

Watt's Happening



A Publication of the Red River Valley Rural Electric Association May-August 2020

Large crowd at McClain Stadium in Marietta is seen in these photos from 2010. The co-op's 2020 Annual Meeting is cancelled due to the risk of exposure to coronavirus COVID-19.



Manager's Message - Brent Sykora, CEO



The health and safety of Red River Valley REA's members, employees and families of those attending the Annual Meeting is of the utmost importance. Annual Meeting preparations usually begin around April 1st each year and involve the ordering of many items, securing entertainment, drafting timely newsletters, etc. Although the situation may be drastically different by the previously scheduled date of August 10th of this year, we feel the safe solution is to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting. We cannot just flip a switch in early August and host the event. This is not the time to be taking risks with a gathering of this size knowing the uncertainties of the highly contagious and deadly virus known as COVID-19. Scientists and doctors are predicting another possible large-scale outbreak this fall as early as August. Hopefully, the landscape is much different and lends us the opportunity to have the Annual Meeting in August of 2021. *We will look forward to seeing you then.*

2020 Annual Meeting Cancelled

On the advice of attorney, Red River Valley REA trustees voted in their April 28 meeting to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting of the cooperative. The event was scheduled for August 10. The trustees acted due to concerns about the possible spread of coronavirus COVID-19 in a large gathering of members, guests, employees, vendors, and exhibitors.

Co-op Refunds \$1 Million in Capital Credits

Checks totaling almost \$1 million were mailed to members of Red River Valley REA in December 2019. The payments represented fully retired Capital Credits for 1985 and partial retirement of Capital Credits for the years 1986-2018.

A total of 8,200 active and inactive members were eligible to share in the refund for those years. Each Capital Credit check was based on the consumer's

total electric bill for the period. The co-op is seeking valid addresses for hundreds of inactive members or heirs. See the list under Member Services at www.rrvrea.com and help us get their checks out.

The payouts represented \$693,060.67 in Red River Valley REA Capital Credits and \$165,701.18 in Western Farmers Capital Credits for a total refund of \$958,761.85. The co-op Board of Trustees approved the action last fall.

Pandemic Preparations

Reflecting Cooperative principle #7, concern for the community is a priority of Red River Valley REA during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This has been a time when it is important for each of us to stay mindful of our own health and the health of those around us. Steps taken by the co-op since March 2020:

Split Shifts, Remote Work, Social Distancing by Staff

Red River Valley REA maintains an essential service - electricity. Throughout the co-op, homes, stores, and health care facilities are depending on our staff to stay healthy and on the job.

Some temporary safety measures we have in place include dividing into split shifts of 12 hours each to limit the number of employees on duty at the same time, working remotely where possible, and promoting social distancing while on the job.

Access to our facilities by outside visitors has been temporarily restricted. All of these measures will minimize the spread of the coronavirus (COVID)19) to our staff.

Temporarily Closing Kingston Office and Marietta Office Lobby

In March, the Kingston Office and the lobby of the Marietta Office were temporarily closed. The closures are re-evaluated weekly. The drive-thru at the Marietta Office remains open.

Members are encouraged to pay bills through our pay-by-phone portal (888-395-5284) or our online service, SmartHub.

As always, members can speak to an actual representative 24 hours a day to report outages by calling (580) 276-3364.



See Storm Chaser P. Hanks' April 22 Video of Madill Tornado on YouTube

Besides the sad loss of two lives and critical injuries to a third storm victim, Marshall County also suffered severe damage to seven homes and three businesses due to a tornado on April 22.

The twister hit around 5 p.m. west of Madill. Utility damage was widespread in town and elsewhere. Thirty Red River Valley REA power poles went down, causing 800 members to lose electricity.

Co-op crews worked through the night and by 8 a.m. on April 23 all but

one outage had been repaired.

In western Love County on the evening of May 4, straightline winds of up to 72 mph broke six poles and left 400 co-op members without power. Lineworkers labored through the night to restore power to Courtney, Leon, Orr, Petersburg, and Rubottom.

More late night wind damage occurred in Thackerville, on May 7. Crews had power restored within hours.

Co-op Taxes To Schools Top \$1M

Proceeds from a gross receipts tax on Red River Valley REA and Western Farmers' Electric Cooperative topped the \$1 million mark in 2019. The tax money, by law, is allocated by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to public school districts in the co-operative's service area. Each school's share is based on the miles of rural electric service in the district. Turner School District in Burneyville, with 537.5 miles of electric line, receives the largest share of the tax benefit.

Ardmore	\$ 3,535
Dickson	\$ 16,501
Greenville	\$ 28,502
Healdton	\$ 12,250
Kingston	\$ 171,870
Lone Grove	\$ 27,424
Madill	\$ 174,563
Mannsville	\$ 21,156
Marietta	\$ 150,059
Plainview	\$ 7,322
Ravia	\$ 3,146

Ringling	\$ 107,471
Ryan	\$ 50,616
Springer	\$ 16,291
Terral	\$ 1,627
Thackerville	\$ 70,341
Tishomingo	\$ 25,133
Turner	\$ 231,739
Waurika	\$ 61,371
Wilson	\$ 27,075
Zaneis	\$ 25,987
TOTAL	\$1,233,979

Bobcat with Pole Setter Reaches Remote Sites

Lineworkers are buzzing about new technology acquired by Red River Valley REA. The Caterpillar brand "Bobcat" with a heavy-duty pole setter rides on tank tread. That makes it capable of handling terrain too tough for a digger truck to negotiate. Various attachments dig the hole, then place and tamp down the new power pole. Below, the Bobcat was deployed to a narrow dam on a pond after the Madill tornado on April 22.



focus on

SAFETY



co-op

CONTACTS

BY PHONE



24 Hour Outage Reports

Toll-Free: 1-800-749-3364
Local: (580) 276-3364

All Other Electric Services

Marietta, OK Office
8574 State Highway 32
(580) 276-3364
Weekdays
7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Toll-Free 1-800-749-3364

Kingston, OK Branch
801 State Highway 32
(580) 564-1800
Weekdays
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



ONLINE

www.rrvrea.com



Supervisor Retires

Line supervisor Rick Monkres has retired after more than 30 years of service. He joined the co-op in August 1989 and retired April 1, 2020.

"The co-op's been good to me. I've enjoyed all the years here," he said.



Rick Monkres

Most of Monkres' work has been outdoors as a groundman or lineman or supervisor of crews that construct or repair electric service. Through rugged conditions, he said

INSIDE THE CO-OP



he liked the challenge of "keeping the electricity on as fast as you can."

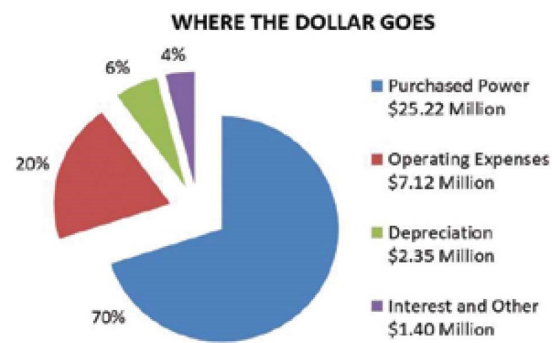
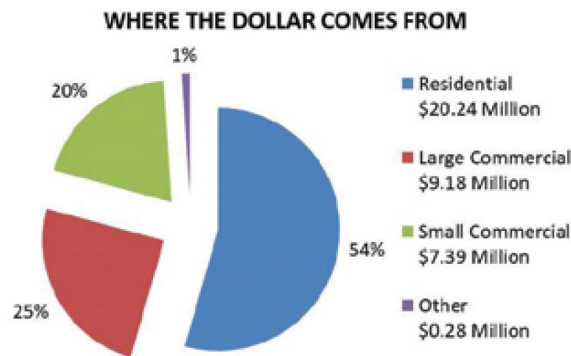
'Cool' Savings

2019 heating and cooling expenses for Red River Valley REA's new headquarters are in. Dan Willis, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reports the co-op saved

413,000 kWh or \$37,000 in annual operating costs by choosing geothermal over the next-best alternative for climate control. Another plus of the system is its radiant heating application in the warehouse and vehicle maintenance areas.

Willis said the system will pay for itself within six-to-nine years. Its life expectancy is 25 years. There is an 80-well, ground loop heat exchanger providing 56 tons of air conditioning and 28 tons of in-slab radiant heating. The total area served is 46,000 square feet.

Helping with the initial cost of the system was a grant by the USDA Rural Energy for America Program.



Red River Valley REA Balance Sheet

What We Own:

Lines, Buildings, Equipment	
Construction work in progress	
<i>Total property</i>	
Less: Reserve for Depreciation	
<i>Net Value of Property</i>	
Investments Due from Associated Organizations	
Cash on Hand	
Owed to Us for Electrical Service	
Material & Supplies in Stock	
Deferred Debits	
Owed to us for Loans	
Other Assets	
TOTAL ASSETS	

2019

82,427,958
193,582
82,621,540
-25,591,061
57,030,479
15,727,989
662,418
3,435,680
79,304
479,601
157,991
36,833
\$77,610,295

2018

65,142,791
15,969,779
81,112,570
-23,967,187
57,145,383
15,320,718
748,734
4,169,295
31,680
860,388
122,954
84,541
\$78,483,693

What We Owe:

Long Term Debt	
Line of Credit	
Accounts Payable	
Consumer Deposits	
Deferred Credits	
Other Liabilities	
TOTAL OWED	

31,840,776
1,928,584
2,430,083
914,967
423,000
2,810,499
40,347,909

24,303,317
10,958,037
3,101,129
914,605
391,210
2,953,943
42,622,241

Our Net Worth:

Membership Fees	
Patronage Capital	
Other Comprehensive Income	
Other equities	
<i>Total Equity</i>	

54,565
32,998,702
662,296
3,546,823
37,262,386

54,215
31,913,583
727,792
3,165,862
35,861,452

Total Liabilities & Net Worth

\$77,610,295

\$78,483,693

Red River Valley REA Income Statement

	2019	2018
TOTAL REVENUE RECEIVED:		
Residential, Commercial, Irrigation and Other Accounts	\$37,095,281	\$35,572,304
Cost of Electric Service:		
Purchased Power	25,224,696	24,233,477
Line Operations & Maintenance	3,821,220	3,830,064
Consumer Accounting & Collecting	1,429,365	1,305,219
Administrative & General Expenses	1,873,803	1,941,282
Depreciation	2,349,933	1,931,059
Interest on Long Term Debt	1,200,816	1,058,874
Other Interest and Deductions	177,885	231,225
Taxes	18,104	17,821
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE	\$36,095,822	\$34,549,021
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins:		
<i>Net Operating Margins (Total Revenue Minus Total Cost)</i>	999,459	1,023,283
Nonoperating Margins Including Interest & Other Income	281,710	684,210
G&T & Other Capital Credits	766,211	859,446
NET MARGINS FOR YEAR	\$2,047,380	\$2,566,939
Plus: Patronage Capital at Beginning of Year	31,913,583	30,465,639
Retirement of Capital Credits	-962,261	-1,118,995
TOTAL PATRONAGE CAPITAL END OF YEAR	\$32,998,702	\$31,913,583

To ask questions or receive a copy of the complete financial statements, contact the co-op at (580) 276-3364.

System Statistics

	2019	2018	2017
Meters Served	16,263	16,086	15,936
Miles of Line	2,787	2,733	2,732
Total kWh Purchased	449,400,370	435,124,739	404,291,146
Average Monthly Residential Usage-kWh	1,133	1,144	991
Average Monthly Residential Bill	\$116	\$115	\$108
Peak Usage (kw) (with Western Farmers)	79,916	78,637	70,552
Month Peak Set	August	July	July
Full Time Employees	40	39	41
Average Wholesale Power Cost-kWh	\$0.056	\$0.056	\$0.056
Average Residential Price-kWh	\$0.102	\$0.101	\$0.109

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting

The Eighty-Third Annual Meeting of the members of Red River Valley Rural Electric Association was held at the Marietta Schools Football Field in Marietta, Oklahoma, at 8:00 p.m. on the 12th day of August 2019. President Jerry McGill welcomed cooperative members and the meeting was called to order.

The President declared a quorum present with five hundred eighty-six (586) members registered in person, these being in excess of five (5) percent of all 10,856 members of Red River Valley Rural Electric Association.

Upon call from the President, co-op employee, Frank L. Lornes gave the invocation.

President McGill called on Allen Wade, Secretary of the Cooperative to present and read copies of the Notice of the Meeting and Proof of Due Mailing thereof. This Notice and Proof to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Wade brought for consideration and action the Minutes of the Eighty-Second Annual Meeting of the Members held on August 13, 2018. He stated that a copy of these minutes had been included with the 2018 Independent Auditor's Annual Report and mailed to all members on July 29, 2019. The Secretary asked for a motion approving the 2018 minutes. Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved.

Financial Report

President McGill then called Roger Rhoades, Director of Accounting, to present the 2018 Audited Financial Statements for consideration and approval. Mr. Rhoades stated that each member had received the financial report by mail along with the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. He asked for any questions or comments concerning the report. There being none, he asked the President to call for a motion approving the 2018 Annual Report. Upon a motion made and seconded, the 2018 Annual Report was approved as mailed.

Manager's Report

The President next called CEO Brent Sykora to introduce the special guests and give the Manager's Report.

Sykora welcomed the members and special guests to the Annual Meeting and expressed appreciation to the Marietta School District for the use of the football field and field house. He also thanked the cooperative members for being allowed to serve on their behalf in such a great organization.

Sykora next introduced the directors of the Cooperative, their spouses and his wife in the audience, Cooperative Attorney, Ken Delashaw and co-op employees. He also remembered Lawrence Henry (board member) and Ronnie Moore (employee) who both passed away within the last year.

Sykora briefly spoke on the 2018 financial performance of the Cooperative, stating that the co-op is in good financial condition. Sykora next updated the members on the new headquarter building and how even with the new building the co-op has been able to keep rates low. Co-op employees moved into the new building in November 2018.

Election of Trustees

President McGill then called upon Wetona McCarty, Chairman of the Credentials and Election Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees on May 28, 2019 as required by Article III-Section 3 of the official bylaws of the Cooperative. McCarty recognized the members of the Committee as follows:

Wetona McCarty, Chairman; Willis McKay, Secretary; Walter Bruce Bigger, Assistant Chairman; Arnell Halstied, and Terry Eldridge.

She gave a report of the Committee's actions prior to the Annual Meeting. McCarty said the Committee met on July 17, 2019 in the boardroom of the Cooperative to discuss the voting process and to examine the records of Nomination by Petition and the Filings of Notification and Declaration of those persons standing for election at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

McCarty reported that the Committee found and declared of record that the following named petitioners had filed all required documents to stand for election as required by the Cooperative's bylaws for District 3 Office 2 seat:

Thomas Herndon

McCarty reported that the Committee found and declared of record that the following named incumbent board members of Red River Valley Rural Electric Association had filed a Notification and Declaration to stand for election as required by the Cooperative's bylaws:

District 1 Office 2 Johnny Dewbre

District 2 Office 2 Jerry McGill

District 3 Office 2 Randy Hagood

McCarty declared that the Election was conducted in all respects according to the rules and regulations as set forth in the bylaws of the Cooperative, under complete jurisdiction of the properly formed said Committee; the voting being conducted with printed ballots being issued and cast during the hours of 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm on the 12th day of August 2019 for District 3, Office 2 director.

McCarty then declared of record that the results of said voting was as follows:

Thomas Herndon: 253 total votes

Randy Hagood: 262 total votes

Randy Hagood won the election by plurality vote. A motion was duly made and seconded that the election votes be approved and the unopposed board members be declared of record as elected to serve for the ensuing three years. President McGill called for old business and there was none. President McGill called for new business and there was none. There being no further business to come before the members and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. The President then called for employees of the Cooperative to conduct the prize drawing.

These minutes were recorded by Ashley Hambrick at the request of Allen Wade, Secretary of the Cooperative.

Youth Tour Entrants Compete on Business Models



11th Grade Finalists Back: Kylie Slawson, Marietta High School, 3rd place; Sydney Southward, Ringling High School, 4th place; Kash Lyle, Ringling High School, 5th place, all won cash prizes.

Front: Mariah Martin, Ringling High School, first place; and Hailey DaSilva, Marietta High School, second place, would have traveled to the national Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. in July. The trip would have included leadership training, sightseeing, fun, and educational experiences, but the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association cancelled Youth Tour due to the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, the co-op awarded Mariah and Hailey cash scholarships for college.

The local Youth Tour contest concluded with a dinner at which each of the five finalists presented a business model, based on the non-profit cooperative principles of Red River Valley REA, for solving a need they see in the world. KorDale Lornes is Youth Coordinator for the co-op.

Outstanding Co-op Seniors




Kaelyn Dobbins, Marietta, daughter of Jennifer and Chris Dobbins; and Kyler Chivers, Ringling, son of Kandi and Travis Chivers, were chosen by the co-op to represent Red River Valley REA at the 2020 Youth Leadership Summit sponsored by Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. The conference, scheduled for March, had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.



Eighth Grade Essay Contest Finalists Top: Sarah Yonker, Luz Gomez, Hailey Brown, and, below left, Lineth Avila, all students of Shanda Burnett at Madill Middle School; and Stormye Coker and Peyton Abernathy, students of Leeann Hicks at Turner Middle School, were winning essayists on the topic, "What Would Life Be Like Without Electricity?" The Energy Camp they would have attended in person in June was converted to a virtual event, and the co-op awarded them Chrome Books for their accomplishments.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



P.O. Box 220
Marietta, OK 73448

PRSR STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
Tulsa, OK
Permit No. 2146

- ✓ BTP resumes June 20 and continues to September 9.
- ✓ Sign up at www.rvrea.com.
- ✓ Endeavor to shift the use of electrical appliances to before or after the hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on each peak day.
- ✓ You will receive e-mail, Facebook or text notification of declared peak power usage days.
- ✓ Last summer 12 peak-day alerts occurred.
- ✓ Since 2012, Beat the Peak participants have helped the co-op avoid \$1.4 million in costs for wholesale power!

Red River Valley REA Annual Meeting
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020
Marietta Football Stadium
S. Hwy. 77, Marietta, OK

CANCELLED

focus on **EASY PAY**

New!

Pay by Phone

Payment via electronic check, VISA, MasterCard, or Discover may be made 24/7 on our new automated phone system by calling 1-888-395-5284. Please have your account numbers or bill handy before you call. More than one account can be paid with the same payment. You can also sign up during the call for automatic bank draft or credit card draft, as explained below.

Pay Online

Payment via bank draft, VISA, MasterCard or Discover may be made 24/7 using the SmartHub mobile app or the SmartHub portal at www.rvrea.com. About 5,600 REA accounts are already registered, and 702 accounts have gone paperless. In addition, SmartHub displays the account's daily electric usage data and stores 36 months of past usage and payment history. SmartHub users can view their bill early in the month.

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Bank Draft

Save time and postage with payment by bank draft. You simply authorize the co-op to withdraw the amount of your monthly payment from your bank account (checking or savings). Withdrawal will take place on your choice of the 10th or 25th of the month.

Credit Card Payment

This works the same as bank draft. With your authorization, the co-op drafts from your Visa, Mastercard or Discover credit or debit card. Withdrawal will take place on your choice of the 5th, 15th, or 25th of the month.

Average Billing

Average billing keeps your payments a level monthly amount you can plan for. The average is refigured monthly, as the co-op adds up your electric bill for the previous 12 months and divides that total by 12. Over the year, payments remain about level.

focus on **PAY AID**

Payment Plans

At any time a member is experiencing difficulty paying their electric bill, we encourage them to contact our business office so we may work with them on a payment plan.

Helping Agencies

Local organizations in the co-op area lend a helping hand to qualified applicants. Members having hardships paying utilities can contact the following organizations for assistance:

- ✓ Chickasaw Nation
- ✓ Choctaw Nation
- ✓ Oklahoma Department of Human Services
- ✓ Grace Center of Ardmore
- ✓ Salvation Army
- ✓ Restoring Lives of Ardmore

Small businesses can contact the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration regarding resources.