



Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC

Featured above: Nolin RECC Line Technician Jamie Price,
18 years of service

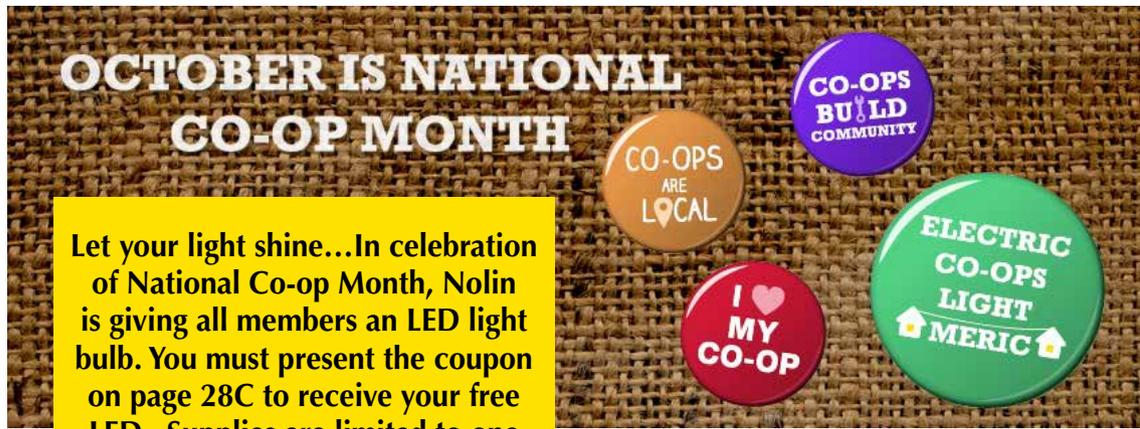
News you can use

Membership matters

October is National Cooperative Month, and Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative is celebrating the benefits and values that co-ops bring to their members and communities.

There are many different types of co-ops in the U.S., from credit to service co-ops like Nolin RECC, they all are similar in how they do business. The co-op business model is unique and rooted in the local communities. In fact, cooperative employees can usually be found working with community-based projects and serving as civic leaders.

Nolin members receive capital credits: After paying Nolin’s operating expenses, and securing funds for emergencies and other business-related costs, any money left over each year



Let your light shine...In celebration of National Co-op Month, Nolin is giving all members an LED light bulb. You must present the coupon on page 28C to receive your free LED. Supplies are limited to one bulb per member please.

Here’s what makes us unique:

Nolin is member-owned: This means you own the co-op along with more than 33,000 other Nolin RECC members in the nine counties we serve.

Nolin is a not-for-profit business: Although we must make money to pay operating expenses, our main concern is providing members with electricity at the lowest possible cost. Our bottom line is not about profit, it’s about serving members safely and efficiently in the most affordable way.

Nolin is democratically controlled by its members: Members have the opportunity to vote each year in the director elections – one vote per member regardless of the number of accounts you may have at Nolin. You decide who serves on your co-op’s board and who will be making decisions for Nolin. By casting your vote each year (ballots are mailed to members in early June), you control the direction of your cooperative – you have a voice.

is sent to our members in the form of capital credits. Nolin was financially able to pay more than \$5 million in capital credits in January 2014, and we hope to be able to pay them again in the near future. Returning capital credits (also referred to as margins) to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters.

Nolin is proud to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members – and that’s what matters most to us.

On the inside...

- FREE LED 28C
- A Lineman’s Rodeo 28D
- Meet Grace Flanagan 28F

COOPERATIVE MARKETING

Get Green Winners Living More Energy Efficiently

In honor of Co-op Month in 2014, Nolin featured a contest that randomly awarded 20 members a \$100 bill credit. And then, one of the 20 winners was selected to receive up to \$2,000 in home energy improvements. The contest is called “Get Green” and grand prize winners are Will and Heather Bewley of New Haven.

Although the Bewleys’ home was fairly energy efficient with double-pane windows, adequate crawlspace insulation, and a 10

If you are thinking about making energy improvements to your home, call Nolin RECC first to schedule an audit for a possible Button-Up rebate!

SEER heat pump, Nolin energy advisors did find poor insulation in the attic and no insulation at all in the knee wall. A knee wall is a short wall that has attic space behind it.

Nolin recommended the couple improve the attic R-value with additional blown insulation, add fiberglass batts to their knee wall, and then seal the area with an air barrier.

“We knew the house needed more insulation,” says Mrs. Bewley. “We took care of the upgrades suggested by Nolin and every bit was covered by the contest winnings. Plus we were able to qualify for a Button-Up rebate for improving our home efficiency levels and reducing our energy usage – we got a double dose of benefits from our co-op.”



Will and Heather Bewley, along with their two young children, enjoy an energy-efficient home as 2014 “Get Green” winners.

The Bewleys’ upgrades came to \$900, well under the \$2,000 allowed by Nolin through the “Get Green” campaign. When they learned about the Button-Up rebate, which offers members bill credits on home energy improvements, the young couple was delighted to receive \$239 in credits.

“Nolin is a great co-op,” says Heather. “Our son won a bike a few years back at the annual meeting, two of my sisters received rebates for building Touchstone Energy Homes, and we were fortunate to win this contest – they just keep giving and giving.”

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Rural Electric Cooperative
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Let your light shine for Co-op Month

Each year Nolin recognizes National Co-op Month by showing appreciation to its cooperative members. In years past, we have popped corn, given away CFLs, awarded bill credits, and even served hot dogs. For the past few years, in addition to bill credits, we have awarded up to \$2,000 to one member whose home shows the most need for improved energy upgrades.

This year as we mark our 77th year of service, we will once again celebrate Co-op Month! To keep things interesting, we're changing our Co-op Month campaign. Every Nolin RECC member has an opportunity to take advantage of National Co-op Month by receiving a FREE 60-watt equivalent LED light bulb.

Clip the coupon below and present it to Nolin to claim your LED. You must have the original coupon as no copies will be accepted. Supplies are limited to one bulb per member. You can redeem the coupon at the Radcliff or Elizabethtown office. If you prefer, you can use our conve-

nient drive-thru windows – just give the coupon below to the cashier.

Let your light shine for Co-op Month by using energy-efficient lighting compliments of Nolin RECC, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative!



Let your light shine for Co-op Month by using energy-efficient lighting compliments of Nolin RECC, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative!

LEDs Light Up Your Life

Celebrate National Co-op Month with a FREE 60-watt equivalent LED light bulb compliments of Nolin RECC.

Members must present this original coupon to receive a FREE LED (*copies of coupon will NOT be accepted*). Supplies are limited to one LED bulb per member.

Coupons may be redeemed at the cashier window at the Radcliff or Elizabethtown office or at the drive-thru windows.

Coupon good thru October 1 – November 10, 2015



Light up National Co-op Month the energy efficient way!

RODEO LINEMEN

by Patsy Whitehead

When Nolin RECC Compliance Coordinator Randy Meredith returned from the Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo late July he said his team missed the third place overall performance award by a cracked egg and a dropped locknut. A Lineman's Rodeo is unlike any other rodeo most people have ever seen! This rodeo involves utility poles, transformers, climbing hooks, and 180-pound mannequins.

Linemen from across the state gathered in Hopkinsville July 30 & 31, to compete and demonstrate their skills. Around 100 linemen from various Kentucky co-ops vied for a first-place win in categories ranging from cross-arm change-outs to transformer transfers to pole top rescues.

Nolin RECC was well-represented at the Lineman's Rodeo by Shaun Scherer, Daniel Disselkamp, Randy Meredith, Anthony Huff, Josh Cavanah, and Ryan Ray. Steve Allen, Jerry French, and Diana Hawkins-Sullivan served as judges and Tiffany Snodgrass helped keep records.

"The linemen at these rodeos are proud of their occupations, proud to work at a co-op, proud of the job they do, and they're glad to have an opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have worked hard to obtain," says Meredith.



The mannequin used in the hurt-man competition weighs 180 pounds, but that didn't hinder Anthony Huff from claiming second place in this event.

(below) Nolin lineman Anthony Huff proudly holds his three awards at the Lineman's Rodeo. He placed second in two events and third in overall apprentice linemen in the state.



Nolin's representatives had a lot to be proud of at the closing ceremonies. Anthony Huff earned third place overall apprentice lineman after competing in four events. Huff barely missed a second place overall win by just 15 seconds. However, he did

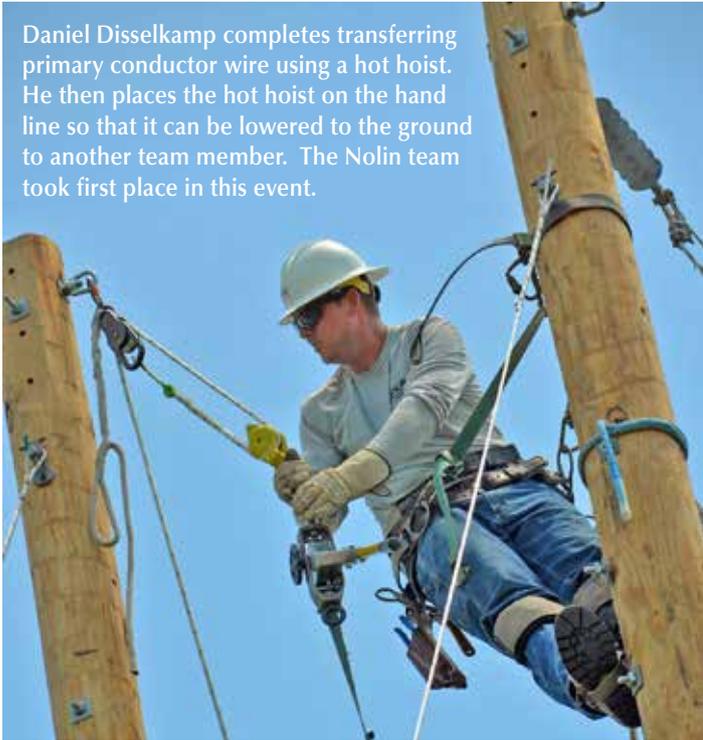
earn second in the capacitor isolation event, and Huff's hurt-man rescue was timed at 2 minutes 30 seconds, which earned him a second place in this category as well. The hurt-man rescue requires the lineman to first place a Mayday call for help, then suit up in full safety gear and tools. The next step is to climb the utility pole, de-energize the transformer, and finally rescue the hurt-man and lower him to the ground safely (a mannequin is used in this rescue exercise).

Nolin linemen Shaun Scherer, Daniel Disselkamp, and Meredith served as the co-op's journeymen team, and the three fell short with an overall placing. "We were so close to placing

(left) The Nolin team earned first place in the dead end wire and transformer transfer. Randy Meredith (left) and Shaun Scherer make final preparations with the placement of the handline so that team member Daniel Disselkamp could pull the transformer up to the top of the pole for installation.

Lineman's Rodeo brings 21 Kentucky co-ops together for showdown

Daniel Disselkamp completes transferring primary conductor wire using a hot hoist. He then places the hot hoist on the hand line so that it can be lowered to the ground to another team member. The Nolin team took first place in this event.



(top) Nolin linemen (left to right) Shaun Scherer, Randy Meredith, and Daniel Disselkamp receive a first place award in the dead end wire and transformer transfer competition at the Lineman's Rodeo.

(bottom) Randy Meredith competes in the cutout move and refuse event at the Lineman's Rodeo.

third overall," says Meredith. "If it hadn't been for that cracked egg and dropped locknut, we would have come home with an overall team placement," Meredith smiles as he admits he was the one who dropped the locknut.

Meredith goes on to explain in detail the skills climb, one of the four events the team must complete to claim an overall placement. He and his other two team members (Scherer and Disselkamp) were required to climb a utility pole while gripping in their mouth the handle of a small canvas bucket. A raw egg is placed inside the light-weight bucket. Each lineman has to climb over intentionally placed obstacles on the way to the top of the pole. Once at the top, they must remove the egg (while wearing leather safety gloves) from the bucket and place it in their mouth. The basket is then hung at the top of the pole and the lineman must make their way back down the pole, carefully holding the egg in their mouth. And of course those distracting obstacles are still on the utility pole. Once at ground level, the time clock stops. Although all three team members reached the ground safely and in record time, one of the three had egg yolk in their mouth and a locknut had been dropped! These two mishaps served as an automatic disqualifier in the event!

Scherer, Disselkamp, and Meredith did, however, earn first place in the dead end wire and transformer transfer competition. This is a simulated pole change-out on a single phase dead end pole with a transformer on it. The three finished the job in an astonishing 8 minutes and 20 seconds.



All events at the Lineman's Rodeo must be accomplished with a perfect score in safety and orthodox work practices. Although timed for efficiency, any competitor or team displaying improper safety measures is automatically disqualified from placing in any category or event.

"We each start every event with 100 points for safety," says Meredith. "When you finish, in order to place, you must still have your 100 safety and proper skills points – if not, regardless of your time, you don't place. All of the power lines at the rodeo are de-energized so they won't hurt us if we make a mistake. But in the real world, we can't afford to make mistakes. These rodeo exercises demonstrate just how fragile our job is...if you mess up, the consequences are a lot steeper than a little egg yolk on your face!"

Grace Flanagan Earns Leadership Position

Hard work and determination has earned 17-year-old Grace Flanagan an excellent scorecard throughout her life. Grace, along with dozens of young electric cooperative members from across the United States, made a visit to the nation's capital in July. As members of the National Rural



Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council (YLC), they are learning about opportunities to help their communities and co-ops in the years ahead.

Grace is a 2015 Nolin RECC Washington Youth Tour delegate who traveled in June with four other local teens to tour historic monuments and

museums and to learn how our government operates. The trip to Washington was featured last month in this newsletter and all five students were highlighted on the cover of the September *Kentucky Living* magazine.

During Youth Tour week, Grace took advantage of an op-

portunity to apply for YLC with hopes of claiming the position to represent Kentucky in this national elite group of young citizens. To those who know Grace, it came as no surprise to learn she was selected to the Youth Leadership Council.

"My time at the YLC conference in Arlington was much different than the Youth Tour, but no less rewarding," says Grace. "We were able to meet with the CEOs of the NRECA and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). At the conference, we had an amazing opportunity to make connections with these important people to help with our futures."

During the next year, YLC members will represent their statewide electric cooperative associations at co-op events in their home states and at the 2016 NRECA annual meeting next February in New Orleans. Students selected to this prestigious group have the opportunity to dive deeper into the importance of electric cooperatives to gain a better understanding of why co-ops give back to their communities and how to get involved.

Grace is the daughter of William and Amy Flanagan of Cecilia. As a senior at Central Hardin High School, she has already earned 21 college credits through Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit classes. She is involved in several school clubs and has earned the number one spot on the Central Hardin girls' varsity golf team. Grace's outgoing and sincere personality will serve her well at college and into the future.

"All my fellow YLC members are amazing people and leaders," says Grace upon her return from the Arlington conference. "We all learned from each other that week and I can't wait to see them again at the annual meeting in New Orleans."

Shackelford Retires

After spending 52 years at Nolin RECC, George Shackelford retired in late August. The last 20 years he served as construction superintendent and prior to that, George worked in some capacity as a lineman or crew leader. He says his best days were spent working on the line crew.

Now retired, George stays busy taking care of his four horses and riding the trails. Whenever he takes the notion, George can saddle one of his horses and head out on a trail. He has three granddaughters who also like to ride, so George will most likely always have a riding buddy.

In addition to horseback riding, George enjoys spending time with his daughter, Sherry, and son Alan. He and Alan belong to a bowling league and for the past 30 years, you could find George every Thursday evening at Dix-E-town lanes.

In a story printed in the *Nolin News* two years ago, George was quoted as saying, "I feel great and I love my job. Nolin means everything to me. The co-op has an excellent reputa-



tion and it's a good place to work. It must be—I stayed here 50 years!"

As George marks his 52nd year at Nolin, he says it's time to retire. George currently holds the longest running tenure in the history of the co-op, and it's not likely to be broken.

Congratulations George! Enjoy your retirement!

Take Steps to Prevent Electrical Fires

Fires can destroy homes and valuables – many are deadly. Electrical fires are particularly destructive! Safe Electricity encourages you to learn how to prevent electrical fires.

Electrical fires can be prevented by understanding your electrical system and taking proper precautions:

- If electronics spark, you regularly experience shocks, or the lights flicker when you plug in electronics, you have an electrical problem. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home. If your home has never had an inspection, consider getting one, especially if you live in an older home.
- Switch plates and outlet covers that are discolored or warm to the touch indicate a problem and should be checked out. Immediately shut off light switches that are hot to the touch. Have them professionally replaced.
- Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) help prevent electrical fires. AFCIs are installed in circuit boxes where they monitor electricity. If the AFCI detects a dangerous situation that could start a fire, electrical power is shut off. A qualified electrician can install AFCIs in your home.
- Use light bulbs that are rated for the fixture. If you use a light bulb with a higher wattage than specified, the light can overheat and start a fire.
- Extension cords are only for temporary use. If too many electronics are plugged into an outlet or extension cord, the outlet can become overloaded and start a fire.
- Electronics, appliances, and cords should be kept in good working condition. Damaged electronics; worn, cracked, or frayed cords; and power plugs with the third grounding pin removed should be repaired or replaced.
- Cords should not be under rugs, used in high-traffic areas, or tacked to the wall.
- Children and pets should know outlets, cords, and plugs are not toys.
- If you are putting a nail into a wall, know what lies behind the wall. A punctured wire could shock you immediately, or cause a fire in weeks, months, or years. Some electronic

stud finders can be used to locate wires and avoid them.

Even if you do everything possible to prevent an electrical fire, you should still have a plan if a fire does happen. Have smoke alarms, and be sure their batteries work. Know two ways to exit your home, and designate a meeting place for your family.

For more tips on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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Electricity.org[®]



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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 November 12, 2015.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Acct. No. _____

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



Nolin RECC member Aubin Mattingly shares some comments with Nolin President and CEO Mickey Miller at a recent Member Advisory Council meeting.

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."



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, **Jennifer Morris, of Vine Grove.**

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!*

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
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