



Editor, Patsy Whitehead, CCC

Featured above: Nolin RECC Line Technician Ryan Ray,
2 years of service.

Comments from the President and CEO

Giving thanks for what makes us great

November is one of my favorite months of the year. And it's not just about the turkey. From beginning to end, it's a month for celebrating what makes our country great.

Veterans Day is observed annually on November 11. This federal holiday recognizes the service of all U.S. military veterans. The 43 participants in this year's Honor Flight sponsored by Nolin RECC and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives represent just some of the real-life stories of service and valor that make Veterans Day special.

I'm thankful for men like George English and Audrey Lowe, both World War II veterans who proudly served their country so that we could all enjoy the land of the free. This year marks the sixth anniversary of the Touchstone Energy Honor Flight

World War II veterans George English (left) and Audrey Lowe shake hands at the Lexington Blue Grass Airport after spending a day in Washington, D.C., touring war monuments erected in their honor.



and Nolin is honored to participate in this remarkable and worthwhile trip that pays tribute to all our veterans by sending them to Washington, D.C., to view monuments erected in their honor.

I am grateful for today's active duty service men and women as well as our veterans. They continue to ensure our freedoms such as the right to choose our leaders. Election Day — this year on Nov. 8 — is a crowning achievement of our democratic nation. It's another reason I'm so fond of November. Hopefully, we will have a good voter turnout at the election polls this month.

As a finale to this month of gratitude, Thanksgiving Day provides a moment to reflect on the people and things that make life better. For me, that includes family and friends, including the members of Nolin RECC. It is a privilege to provide reliable, affordable electricity to the owner-members of this not-for-profit electric cooperative. I give thanks daily to be employed by an organization that not only improves the lives of individuals but also recognizes the importance of supporting activities such as the Touchstone Energy Honor Flight.

In my opinion, veterans, democracy, and the privilege to serve you and our 33,000 members are among excellent reasons to give thanks in November and throughout the year.



Mickey Miller
President & CEO

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Space Heaters can be Energy Hogs

If you use a space heater in your home, please be aware of two key issues. Using a space heater can cause a significant increase in your monthly bill. And many house fires that occur each winter are caused by improper use of space heaters.

It's that time of year again when Nolin members see an increase in energy usage. High on the list of causes (other than the obvious—colder weather) is the use of electric space heaters. Adding an electric space heater to help keep a room, garage, or pet area a little warmer will definitely add dollars to your electric bill.

Space heaters cost more to operate than your typical heat pump. In fact, operating a space heater costs the same as an electric furnace when broken down to the British thermal unit (Btu). A Btu is a measure of heat output.

A typical home's heat pump is around 3 tons and produces approximately 36000 Btus of heat at a cost of approximately 45 cents per hour or .0000125 cents per Btu. A space heater is rated in watts and the standard 1,500-watt space heater will produce approximately 5100 Btus of heat at a cost of 16 cents per hour or .0000314 cents per Btu. This means that a typical space heater can cost 2.5 times as much as a heat pump to maintain your home at the same temperature.

For example, a 1,000-watt (3,400 Btus) space heater operating 12 hours per day at a cost of 10.5 cents per hour will add \$37 more to your monthly electric bill. If that same space heater runs 24 hours a day it can cost as much as \$74 a month.

If you use a 1,500-watt (5,100 Btus) space heater for the same amount of time (12 hours a day), your bill would increase \$56 each month. If the same space heater runs 24 hours a day it can cost as much as \$112 a month.

Some people run space heaters during day and night hours. By the time your bill arrives, the hourly costs add up. Space heaters can help take the chill out of your home—just be careful it doesn't become an energy hog!

If you decide to use a space heater, remember it is meant for short-term use in a small area and should be turned off or unplugged when you leave that area or go to bed. To stay safe, make sure the unit is equipped with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards.

Always keep in mind, Nolin provides free energy evaluations to members. You can schedule one by calling Todd Drake or Billy Pait at (270) 765-6153.

Did you know?

Space heaters are responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.



- * Place your space heater on a level, non-flammable surface.
- * Make sure your space heater has an auto shut-off function.
- * Never pair your space heater with an extension cord.
- * Never leave a space heater unattended when in use.
- * Purchase space heaters that are cool to the touch.



How power is restored after an outage

Restoring an outage

Most members use electricity every day without giving much thought to how it arrives at their home. Many types of generating sources are used and several steps are needed to create and deliver electricity to your home or business. By the time electricity reaches your home, it has most likely traveled hundreds of miles and visited a substation.

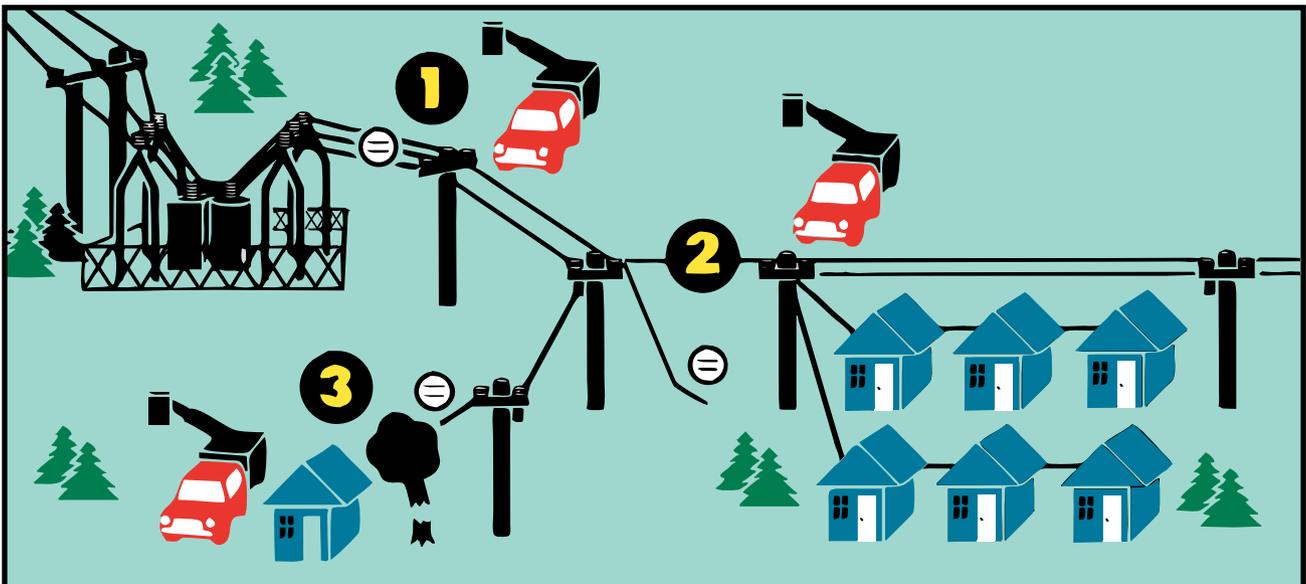
Nolin works hard to deliver the highest level of reliability to our members, but sometimes storms, animals, vehicular accidents, and other circumstances out of our control leave members without power. Having that in mind, we would like to share with you the sequence of how the cooperative restores power during outages.

WARNING

Do not connect a generator directly to household wiring—the power from a generator can back-feed to power lines and injure or electrocute line workers making repairs. Call a licensed electrician to install all generators.

Make sure you report any outage to Nolin, even if you think a neighbor already has called. This will help line crews locate and repair the problem as soon as possible. To report an outage after normal business hours, call 270-765-6153 or toll-free 888-637-4247.

Getting You Back Online



In any electrical outage, the first priority is to get the greatest number of people back online as quickly as possible. That's why electric co-ops follow a sequence of

repairs that restores power to large groups of consumers before tackling smaller groups and individual consumers. This fictitious example details a typical repair sequence.

- 1** The main distribution line from the substation must be repaired before anyone can have power.
- 2** Next, crews repair the lines that bring power to the greatest number of customers in a community.
- 3** After larger pockets of customers have power, crews repair service lines to individual homes.

Lineman's Rodeo Features Skill, Speed, and Safety

Photos by Patsy Whitehead and Whitney Duvall

The annual Lineman's Rodeo held September 29 & 30 in Shelbyville featured top-notch line techs competing against each other and in teams of three. Line techs from various electric co-ops across the state gathered to demonstrate their skills in hopes to take home a winning trophy. Competition at the Lineman's Rodeo is unlike traditional rodeos—categories include skills climb, pole swap/change-out, pole top rescue, and energized line move.

"The line techs 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 Randy Meredith, Nolin RECC compliance coordinator. Meredith says the rodeos help build close relationships with line techs at other Kentucky electric co-ops and praises Nolin management for encouraging and supporting the co-op's participation.

Veteran line tech Jeremy Jones competed for the first time and says the experience was well worth the time and effort. "Competing with the skills you learn and work with throughout

your career as a line tech is simply awesome," says Jones.

The rodeo also offers those new to the job a chance to show their skills. Line tech apprentice Cameron Hernandez came away from the rodeo motivated and thankful for the opportunity to meet others from across the state. "I'm a competitive person, so I loved the excitement generated throughout the day," says Hernandez. "I was a little nervous though—I felt just like I did in high school right before running out on the football field on a Friday night."

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."

Nolin RECC was well-represented at the Lineman's Rodeo by Shaun Scherer, Daniel Disselkamp, Randy Meredith, Anthony Huff, Josh Sanders, Jarred Gardner, Jeremy Jones, Josh Hess, Jamie Price, Josh Cavanah, Ryan Ray, Cameron Hernandez, and Jay Eastridge. Steve Allen, Jerry French, Diana Hawkins-Sullivan, and Bobby Ash served as judges and Tiffany Snodgrass helped keep records.

Below: Claiming awards at the Lineman's Rodeo are (left to right) Ryan Ray, 3rd place cut-out and feed change in the apprentice division; Randy Meredith, 2nd place in de-energized line event and 3rd place overall in the senior division; and team members Jarred Gardner, Josh Sanders, and Anthony Huff, 2nd place in the pole swap/change-out event.





Randy Meredith (left) and Daniel Disselkamp move a de-energized high-voltage line from one pole to another in a simulated pole change-out. On the ground is Shaun Scherer who works with a handline to pull materials and tools up to his two team members.



Jeremy Jones prepares to pull a transformer up the handline to Jamie Price (left) and Josh Hess. The three are working together to move the neutral wire from the old pole to a new pole in a simulated pole change-out.



Cameron Hernandez attaches a fuse barrel to his extendo stick so he can energize the line in the skills climb event.



Jay Eastridge checks the handline to ensure it is free of knots and tangles before ascending the pole in the recloser/feed change event.

Don't Sacrifice Safety for Speed During Harvest



For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible — in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines — can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy.

Farmers and agricultural workers have dangerous occupations. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution.

If you are a farm operator or worker, be aware of the location of power lines and keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.

- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.
- If your equipment does hit a power line do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first. If you or someone you know would like more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



HELP

This winter, thousands of people all over Kentucky will suffer from the cold, because they simply can't afford to heat their homes. Help! Add \$1.00, \$5.00, or more for WinterCare to your electric bill payment.

Every penny of your contribution will go toward keeping people warm.

Being cold is a terrible thing. Open your hands and your heart to warm others: it's a wonderful feeling to share.





CAROLYN FRANKS

Change in our community

Nolin RECC's Operation Round-Up Benefits Members and Recipients

Would you like to help worthy community projects in a big way and only spend a small amount of money? Your small change can help change the lives of others!

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. Although members may enroll at any time, the co-op periodically runs a campaign drive to inspire members to join ORU. In fact, any Nolin RECC member who signs up for the program by 5 PM December 2, 2016, will earn a chance to win \$100, \$50, or \$25 in a cash drawing. Those who are already enrolled in ORU will automatically be eligible for the drawing. Members who have multiple accounts enrolled in ORU will have a chance to win for each account signed up in the program.

One hundred percent of the ORU funds are put back into the community to help fund charitable and worthy causes. Over 5,500 participants contribute to the program each month. During the past 10 years, ORU has awarded over \$160,000 to organizations in

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Members who have multiple accounts will be entered in the contest for every account enrolled in ORU.

the community.

Local citizens make up a nonprofit board of directors that governs the program. The board reviews applications for community projects and makes decisions on when, where, and how to utilize funds.

Recent ORU donations were made at the Nolin RECC annual meeting. Altogether, more than \$22,000 was awarded to the Association of Retarded and Handicapped of Hardin County (ARHHC), Teaching Essential Social Skills to Children with Autism (Camp TESSA), Greenspace, CASA of the Heartland, USA Cares, SpringHaven Domestic Violence Program, Helping Hand of Hope, LaRue County High School Girls Basketball Program, and Mission Hope for Kids.

If you would like to help others in your community by donating under a dollar a month, check the appropriate box on the back of your electric bill to sign up for the program, or you can call the Nolin office at (270) 765-6153.



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DENISE TORRES

Happy Thanksgiving

The Nolin RECC office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 24 and 25.

Manage your account

SmartHub provides you with a secure way to manage your electric bill online. You can also make payments, report a service interruption, and compare monthly and yearly electricity usage. Visit www.nolinrecc.com and click on SmartHub.



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, **Congratulations to our latest winner, Kenneth & Donna Hiser, of Big Clifty.**

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We've Got Your 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!*

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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