

NEWS

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



The power of human connections

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767

Patsy Whitehead, Editor

From the President & CEO

Cooperative members hanging together

Benjamin Franklin put it straightforward during those trying times when America's forefathers were struggling for freedom and independence. He understood how risky and dangerous trying to overthrow an established ruling order would be. Therefore, he offered these words of caution for his associates: "We must all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

Franklin understood the value of "hanging together" and cooperating. It was the value he saw when he organized the first cooperative in the country, the Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Homes from Loss of Fire. Today, more than 39 million Americans enjoy the same values as members of electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives were established to provide electricity to people liv-

ing in rural communities. The idea of providing federal assistance to accomplish rural electrification took shape when President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933 and began his New Deal programs. After

Electric cooperatives are different from other forms of business, and members of cooperatives notice this difference. Cooperatives put members first because the members are the owners. Co-ops are locally owned and operated and are com-

mitted to providing safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

This October, Nolin RECC is joining all types of cooperatives across the country to celebrate National Cooperative Month. Cooperatives are about neighbors helping

neighbors. "Hanging together"—that's the cooperative difference.



Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities.

Celebrate National Cooperative Month

President Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935, electric cooperatives began to spread across the country. A year later, the passage of the REA Act marked the first steps in a public-private partnership.

Currently, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives supplying power from fishing villages in Alaska to dairy farms in Vermont and the suburbs and exurbs in between.



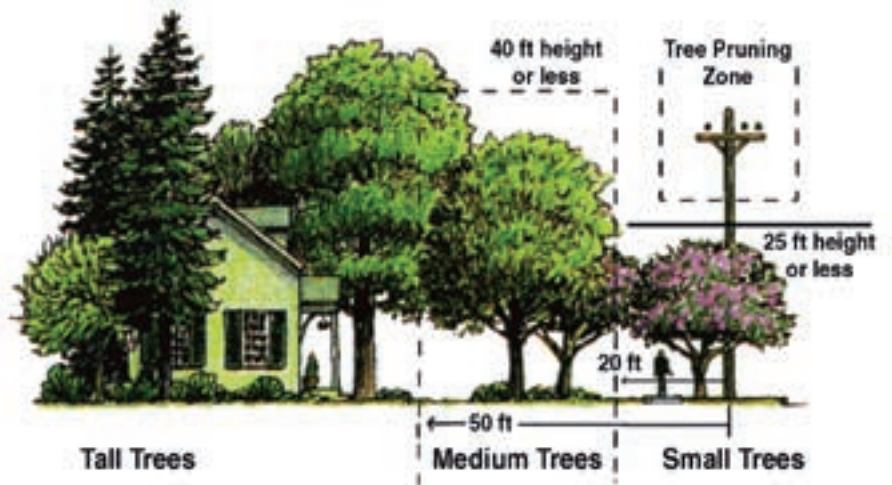
**Mickey Miller
President & CEO**

Right-of-way clearing is essential

Right-of-way clearing, including tree removal and trimming, is an important aspect of Nolin RECC's goal of delivering power to you that is safe, reliable, and affordable, as well as environmentally responsible.

In fact, the cooperative's right-of-way maintenance program can help reduce outages caused by branches falling on lines during storms, shrubbery interfering with voltage levels, or weeds making access to electric facilities difficult.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission requires that all electric utilities under its jurisdiction maintain their right-of-way areas.



Nolin RECC must trim trees and clear undergrowth that could pose safety or reliability issues to prevent possible injury and/or power outages.

The cooperative has the right to prune a tree without your permission if it extends into the right-of-way. If the tree is on private property, Nolin can trim it if it is within the utility easement. Prior notification before entering private property is given when possible.



In Violation. Never block access to pad-mounted equipment, such as transformers, switches, and junction boxes. Shrubs, fences, and other structures must be at least 8 feet from the locked front side of such equipment and at least 3 feet from the other sides.

Hey Kids: Stay safe when playing outside

- Do not play or climb on underground transformers, utility poles, substation fences, or other electrical equipment.
- Do not climb trees near power lines.
- Do not fly kites near power lines.
- Ask your parents before digging in the yard. There may be power lines underground.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Do not play with metal objects near electrical equipment.

CELEBRATING COOPERATIVE MONTH

FREE LIGHT BULBS on FLUORESCENT FRIDAYS



Nolin wants to show our appreciation to you by celebrating National Cooperative Month with a special gift for members. We have declared every Friday in October as “Fluorescent Friday.” Members who visit the Elizabethtown or Radcliff office on Fridays during the month of October to pay their bills will receive a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb!



These are the same energy-efficient bulbs we give to members at the Nolin annual meetings. The compact fluorescent bulbs last up to 6 times longer than standard bulbs and you save 75% on energy usage every time you turn on the light.

Please stop in the Nolin RECC offices during October to celebrate your cooperative—your ownership!

We Need **YOU** for Nolin RECC's Member Advisory Council

The Member Advisory Council (MAC) is made up of interested Nolin members from throughout the service area. Are you willing to give the management and directors of Nolin your ideas and opinions about how the cooperative can best serve the members? Are you willing to help your cooperative better understand the needs of the membership? Are you willing to attend at least two evening meetings per year to learn more about your cooperative's operations?

If you are interested in helping your cooperative and serving on the Member Advisory Council, please complete the form below and mail it to: Member Services Department, Nolin RECC, 411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767, or call (270)765-6153.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 9.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Acct. No. _____

Why do you want to be a member of the Advisory Council?

Heroes on *wheels*



◀ *Three kings over sixes won the best hand for Larry Barton of Bowling Green.*

Nolin RECC employee Robert Thornton and wife, Katie, were among 550 people who participated in the Touchstone Energy Motorcycle Charity Poker Run. ▼

When the Touchstone Energy Motorcycle Charity Poker Run was first held in 2000, no one dreamed that it would grow to be one of the biggest charity runs in the area. This year, 350 bikers registered for the run. When you combine the extra riders, according to event organizer Frank Owen Brockman of Farmers RECC, nearly 550 people participated in an effort to raise money for the Crusade for Children.

Setting records was not restricted to the riders. The cause raised \$4,900—a record high for this event. And every penny was given to the Crusade to help sick and handicapped children. Since its inception six years ago, nearly \$30,000 has been donated to the Crusade!

At the end of the day, bikers gathered at Central Hardin High School for cash prizes and special recognitions, but the biggest gifts of the day came from the hearts of all the riders in the Touchstone Energy Charity Run—the gift of life.





◀ The bikers ended the run at Central Hardin High School in Elizabethtown where prizes and awards were presented for best hand, worst hand, longest distance traveled, and oldest bike registered.

Bikers purchased ▶ chance tickets in hopes of winning one of two 50/50 pots (50% to the winning ticket holders and 50% to the Crusade for Children). Pictured at right is Gerald Smith, Warren RECC employee. He won \$325 in the 50/50



pot and generously gave it back to the Crusade. The other winner was Chris Talley of Bowling Green. Chris donated \$100 of his winnings back to the Crusade for Children.

Touchstone Energy Charity Run sets new record



For the second consecutive year, Dennis Hardin claimed the prize for oldest bike with his 1973 Harley-Davidson Sportster.

Energy, wiring theft is risky business

Cooperatives across Kentucky have reported a rash of copper wire thefts from substations, warehouses, and transformers. At the same time, incidents of electric power being stolen are also increasing.

Both practices are dangerous as well as illegal. There have been several electrocution deaths in Kentucky this year associated with the theft of copper wire.

Motivated by the soaring cost of copper on the scrap metal market, thieves have cut down power poles to remove the copper contents of transformers. The problem is particularly challenging for cooperatives, like Nolin RECC, which serve remote areas that are difficult to monitor.

“Stealing electric wire is against the law,” said Rick Ryan, vice president marketing and member services. “It can cause outages and create hazards for the environment. But most importantly, what may seem like a quick way to make easy money is extremely dangerous. It could get you killed or in serious trouble with the law. It’s certainly not worth the risks involved.”

Ryan said that people may have the mistaken idea that a power line is insulated in the same way that cords



Theft of copper wire and tampering with an electric meter are illegal and highly dangerous. Photo: istockphoto

are for appliances at home. “If you contact a power line with your hands, you very well may not live to talk about it,” said Ryan.

Another risky practice is stealing electricity. To avoid paying for service, some people tamper with their service meters.

“Don’t tamper with your electric

meter for any reason,” warns Ryan. “Not only is it illegal, tampering with your meter can cause electrocution and fire, resulting in injury and damage, even death.”

When thefts of copper or power occur, Nolin RECC will actively seek to apprehend and prosecute offenders.

Prevent a fire

October is Fire Prevention Month. Here are some tips to keep the electricity in your home from starting a fire.

- Do not plug space heaters into extension cords.
- Exchange blown fuses with appropriately sized replacements. Using higher amperage fuses than you need is a fire hazard. A penny is not a safe substitute for a fuse.

- Buy outdoor appliances, outlets, and cords that are rated for use outside.
- Equip outdoor outlets—and those in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms—with ground-fault circuit interrupters. Test them regularly.
- Keep dust from building up on appliances. Give electronics likely to generate heat—TVs, stereos, toaster ovens, and lamps, for instance—enough room to “breathe.”

- Use light bulbs with wattages that are recommended for your lamps.
- Choose electronic appliances that bear an Underwriters Laboratories label.
- Don’t fold or roll an electric blanket while it’s plugged in. Turn off an electric blanket or heating pad after 30 minutes. Set an alarm to remind you if you’re likely to fall asleep.

An easy \$50

Congratulations to Charlotte Whitfield of Elizabethtown for winning our annual meeting photo contest! She identified the most people pictured at the annual meeting in the August *Nolin News* on pages 2A and 3A. The contest was open to all Nolin members. The Whitfields have been attending the meetings for many years, and Charlotte says she can certainly use the \$50 electric bill credit from Nolin.



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Inspect for safety



October is Home Inspection Month—the perfect time to call an electrician to inspect your home’s electrical system.

Unless your house is brand-new, fire hazards could lurk behind the walls in your electrical wires. Frayed wires, loose connections, and overloaded circuits could be dangerous.

If your house is more than 20 years old, schedule an inspection right away. You need to know if your home’s system can handle today’s load of computers and large electronics, and you should install ground-fault circuit interrupters to prevent electrocution.

Before the electrician arrives, do your own mini-home inspection. Look for:

- Outlets that spark when you insert or remove a plug, and loose outlets that won’t hold a cord. Have the electrician replace deteriorated outlets.
- Overloaded outlets. If every outlet requires a power strip, have your system upgraded with several more outlets.
- Extension cords that have become permanent fixtures. Extension cords are made for temporary use only, so rearrange furniture to move your electrical device closer to an outlet so you won’t need the longer cord.
- Open outlets within the reach of children. Plug open outlets with plastic safety plugs to keep little fingers out.

We've Got Your \$25 Number! \$25

\$25 Worth of FREE Electricity

Nolin News features a contest called "We've Got Your Number." Somewhere hidden inside this issue are two randomly selected member account numbers. If you spot your account number, contact the Member Services Department at 765-6153, and win a \$25 CREDIT on your electric bill. You must identify your number and call by the 15th day of the month's issue containing your number. Account numbers could be anywhere in our *Nolin News* insert!

New Member Credits

All members signing up for new service with Nolin receive a short survey. Members who return the completed survey to Nolin are automatically eligible to win a \$15 credit on their electric bill. Each month, one name is drawn and a lucky Nolin member receives a bill credit on their next statement. **Congratulations to our latest winner, Kenneth Knowles, of Elizabethtown.**

E-mail payments

Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com. Click on "My Account" to check your consumption history and to make payments by check, debit card, or credit card. To apply for budget billing and automatic draft on line, click on "Nolin @ Home."

Attention Children! Win \$25

It's Time for the Annual Christmas Contest

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

You may win \$25.00 in cash by sending in your story about "The Best Christmas." Take a few minutes to think about your very best and most special Christmas and write a short story for our Annual Christmas Story Contest.

The rules are simple:

1. The story must be your original work (no editing from parents, please).
2. Mom or Dad must be a member of Nolin RECC.
3. You must be between the ages of 6 and 14.
4. Deadline for entry is **Friday, October 20, 2006.**

Three winners will be declared, one from each age group (6,7,8) (9,10,11) (12,13,14). Each winner will receive \$25 from Nolin RECC.



SEND ENTRIES TO:

Patsy Whitehead, Nolin RECC
411 Ring Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767

Don't forget to include your name, age, address, phone number, and parent's name.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

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NOLIN RECC OFFICE LOCATIONS

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767
101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

ELIZABETHTOWN — 765-6153

RADCLIFF — 351-2199

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER 769-6396

EMERGENCY TOLL-FREE CALLS — 1-800-572-1147

Web site: www.nolinrecc.com

e-mail: comments@nolinrecc.com

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