



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



# NEWS

## FLINT HILLS REC

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Shawn Potts**  
President

**Roger Zimmerman**  
Vice President

**Korby Efland**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Dale Andres**  
Trustee

**Jeff Bina**  
Trustee

**Trey Hinkson**  
Trustee

**Terry Olsen**  
Trustee

**Jim 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.**



OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON **DEC. 24, DEC. 25, AND JAN. 1.**



FROM THE MANAGER

# Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future



Chuck Goeckel

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude — for you, the members of Flint Hills REC for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations may seem distant, they significantly impact our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future. However, we also recognize that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal, and nuclear power remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power — one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for Flint Hills REC members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster,

more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support for the FEMA Act of 2025, which would expedite the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington — they are wins for Flint Hills REC members like you.

In addition to advocacy efforts, Flint Hills REC also addressed rates. To more appropriately bill our members, a Transmission Demand Adjustment was added to the bill along with an equal cost reduction to the kilowatt-hour (kWh) energy charge, resulting in a zero, or near zero, overall rate increase to the membership. Remember that each member uses kWh energy and demand differently, which will result in some members experiencing a decrease in the cost of their monthly electric bill while others may experience an increase. To learn more about the new rate structure, visit our website at [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com) or call our office at 620-767-5144.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of Flint Hills REC employees, Board of Trustees, and the continued support of our members, we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: safe, reliable, and affordable power for today — and tomorrow.

Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today — and tomorrow.

## 2026 Nominating Committee Announced

The members listed at right have been appointed by the board to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Each of the district Nominating Committees are to propose two candidates for trustee from their respective district. The Nominating Committee will receive a list of qualified members in their district, which will be of assistance in seeking nominations. District nominees will be voted on by the membership with a mail-in ballot that will be mailed out the first week of March 2026. Those trustees whose terms will expire at the 2026 annual meeting are: **ROGER ZIMMERMAN**, District 1; **KORBY EFFLAND**, District 2; and **TREY HINKSON**, District 4.



Roger Zimmerman  
District 1



Korby Effland  
District 2



Trey Hinkson  
District 4

All Nominating Committee meetings will be held at the Flint Hills RECA offices, 1564 S. 1000 Road, Council Grove on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 11:30 a.m.

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 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).

### 2026 FLINT HILLS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

#### DISTRICT 1 ROGER ZIMMERMAN (3 YEAR TERM)

- ▶ **KAREN ERICHSEN** — 785-238-7562
- ▶ **CYNTHIA SCHRADER** — 785-499-2923
- ▶ **BARBARA STANBROUGH** — 785-499-6826

#### DISTRICT 2 KORBY EFFLAND (3 YEAR TERM)

- ▶ **JARROD LAUDEMANN** — 785-410-0002
- ▶ **TYLER PARKER** — 785-466-6290
- ▶ **JAY TALKINGTON** — 620-340-7121

#### DISTRICT 4 TREY HINKSON (3 YEAR TERM)

- ▶ **TW BURTON** — 620-753-3448
- ▶ **JOEL SUDERMAN** — 620-382-4284
- ▶ **BRAD TALKINGTON** — 620-794-1896



## CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE SAFETY

Keep the Christmas merry and bright this holiday season by safely maintaining your tree with the following tips.

- ▶ **PICK FRESH:** Choose a tree with green needles that don't fall off easily.
- ▶ **TRIM BASE:** Cut 2 inches before placing in the stand.
- ▶ **WATER DAILY:** Keep the stand full and the tree fresh.
- ▶ **PLACEMENT MATTERS:** Keep at least 3 feet from heat sources; don't block exits.
- ▶ **LIGHT IT RIGHT:** Only use UL-listed lights; replace damaged strands.
- ▶ **NO CANDLES:** Never decorate with a flame.
- ▶ **TURN OFF LIGHTS:** Unplug when sleeping or away.
- ▶ **USE SMOKE ALARMS:** Test monthly.
- ▶ **DITCH WHEN DRY:** Remove promptly; don't store near the home or garage.

SOURCE: [WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG)

# Students Invited to Apply for Leadership Opportunities

Flint Hills REC has a strong tradition of promoting youth leadership and that tradition will continue with two in-person leadership programs this summer. Flint Hills REC will select two individuals and they will have their choice to attend one of two all-expenses-paid trips to either the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will be June 13-19, 2026. Students will join 1,700 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. They will see the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works. Those selected for this experience also can apply for the Kansas seat on a national youth leadership council.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp will be held July 10-16, 2026, near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. High school students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma

and Wyoming participate in this leadership camp. Together, they will create a candy cooperative, hear from dynamic speakers, and raft down the Colorado River.

If you know of a current junior or sophomore student with strong leadership potential who is ready for new experiences, would like to network with other student leaders, and is willing to learn more about themselves and their communities, encourage them to apply for these incredible leadership opportunities.

To apply, you can call our office at 620-767-5144 or email us for an application at [memberservices@flinthillsrec.com](mailto:memberservices@flinthillsrec.com) or visit our website at [www.flinthillsrec.com/youth-tour](http://www.flinthillsrec.com/youth-tour).

**MAKE YOUR MARK!**

**JUNE 13-19, 2026**

**VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C., ALL EXPENSES PAID!**

DISCOVER HISTORIC MEMORIALS, EXPLORE WORLD-CLASS MUSEUMS, CONNECT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND BUILD YOUR RESUME.

COORDINATED BY **KEC** KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC. A Topeka-based Energy Cooperative

**COMMUNITY**  
Join thousands of high school students from electric cooperative communities across the country in Washington, D.C. Experience the trip of a lifetime and build lasting connections.

**LEADERSHIP**  
Connect with legislators, hear top speakers, and dive into issues that shape our communities. Build leadership and communication skills that strengthen college and career resumes.

**MEMORIES**  
Tour Smithsonian museums and historic memorials, cruise the Potomac River, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

FIND OUT MORE

COORDINATED BY **KEC** KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC. A Topeka-based Energy Cooperative

**CYLC**

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

**MAKE YOUR OWN PATH**

**JULY 10-16, 2026**

**VISIT COLORADO ALL EXPENSES PAID!**

Develop leadership skills and explore the cooperative business model through team building, Colorado River rafting and discovering Steamboat Springs.

LEARN MORE

**COMMUNITY**  
Form a candy cooperative, lead camp activities, and connect with students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

**LEADERSHIP**  
Learn about the cooperative business model, strengthen leadership skills, and hear from nationally recognized speakers.

**MEMORIES**  
Raft the Colorado River, tour a power plant, and explore downtown Steamboat Springs. You'll be sure to make memories to last a lifetime.



**SCAN TO APPLY**