

Watt's Happening



A Publication of the Red River Valley Rural Electric Association June 2021

focus on MEMBER SERVICES

New Faces - New Places

The co-op staff bid a fond farewell earlier in 2021 to Gwen Wyatt and Sherry Johnson, both of whom retired after long careers serving members in the front office or answering and directing their phone calls.

Debbie Case has moved to the Kingston Branch to replace Gwen. Manuela Barrientos has joined the headquarters office to replace Sherry. Also new to Member Services are Linsey Ackerman and Spencer Lawrence. In the Accounting Department, Sarah Erwin has been hired to assist with plant inventory.

Our lobbies have reopened. For best results, come inside for Member Services inquiries, keeping the drive-thru open for payments.

focus on EASY PAY

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. Be aware, drafting does not start with the current bill but with the following billing cycle. (Continued on page 4)



A Drive-Through Annual Meeting -- Imagine That!

Above is a scene from one of numerous Oklahoma electric co-ops that are persevering through the COVID-19 pandemic by holding drive-through annual meetings.

At their regularly-scheduled Board meeting on April 27, the co-op trustees voted to hold the 2021 Red River Valley REA Annual Meeting in a drive-through fashion at the co-op headquarters east of Marietta. The event is scheduled for August 9, 2021 at 8574 State Highway 32.

Members will be greeted by co-op employees, sign in for quorum purposes, vote in the trustee elections, and register for the prize drawing without leaving their cars. More details will follow in the August newsletter.

Some Assembly Required



Before planting an electric pole, a line crew works together to staple grounding wire (l) and drill holes for crossarms and other attachments. See more at "Dedicated to Keeping the Lights On," a fieldwork video by KorDale Lornes, on Red River Valley REA's YouTube channel.

Dates Announced for Filing For Trustee Offices

You, the members/owners of Red River Valley REA, elect a Board of Trustees that hires a professional manager to run the electric cooperative. The trustees are members, too, and live in the areas they represent.

The filing period for trustees is June 25-July 9. Filing papers may be picked up at either co-op office during regular weekday hours beginning on June 11.

To ensure that all parts of the co-op territory are represented, three geographic districts have been established (**See map below**). Each district has three offices. Trustees in these offices serve three-year terms. The terms are staggered so that the term of one trustee from each district expires each year.

In 2021, Office 1 of the districts is up for election.

Election for Office 1 of Each District

In **District I, Office 1** is held by Harold Lester of Ringling. Lester's seat is up for election. In **District II, Office 1** is held by King Martin of Marietta. Martin's seat is up for election. In **District III, Office 1** is open. The seat was vacated upon the death of former trustee Lawrence Henry on January 1, 2019.

The election takes place at the Annual Meeting on Monday, August 9, 2021. Voting is at large, not by district. Regardless of where a member lives, he or she votes in contests for all three districts.

Highlights of Trustee Qualifications Rules

The candidate must comply with the general trustee qualifications section of the By-Laws of Red River Valley REA and the decisions of the Credentials and Election Committee. A summary of key provisions is shown below.

Nomination

Nomination to the Board requires a petition signed by at least 15 fellow members (one signature per membership) of the district from which the nominee is running. Filing packets are available at the Marietta headquarters and the Kingston office beginning June 11.

Filing

Petitions of nomination must be filed with the co-op at least 30 days

before the Annual Meeting. The filing period this year begins on June 25 and closes at 4 p.m., Friday, July 9. Filing packets must be returned by July 9.

Qualification

A candidate must reside in the district in which he or she is running for at least one year before becoming a trustee. A candidate may not be an employee of the co-op during the seven years before running, nor have a close relative who is a trustee or employee.

Also, a candidate or close relative may not be employed by or have a significant financial interest in a business selling electrical energy or electrical or plumbing supplies to the co-op or to any competing enterprise.

A candidate must not have been

convicted of a felony or pled guilty to a felony during the five years before running.

Voting

Voting for trustees takes place at the Annual Meeting. Each co-op member is eligible to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes is elected. Ties are decided by lot.

Compensation

Trustees receive no salary, but they do receive a per diem allowance for travel to meetings. Regular Board meetings occur monthly. Also, trustees are eligible to join the employee benefit plans of the co-op. These include health and life insurance.

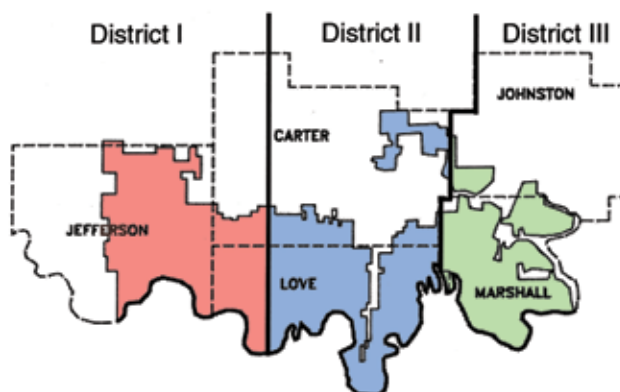
Our Districts

District I covers all cooperative members who live in Jefferson County and those who live in Carter County and Love County **west** of the section line two miles east of Highway 76.

District II covers all coop-

erative members who live in Carter County and Love County **east** of the section line two miles east of Highway 76.

District III covers all cooperative members who live in Marshall and Johnston Counties.



Student Essayists Win Co-op Recognition



Eighth Graders Write on, "What Would Life Be Without Electricity?"

Top: Logan Rushing - Liliana Santillan -
Elijah Vinson
Madill M.S.
Below: Jordan Freeman - Madison
VanBuskirk
Ringling M.S.
Danielle Blankenship
Turner M.S.

The eighth graders received Awards of Excellence and Chromebook computers for finishing as contest finalists. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional Energy Camp at Hinton that finalists attend will be a virtual event at the co-op.

Juniors Write on, "How You Show Your Concern for Your Community"



Regan Dewbre
Ringling H.S.
1st Place
\$1,000 scholarship
HP Computer

Belen Moreno
Madill H.S.
2nd Place
\$1,000 scholarship
HP Computer

Aldan Gallaway
Marietta H.S.
3rd Place
\$500 scholarship

CaLyxx Griffin
Turner H.S.
4th Place
\$400 scholarship

Julius Koons
Ringling H.S.
5th Place
\$300 scholarship

The 11th graders will attend a Virtual Leadership Conference at Red River Valley REA this summer, participating with contest winners from throughout the state. The event temporarily replaces the traditional in-person Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

Co-op Refunds \$1.3 Million in Capital Credits

Checks totaling more than \$1.3 million were mailed to members of Red River Valley REA in December 2020. The payments represented fully retired Capital Credits for 1986 and partial retirement of Capital Credits for the years 1987-2019.

A total of 10,968 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 \$1,056,865 in Red River Valley REA Capital Credits and \$334,801 in Western Farmers Capital Credits for a total refund of \$1,391,666. The co-op Board of Trustees approved the action last fall.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



- ✓ BTP resumes June 20 and continues to September 9.
- ✓ Sign up at www.rrvrea.com.
- ✓ Endeavor to shift the use of electrical appliances to before 3 p.m. or after 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 \$1.63 million in costs for wholesale power!



RED RIVER VALLEY

P.O. Box 220
Marietta, OK 73448

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



Residential Appliance Survey

<https://forms.office.com/r/6svykSRdkD>

Would you be willing to help Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, our co-op's energy supplier, plan for our future electric needs?

Complete the above online survey of your appliance, electronics, and other home energy use. No identifying information is collected.

Weekday Visiting Hours

Marietta Lobby: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Drive-Thru: 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Kingston Lobby: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

focus on

EASY PAY

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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.rrvrea.com. About 5,200 REA accounts are already registered, and 760 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.

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

electrical safety

Do not touch electrical cords or appliances with wet hands.



bank account (checking or savings). Withdrawal will take place on your choice of the 10th or 25th of the month.

Credit Card Drafting

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.

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

