



Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC

Featured above: Nolin RECC Maintenance Technician Ronnie Long, 2 years of service

Comments from the President & CEO

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 11

Nolin RECC line techs are always working to keep your lights on—365 days a year. When trouble comes knocking, they're ready to answer the call! They leave the warmth of their homes and families, sometimes traveling far away to help other line techs in need when devastating weather strikes.

It was a long time in coming but our line technicians finally got their due. In 2014, electric cooperatives across the country voted to make the second Monday of each April National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Line techs see it all, and every day on the job they must work with safety foremost on their mind. They see cars knocking over utility poles and taking out power lines as well as electrical service for several co-op members. And then let's not forget those squirrels messing with transformers, cutting the flow of electricity. Curious snakes sometimes are found in substations crawling into equipment and causing sizzling power outages. And of course every now and then Mother Nature casts deadly and devastating ice storms and high winds—where hundreds of thousands of members can lose power, sometimes for days at a time.

It's always nice when we receive member thank-you letters telling us of the gratitude felt when power has been restored by our line techs. Outages usually come in the dead of night, yet our line techs go, working in the safest possible manner to get the power flowing again.

Ask any line tech why they do what they do and they will tell



Above: These are the Nolin RECC line techs who power our lives! Photo: Patsy Whitehead



Left: Nolin RECC employees serving Fort Knox. Photo: Dustin Ward

you, modestly of course, that they just want to keep your lights on. It's a great feeling of accomplishment for our line techs when they see power restored to you and your family after a storm.

When Monday, April 11, rolls around and you see our line techs out in the field, give them a big old wave and tell them how much you appreciate them. Maybe even #thankalineman on Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative's Facebook page.

BillingInsights offers FREE LED Bulb

A starting point for savings

Have you checked out Nolin's **Billing Insights** program yet? It allows you to take a good look at your home's actual energy use by completing an online energy audit. This tool gives you the ability to view energy use and costs by using your billing history, actual

weather data, and some information about your home. **Billing Insights** will show you how you can lower your energy costs and become more energy efficient.

You can access **Billing Insights** by visiting www.nolinrecc.com and clicking on the **Billing Insights** logo (lower left side of page). Another way to get **Billing Insights** is through the SmartHub app on your mobile device. Look for the "My Usage" tab and then click on "Usage Management" to find **Billing Insights**.

Receive a FREE Philips Slimstyle



LED bulb in the mail after completing your online energy audit through **Billing Insights!**



Pocket Easy Money

The ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program provides rebates to members who purchase and install ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Rebates range from \$50 to \$300.

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES	REBATE
Refrigerator.....	\$100
Freezer	\$50
Dishwasher.....	\$50
Clothes Washer.....	\$75
Heat Pump Water Heater ..	\$300
Heat Pump	\$300
Central Air Conditioning	\$300

Visit Nolin's Web site and click on "Rebates" for more information on this great new program.

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YOU CALL. WE HAUL. 

APPLIANCE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Our new Appliance Recycling Program offers you a chance to recycle that old refrigerator or freezer you have sitting in your garage or basement. Your reward for getting rid of your inefficient, working appliance is \$50!

- *Qualifying refrigerators and freezers must be between 7.75 – 30 cubic feet and in working condition.*
- *They must be plugged in and the compressor must be running at the scheduled pick-up time.*
- *Refrigerators/freezers must be empty, defrosted, and water lines disconnected.*

Visit our Web site and click on "Rebates" to make sure your unit will qualify for this program. Call 844-HAUL4ME to schedule your pick-up.

Contact the Nolin RECC Member Services Department at (270) 765-6153 ext. 3357 or visit www.nolinrecc.com for more information on member incentive programs.



Third Generation Co-op Employee Retires

After spending 41 years in the cooperative business world, Nolin's Vice President of Administration and Finance O.V. Sparks is retiring.

His life has evolved around co-ops, even as a youngster growing up in McKee, Kentucky.

Both his father and grandfather worked for electric cooperatives, which is something O.V. has always been proud to tell others.

After graduating from Union College, Sparks soon landed a job as office manager at Jackson Energy (formerly Jackson County RECC) taking him back home to McKee in 1975. He would spend the next 10 years at Jackson Energy before moving to Elizabethtown to accept the position of office manager at Nolin RECC. In October 1991, O.V. was promoted to vice president of Administration and Finance where he oversees general accounting and materials/purchasing as well as financing.

Handling the cooperative's finances has been one of O.V.'s major responsibilities over the past 30 years along with regulatory filing and working with the Kentucky Public Service Commission and other government agencies.

Sparks says he is ready to spend more time on the golf course now. "I first started golfing as a freshman in college and my passion for this sport grows deeper every year," says Sparks. "I get together with about 15 friends every three weeks in the summer to play at different courses throughout Kentucky – we call it the Double Bogey Tour." He also plans to join a senior's golf league in the near future.

O.V. also loves playing guitar (both acoustic and electric) and admits his first choice of occupations was as a mu-



sician. "I just love all kinds of music," says O.V. "While in college, I used to play in a band at local events and later played solo at The Maze, a coffeehouse at Union College." Today, O.V. plays often for his two young granddaughters, Morgan (9) and Riley (7), in his home music studio.

Retirement will also offer O.V. more time to enjoy spectator sports at local high schools and cycling. Bike riding is a sport O.V. took up about five years ago and since that time he has participated in several semi-annual cycling events. "Cycling is the only form of exercise I truly enjoy other than golf," says O.V.

Other than golf, music, spectator sports, and cycling, O.V. expects to be very busy around the house during

retirement. "My wife, Dinah, will have plenty of chores waiting for me after I retire," says O.V. The couple will soon celebrate their 41st wedding anniversary and O.V. still lovingly calls Dinah "my girl!" Family is a priority in the Sparks household. O.V. and Dinah both beam with pride when talking about their two grown children; son Ryan (Amanda) lives in Georgia and daughter Erin lives in Louisville.

Hopefully, O.V. will find some time to stop by the Nolin RECC office now and then to say hello to his co-op friends. "I'm really going to miss working at Nolin," Sparks says solemnly. "This place has just been awesome. I love where I work. I love who I work with. And I love what I do. It's just time to move to the next chapter in my life."

APPRECIATING

Story and Photo by Patsy Whitehead

National Lineman's Appreciation Day is April 11

Nolin RECC's Terry Hudson will tell you his job as a line tech is very rewarding, especially when he's working a major storm. "There's something special about seeing all that darkness in homes and neighborhoods turn to light in the instant power is restored," says Terry. "Although folks

ing a storm—my buddies are right there beside me."

Having worked as a line tech for nearly 30 years, Hudson says he feels more like a brother than a co-worker to those he works closely with every day. "I've grown up beside most of these fellas at Nolin," says Terry. "There's a good number of us that

meter pole on Highway 210, and the pole is still standing." Just as that pole has weathered several storms, so has Terry. He's always one of the first to sign up to help restore power in other states when the call comes in for help.

A strong work ethic and respect for power lines have always been how Terry starts his days at Nolin. Although not quite ready to hang up his climbing gear, Terry (59) says he will keep working at the job he loves for about another five years. "Staying on the move all day as a line tech keeps me in fairly good shape," smiles Terry. "I give the younger guys a run for their money when it comes to climbing poles and getting the job done safely."

One of those younger line techs Terry refers to is six-year veteran Nathan Yates. Hudson and Yates started working together not long after Nathan joined the co-op. The duo would typically work trouble and service calls and perform routine

"I really am glad to be working at Nolin and serving the members of this co-op. The members are good to me, the co-op is good to me, and the work has been good for me."

—Nolin RECC line tech Terry Hudson

don't see me working, I'm doing my best to get their power back on so they can get back to their normal way of living. When I'm at the top of a power pole and those lights energize, it feels awesome—I love it. It's what my job is all about."

Line techs are not guaranteed an 8 to 5 five-day-a-week job! Just as the weather is unpredictable so are the working hours of a line tech. They are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents.

Hudson will tell you he has missed numerous holidays and birthdays with his family. "It's just the consequences of the job," he says. "I'm not the only one out there working dur-

started around the same time and we've developed a close relationship with each other—it's a good feeling to love your job and the people you work with day-to-day."

Hudson says he still remembers the first pole he ever climbed. "It's a

Terry Hudson and Nathan Yates serve as excellent examples of the high caliber of men and women working as line technicians at Nolin RECC and other electric co-ops across the nation. They all truly deserve to be recognized the second Monday in April of each year for National Lineman Appreciation Day. Nolin RECC invites members to take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do. Use #thankalinenman to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.

G LINE TECHS



Terry Hudson (left) and Nathan Yates stand in the front lobby of the Nolin RECC headquarters in Elizabethtown. The sculpture in the background was designed and created by local artist Rich Griendling and serves as a tribute to all Nolin line techs

maintenance service.

Although Nathan was just 22 when he came to Nolin, he certainly was no rookie! He worked at a neighboring rural electric co-op for eight months after graduating from Southeast Lineman's Training Center in Georgia. "Terry helped me learn the Nolin system," says Nathan. "Terry's a great guy and

we've become really good friends—he's been there for me personally as well as professionally."

Nathan says he never regrets going to lineman's school. "There's a lot I like about my job," says Nathan. "One of the most rewarding aspects is helping people during trouble calls. When those lights come back on it

makes me feel like I've made a big difference in someone's day! I also enjoy being outside. I was raised on a farm in Rineyville and love going out and working in the country where I can take in all the rural sights. I love it here at Nolin—I hope I can stay here doing what I love until I retire!"

We're there because we care!

Nolin RECC proudly participates in the Lincoln Trail Home Builders Home Design & Remodeling Show every year. We share information on energy efficiency, bill credit incentive programs, and electrical safety with our members and co-op friends.

Nolin's energy advisors Billy Pait (left) and Todd Drake talked with several patrons during this year's home show. In this photo the two discuss Touchstone Energy Home standards with Oakes and Kellie Routt of Hodgenville.



Get Social with Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

Nolin launched an official Facebook site at Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation. There may be other similar sites on social media, but this site was created by Nolin RECC and is meant to provide co-op members and friends with important news and alerts affecting the co-op as well as outage information and updates.

Please visit us on Facebook and share our page with your friends.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



There is still time to apply for an Operation Round-Up grant!

Applications are being accepted until 5 PM, May 12, 2016!

Nolin RECC offers its members a unique program that allows them to voluntarily contribute to a special account earmarked to help worthy causes in the community. The program is appropriately called Operation Round-Up (ORU) because it rounds up electric bills to the next highest dollar. The extra change in the form of quarters, nickels, dimes, and pennies goes into the ORU account. Member participation is voluntary and is open throughout the year.

ORU is currently accepting applications for local community projects that are in need of funding. Interested parties can visit www.nolinrecc.com to access an application, or call the Nolin office at (270) 765-6153, Ext. 1050 for additional information. Deadline for applications is 5 PM, May 12, 2016.



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Mark Calendars for Nolin's Annual Meeting June 24

The annual meeting will prove to be an event you don't want to miss! Mark your calendars for Friday, June 24, at John Hardin High School!

Member registration begins at 5:30 PM. After members register, they can enjoy the early entertainment featuring The Brian Young Band. During the evening be sure to visit the health and exhibit fair, watch the children play games, or relax to a delicious dinner while waiting for the 7:00 PM business meeting. Later in the night, sit back and enjoy country music entertainer and song writer Billy Dean.

Billy Dean has sold over 5 million albums worldwide, with 11 top 10 singles. He has five number one hits, including *Let Them Be Little*, *Billy the Kid*, *If There Hadn't Been You*, and *Somewhere in My Broken Heart*, which earned a Grammy nomination for Song of the Year.

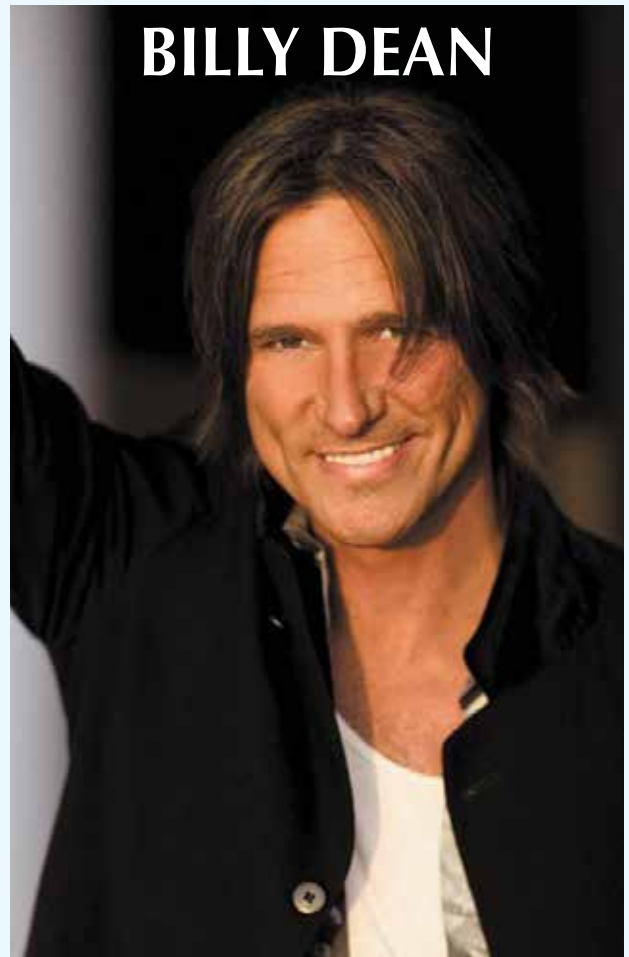
The Brian Young Band will perform around 6 PM in the main gym. This local country music group has opened for well-known artists such as Tracy Lawrence, John Anderson, and Mark Chesnutt.

Although annual meetings are loaded with fun and entertainment, they are important for other reasons. YOUR OWNERSHIP IN NOLIN RECC is very important. Each year a business meeting is held to discuss issues and new information affecting your cooperative. You have six directors that represent your interests in the co-op, and each one serves a three-year term.

The director election process is designed so that two of your six director seats are up for re-election each year. The two directors completing their term in 2016 are Gene Straney (District 2) and Lawrence Ireland (District 6). Both have agreed to have their names placed on the ballots for re-election to the board.

In early June you will receive ballots in the mail along with your annual meeting official notice. It is your responsibility and privilege to vote for the director of your choice in districts 2 and 6. As a member of Nolin, you are entitled to decide who serves on the board. Please remember to vote during the director elections and return your ballot to Nolin RECC.

Nolin RECC Annual Meeting
Friday, June 24, 2016
John Hardin High School
384 W. A. Jenkins Road, Elizabethtown



**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 (270) 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 \$30 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, **Julie Adams, of Elizabethtown.**

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."

WARNING...



There's a reason we post danger signs at substations.

The high-voltage equipment inside the chain link fence is dangerous. Pay attention to the signs and warn children not to play near substations, electrical equipment, or power lines.

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

PAY DIRECT BY PHONE TOLL FREE — 1-855-356-6359

FOR EMERGENCIES — (270) 765-6153

Web site: www.nolinrecc.com
e-mail: comments@nolinrecc.com

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