



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box B
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 620-767-5144
 www.flinthillsrec.com

FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

Charles Goeckel, General Manager

Board of Trustees

Roger Zimmerman

President

Duane Kaiser

Vice President

Duane Carlson

Secretary/Treasurer

Dale Andres

Trustee

Korby Efland

Trustee

Tim Miser

Trustee

Terry Olsen

Trustee

Shawn Potts

Trustee

Member Services

- ▶ ACH / Bank Draft Program
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

What You're Missing at the Annual Meeting



Chuck Goeckel

Did you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to report and discuss current cooperative business, share important financial information, announce the board of trustee election results, matters such as by-law changes, and of course—the great door prizes!

Flint Hills RECA's annual meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors—or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives become busier with the “errands of life” and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), we must renew the value of face-to-face connections. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like Flint Hills RECA to bring together the members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors (in part because we

need to), it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both parties.

The annual meeting gives our members the chance to come together and take care of the important business of the co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we encourage you to take the time to gather with your fellow co-op members.

Flint Hills RECA is connected to you by more than just powerlines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting. The 2018 meeting will be held at the Herington Community Building on March 20, with registration and meal beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars! Annual Meeting March 20

The Flint Hills RECA Annual Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 20, 2018, at the Herington Community Building.

We hope that you will attend the annual meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

March 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31		

It Pays to Be a Member

\$424,000 back to our members

Flint Hills RECA's purpose is to provide a safe, reliable and affordable electric service to its members. Flint Hills RECA is a not-for-profit electric cooperative that is owned and controlled by the people that use its services. All operating margins are allocated back as capital credits to the members (patrons) who use and pay for the electric services provided by Flint Hills RECA. On Jan. 15, 2018, the Flint Hills' Board of Trustees voted to retire approximately \$424,000 of patrons' capital credits back to its members and former members.

The retirement of capital credits is a tangible demonstration of your ownership in Flint Hills RECA.

Members of Flint Hills RECA will receive a capital credit refund either in the form of a check that will be mailed on Feb. 27, or credit applied to their electric bill

dated March 1, 2018. If your capital credit refund amount is less than \$50, it will be applied to your March bill as a Capital Credit General Retirement credit. If your refund amount is \$50 or more, you should receive a check in the mail.

Capital credits are retained by the co-op for a period of time to help fund the operation of the co-op, such as reducing long-term debt, maintaining reserves for financing of plant replacements, storm damage repairs, and to reduce the cost of electricity to the membership of the co-op. Capital credits are retired when the cooperative's financial strength will not be compromised by a retirement of a portion of patrons' capital credits.

Flint Hills RECA has returned more than 7.5 million dollars of capital credits to its patrons in the last 20 years. Even with Flint Hill's return of capital credits, the cooperative continues to rebuild and improve electrical lines and to provide our members with quality electrical service.

Should you cease to purchase electric service from Flint Hills RECA and you change your present address, you should notify the cooperative of your new address. This will assure that you will continue to receive your refund if and when future refunds are made.

Board Members Kaiser and Potts Awarded Certificates

For co-ops to thrive in this time of change, it's vital that directors have a solid understanding of the co-op business model, a diverse set of skills, up-to-date knowledge of industry changes and a commitment to learning.

NRECA has three levels of educational awards. The first one is called Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), which includes 5 courses: Director Duties and Liabilities; Understanding the Electric Business; Board Operations and Process; and Strategic Planning and Financial Decision Making. The next level is Board Leadership Certificate, (BLC) that requires an additional 10 courses in the following areas: Grassroots; Power Supply; Cooperative Business Model; Governance Financial; Communications; and Technology and Risk Management. The Director Gold Credential (Gold) was created to recognize directors committed to continuing their education beyond the CCD and BLC courses. This achievement demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.



Board President Roger Zimmerman (right) presents Duane Kaiser with his Director Gold credentials.

Board Trustee **DUANE KAISER**, a board member since 1992, was awarded the Director Gold Credential Certificate at the Dec. 18, 2017, Flint Hills RECA board meeting. To earn this credential, Kaiser first earned his CCD and BLC certificates, and then earned three additional credits from the BLC series.

Board Trustee **SHAWN POTTS**, board member since 2007, completed the CCD course



Zimmerman (left) congratulates Shawn Potts for earning his BLC certificate.

and was awarded his BLC certificate at the Flint Hills RECA Oct. 16, 2017, board meeting.

NRECA's Director Certificate Programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.

Cast Your Ballot for the Board of Trustees

Attend Flint Hills RECA 80th Annual Meeting March 20

The 80th Annual Meeting of the Flint Hills RECA will be held on March 20, 2018, at the Herington Community Building, 810 South Broadway, Herington. Registration and a meal by Kathy's Herb and Spice will begin at 5:30 p.m. A "high energy" electrical safety program will be provided by Flint Hills linecrews at 6:30 p.m. with meeting to follow.

The board-appointed nominating committee met Jan. 4, 2018, to review the bylaws and policies concerning the nomination of candidates. The committee chose two trustee nominees, as listed below, for each district to be placed on the official mail-in ballot.

2018 Board of Trustees Nominees

District 1

- ▶ **DALE ANDRES**, Alta Vista
- ▶ **DEREK SCHRADER**, Alta Vista

District 2

- ▶ **KORBY EFFLAND**, White City
- ▶ **JOE BUCHANAN**, Council Grove

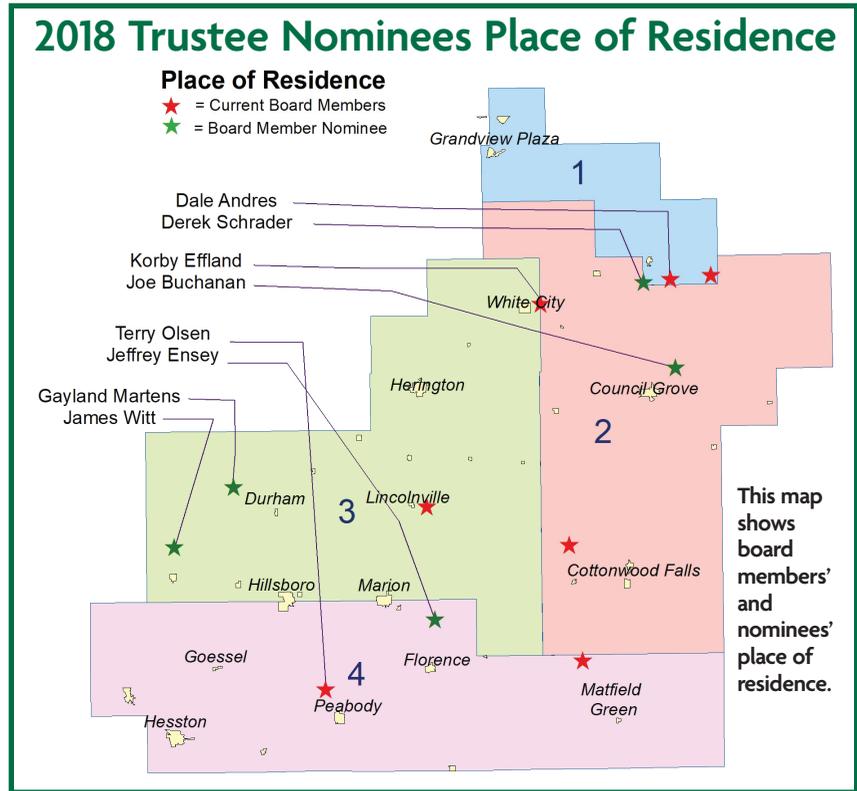
District 3

- ▶ **JAMES WITT**, Canton
- ▶ **GAYLAND MARTENS**, Lehigh

District 4

- ▶ **TERRY OLSEN**, Marion
- ▶ **JEFFREY ENSEY**, Marion

Members will receive a meeting notice along with an official mail-in ballot around the middle of Febru-



ary. The official voting ballot return deadline is **MARCH 10, 2018**. Any ballots received after that date will be declined.

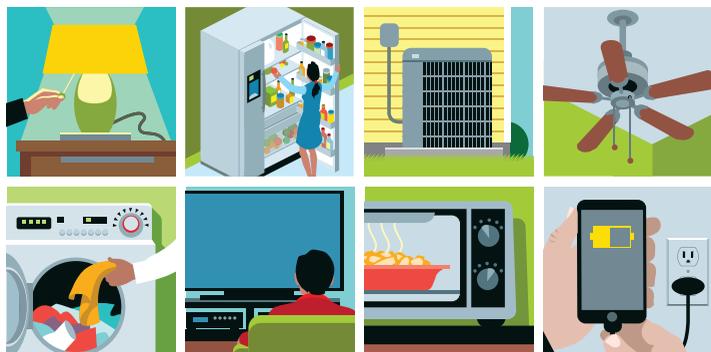
We invite all members to attend the annual meeting. By registering and attending the meeting, each member will automatically receive a \$10 credit on their April electric bill and a commemorative 80th-year

door prize.

Following the business meeting, drawing for the door prizes and the "BIG" screen television grand prize. (Must be present to win!)

Please remember to return your RSVP to our office, via email at mail@flinthillsrec.com or phone at 620-767-5144 to let us know how many will be coming. We hope to see you there!

We're Proud to Power YOU.
 Local, Safe, Reliable Electricity.
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Apply to Win a Free Trip of a Lifetime

The Flint Hills RECA is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 13-19, 2018.

Rafting, hiking and building memories—it's not just another trip! At camp, you will join winners from other co-ops in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains to build valuable leadership skills and friendships of a lifetime. So pack your sunscreen and hiking shoes and get ready to build memories that will last a lifetime.

The contest is open to all current high school sopho-

mores 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 that will be made 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. 6, 2018**, to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Diann Diehl, 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. 6, 2018

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Diann Diehl, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or diann@flinthillsrec.com by **Feb. 6, 2018**.

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 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp sponsored by Flint Hills RECA.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____