORED BY FLINT HILLS RECA.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), the trip will be canceled.

Set the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.

Get a water heater blanket.

Seal air leaks around windows, doors, plumbing, etc.

Turn off the lights when you leave a room.

20 NEW YEAR'S 21

Energy Saving

RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN AFFORD TO KEEP

Unplug electronics and chargers not in use.

Replace regular bulbs with CFL or LED lightbulbs.

Use a programmable thermostat.

Adjust your thermostat when going to bed or leaving the home.

Run only full loads in the washer or dishwasher

Use a smart power strip for electronics.

Hope, Comfort and Continued Blessings for the New Year

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The pandemic brought new challenges to our education system as well but our school administrators, support staff and teachers continue to manage the constant adaptations required with grace and resolve. For some, distance learning is a must and parents unexpectedly find themselves not only tackling the challenges of “new math” but also technology that can be frustrating at times to say the least.

On a larger scale, the pandemic opened just about everyone’s eyes to the inequities of broadband internet access for rural America, which may finally lead to improvements for those of us who struggled to manage online education, business transactions, and video-conferencing for work or with quarantined family. Yes, it took a global

pandemic to shine the light on this issue, but we may now have traction to help close the internet gap.

But there have been silver linings during this unparalleled year. From rediscovering the simple yet enjoyable game night with family to finally organizing junk drawers and garages, Kansans prove (once again!) the prospect of hope and comfort can be unearthed in every difficult situation.

The saying, “It’s always darkest before the dawn” obviously was not penned by a Kansan. If it had been, it would read more like, “It may be darkest before the dawn, but find the light that will see us through.”

Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative wishes you and yours continued blessings in 2021.

Cold Weather Season Policy for Disconnection of Service

The following procedures will be adhered to in administering terms and conditions relating to continuation of service during periods of cold weather for non-prepay residential customers.

Disconnection procedures shall be handled in a manner consistent with company policies pertaining thereto. The member can avoid disconnection by bringing his/her electric bill current to the scheduled disconnect time.

Flint Hills RECA will not disconnect a qualified member’s residential service when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature will drop below 35 degrees in the 24-hour period following the time of disconnection unless it is:

- ▶ At the customer’s request,
- ▶ The service appears abandoned,
- ▶ A dangerous condition exists on the customer’s premise,
- ▶ The customer violates any rule of the co-op which adversely affects the safety of the customer or other persons, or the physical integrity of the co-op’s delivery system, or
- ▶ The customer causes or permits unauthorized interference of electric service situated or delivered on or about the customer’s premises.