



Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC

Featured above: Nolin RECC Energy Management Director
Billy Pait, 23 years of service

News you can use

Co-op Power: Reliable, Affordable, and Environmentally Responsible

We have three top priorities at Nolin RECC: provide you safe, reliable access to electric power; offer that service as affordably as possible; and do both of those things in a financially and environmentally responsible fashion.

Because Nolin is a not-for-profit business – which means your money stays local; we don't have to worry about distant shareholders – we are well-positioned to make any necessary investments for ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. However, fulfilling our commitment to environmental stewardship in a cost-effective, responsible manner has become more challenging. Today, many environmental laws that were adopted by Congress decades ago are being used by federal agencies and the courts to address issues for which they were never intended.

For example, the federal Clean Air Act is now 40 years old and was last amended in 1990 – more than two decades ago. Much has changed since that time, including technology, our understanding of the environment, and the electric utility industry.

Today, officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (often under court order) are trying to modify the Clean Air Act to fit new circumstances. Without a doubt, new EPA rules being issued will wind up back in the courts and lengthy litigation will follow.

People will disagree over how to find a balance between protecting the environment, guaranteeing a reliable supply of power, and keeping electric bills affordable.

Under the right circumstances, Congress eventually will have to revisit the Clean Air Act and update it to fit the needs of the 21st century. In the meantime, Nolin will keep you updated on our efforts to encourage lawmakers and regulators to strike the proper balance on these concerns.

Let's hope 2012 brings an increase in jobs, provides a sound environment, and brings our military troops home!



Mickey Miller
President & CEO

See page 26G for this month's
Year of Cooperatives quiz notes.



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Install carbon monoxide detectors

Start your year out on a safe note: install carbon monoxide detectors in your home. If you heat your home with a gas or fuel oil furnace, have a gas fireplace, burn wood in a stove or fireplace, cook with a gas range/oven, or have an attached garage, you need carbon monoxide detectors. You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, which is a potential byproduct of burning fossil fuels.

You should have at least one carbon monoxide detector to alert you of the presence of gas. The detector should be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, on the same floor as the bedrooms so it can alert your family to wake up in case the gas reaches an unhealthy level. Better yet, install a detector on every floor of the house.

The symptoms of mild carbon monoxide poisoning may be nonspecific and similar to those of viral cold and flu infections or food poisoning: headache, nausea, abdominal pain, dizziness, sore throat, and dry cough.

But unlike flu infection, carbon monoxide poisoning doesn't cause a high temperature.

In children, the symptoms are similar to those of an upset stomach, with nausea and vomiting.

You can also prevent serious consequences by learning to spot the warning signs. Carbon monoxide poisoning may be a possibility if:

- Other people in the home or workplace suffer similar symptoms
- Symptoms tend to disappear when you go away (for example, on holiday)
- Symptoms tend to be seasonal (for example, headaches during the winter when indoor heating is used more often)

Make sure batteries are replaced twice a year in your detectors.

If you see the signs or if the detector alarms, leave the home and call your local fire department and gas company to inspect the home and equipment.

Do not let your car idle in a garage that is attached to the home.



NOLIN RECC'S HOME ENERGY MAKEOVER

Congratulations to our Home Energy Makeover winners, **Mary Lou Vessels** of Elizabethtown and **Paul Hayse** of Vine Grove. Both members have their choice of ENERGY STAR appliances or a home energy makeover (each worth up to \$2,000).

Thanks to everyone who entered the contest in October as we celebrated Co-op Month!

Check upcoming issues of the *Nolin News* as we bring you ongoing updates on the home energy makeovers!

An affordable resolution

Nolin has every reason in the world to help you keep your electric bills low. As a not-for-profit business with its customers as the owners, we have a financial incentive to give you the most affordable deal on electricity, while keeping a high level of quality service.

To help you craft an energy-efficiency resolution, here are a couple of items to put at the top of any list of affordable electricity resolutions:

Weatherstripping offers a relatively quick fix for drafty doors—and air leakage is a primary culprit for most home energy losses.

A fast way to check for a leak around a door is to look between the door and its frame or the floor. If you see even a sliver of daylight, add weatherstripping.

Here are a few weatherstripping basics:

Read the instructions on the package; apply only to clean, dry surfaces above 20 degrees F.; measure twice before cutting anything; apply weatherstripping in one continuous strip; apply snugly against both surfaces; material should compress when the window or door is shut.

Resolve to use energy tax credits.

Many home energy improvements could help pay for themselves not just by using less electricity, but by being eligible for a tax credit of up to 30 percent of the cost.

Credits can cover insulation and other weatherization materials, air-source heat pumps, and windows and doors. Get guidelines for what's eligible for tax credits at www.irs.gov/recovery.



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The American Private Enterprise System

High School Juniors Learn from APES



APES trip winners: These students achieved the highest test scores throughout the seminar and will travel to Lexington to earn a chance to compete for cash awards and college scholarships, and a trip to the National Institute on Cooperative Education at Virginia Tech. They are (left to right) Alex Norton, Shelby Wade (both attend Central Hardin), Simra Ahmed (E-town High), Aaron Vance (North Hardin), Sarah Puckett, and Jordyn Patterson (both from E-town High). Jordyn Patterson was voted by her peers to receive the People's Choice Award signifying outstanding leadership skills.

Last November, 42 local students participated in a two-day education seminar that allowed them to learn about corporations, cooperatives, individually owned businesses, legalities of business, and diversity. These elite students consistently scored high on quizzes and a 50-question final exam; and at the end of the program, six of the teens were awarded a trip to the State Youth Seminar in Lexington this June.

APES, which stands for American Private Enterprise System, offers eight students from each Hardin County high school (E-town High, Fort Knox, North, Central, and John Hardin), as well as two students from the home school sector, the opportunity to come together at an off-site location to learn about business and the free enterprise system. The program has been around more than 40 years, and has gained a reputation among students as being one of the top five things to put on a résumé.

Nolin RECC has been a sponsor of the Hardin County, as well as LaRue County, APES program since they began. Electric cooperatives throughout Kentucky are helping to sponsor APES programs in about 35 different counties.

APES also helps to build self-confidence and leadership skills. The teens are encouraged to network with students from other schools as they work together in groups. One popular exercise is the board case studies. This session allows participants to examine real-life issues that may arise in a business. Students are divided into board groups (each representing a director on the board) and are given situations to study and resolve. The teams must follow a set of business decision steps in order to achieve the best possible result. Students conclude this exercise by presenting board resolutions to their peers and then must face opposing boards as they explain and support their decisions during the debate session.



Hannah Boulware of Fort Knox High School takes a quiz as she cuddles Bo Bo, the APES mascot. Hannah was awarded the mascot by her peers. She also received the Co-op Spirit Award, which signifies humanitarian characteristics and personal concern for others.



Students work as a team to resolve real-life issues facing directors of a business during the board case studies.



Break time: (Left to right) Simra Ahmed (E-town High), Shelby Wade, Afton Conner, and Kendra Ball (Central Hardin) relax with Bo Bo, the APES mascot, during one of the workshop breaks.

APES Says Thanks to Community Sponsors

Clark Jewelers has been providing watches for more than 40 years to the outstanding young female and male at the conference. That adds up to a lot of watches throughout the years! The Clark family is greatly appreciated for their support and generosity to the APES program. As the highest scoring APES participants, Shelby Wade and Aaron Vance received the complimentary watches from Clark Jewelers.

This youth program, which is reserved for high school juniors, depends largely on outstanding speakers who volunteer their time. This year's speakers included John J. Scott (Whitlow & Scott Associates), Wes Mudd (First Federal Savings Bank), Tim Goblirsch (Fort Knox Staff Judge Advocate), Kevin Addington (Addington Elizabethtown Warehouse), Michael Coyle (Elizabethtown Community & Technical College), Jenny Oldham (Hardin County attorney), and Patsy Whitehead (Nolin RECC).

Without the support of the local community, APES would not be possible. The program is totally supported by businesses in Hardin County, including Nolin RECC, Clark Jewelers, Coca-Cola of Elizabethtown, Magnolia Bank, First Federal Savings Bank, First Citizens Bank, Preferred Memorials, Faith Home School Group, DeVeau Appraisal Service, Lincoln Trail Homebuilder's Association, and the Cooperative Extension 4-H Council. A BIG "Thank You" goes to Zaxby's for sponsoring lunch during the seminar!



Serving as youth leaders are (left) Caleb Moore (Faith Home School) and Matthew Moreman (Elizabethtown High School). The duo introduced speakers and kept tally of test scores and rankings during the seminar.

Pay it your way

Two easy ways to balance your electric bills

BUDGET BILLING

Let us help you manage your dollars so that your electric bill stays in line with your budget. With the continuing increases in necessities like gasoline, food, and clothing, co-op members need all the help they can get these days. These daily increases account for the rapid popularity of Nolin's budget billing program.

Budget billing is simple...the program allows members to pay an average dollar amount each month based on the previous 12 months' usage. In other words, members no longer receive higher bills in the winter and summer due to increased HVAC usage.

During the winter, Nolin enrolls about 75 members a month in budget billing. However, don't wait until you see high heating bills to enroll – today is the time to sign up – when the high bills arrive, it's too late!

You don't have to visit the Nolin RECC office to sign up for budget billing – you can enroll over the telephone by calling (270) 765-6153, or visit www.nolinrecc.com and click on "Residential Bill Payment."

PREPAY METERING – No deposit, no disconnect fee

If you like the idea of paying for your electricity before you actually use it in your home, then Nolin PrePay Metering is your answer. Members signing up for PrePay do not pay a deposit and if you are already on service and switch your account(s) to PrePay, any deposit you have in your account will be applied.

Current Nolin residential members interested in signing up for PrePay should visit the Elizabethtown office and fill out the necessary paperwork to switch their existing accounts. When your account balance gets low, you will receive an alert by phone and e-mail. Text alerts may be available in the near future. Adding money into your Nolin account can be done over the phone or online with VISA or MasterCard. Or, if you prefer, you can visit the office to make a cash or check payment.

College Scholarships through Nolin

Nolin RECC awards six college scholarships of \$1,000 each to graduating seniors and another to an adult going back to school after spending time in the work force or after raising a family.

Why not take advantage of this opportunity your cooperative offers to its members by completing an application and returning it to the Nolin RECC office by March 31. Visit our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com or call (270) 765-6153 for an application.



Lauren Kinser is a 2011 graduate of Central Hardin High School. She is currently taking advantage of her \$1,000 Nolin RECC scholarship by attending Lindsey Wilson College.

When Your Car Comes in Contact With a Power Line



If your car comes in contact with a power line, a state of panic may set in. Try to stay calm and follow these tips:

- You should remain inside your

vehicle. If you are in your car, you are not part of electricity's path, which always looks for the shortest way to the ground. Honk your horn to alert passersby.

- If someone stops to help, roll down the window and warn them not to touch the car or the power line. Ask them to phone 911 and contact the local electric utility immediately.

- Wait in your car until qualified electrical workers turn the power off and tell you it's safe to leave the car.

- If you have to leave the car because of fire or other danger, open the door and jump away from the vehicle so no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Make sure to jump with both feet together so that your feet land on the ground at the same time.

- After you land with both feet together, shuffle away, keeping both feet in contact with the ground constantly.

- Do not try to help someone from the vehicle. If you do, you may become a path for electricity and be injured or killed.

Source: National Weather Service

International Year of Cooperatives May Earn you \$100

This year has been designated the International Year of Cooperatives by the United Nations. To pay tribute to co-ops, Nolin will post important facts about co-ops each month in the *Nolin News*.

A 10-point quiz will appear in the December *Nolin News*, your bill insert, and on our Web site, www.nolinrecc.com. The quiz will be based on information provided to you in the coming months. Those members answering the most correct questions about co-ops will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 electric bill credit!

Fact number one was printed in the December *Nolin News* on page 26G. If you missed it, you can find the issue on our Web site.

Here is fact number 2 on co-ops:

There are many types of co-ops throughout the United States that generate money and jobs for our economy:

- More than 29,000 cooperatives operate in the U.S.
- The assets of these co-ops total more than \$3 trillion
- The annual revenue is \$652 billion
- More than 2 million people are employed by cooperatives



(Clip and save this information for the International Year of Cooperatives contest in December)

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

WIN \$25 Worth of FREE Electricity

Nolin News features a contest called "We've Got Your Number." 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 your *Nolin News*!

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 \$20 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, **Sara Lampton**, of **Big Clifty**.

Online payments

Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com. Click on "YourAccount" to check your consumption history and make payments by debit card, Visa, or MasterCard. To apply for budget billing and automatic draft online, click on "Residential Bill Payment."



Give space heaters space

Electric space heaters can warm a small space. Use them safely so they don't turn your comfortable room into a fire hazard.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that space heaters cause more than 25,000 house fires and 300 deaths every year.

Here's how to use your space heater safely:

- Choose heaters that are rated as safe by Underwriters Laboratories.
- Keep all bedding, drapes, pets, and people at least three feet away from a space heater that's turned on.
- Buy a space heater with a thermostat to avoid overheating the room.
- Get a heater that's the right size for the room. Oversized heaters waste energy.

HOW TO REACH NOLIN RECC

ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri • (270) 351-2199
(Office closed from 12:30-1:30 daily)

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

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER — (270) 769-6396

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

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