



Editor, Sarah Fellows

Featured above: Customer Service Representative
Rhonda Grigsby, 12 years of service

Comments from the President and CEO

Right-of-way: A voice from the past

A lot has changed in the 81 years since Nolin RECC was founded by local residents. The technology we have available to us and the tools we use for communication enable us to serve our members in new and improving ways.

Despite improvements across the decades, providing electrical service brings with it certain inherent challenges. As I see a need to update some of our vegetation management practices, I have spent a lot of time thinking about the best way to communicate my thoughts to our members. I happened upon an article from this newsletter from 1982. While the tone and some of the language may sound dated, I felt it was an excellent representation of my thoughts on the matter. Here is the unedited article...

From Nolin News, June 1982:

Let's picture you preparing dinner some blustery winter evening... or watching your favorite TV program, or operating a milking machine or just trying to stay warm when the temperatures are 10 above zero. The electricity goes off and stays off for an hour or so. You become angry and refer to your electric co-op in some uncomplimentary terms. Your electricity wasn't there when you wanted and needed it.

But, perhaps you had forgotten that back during the summer, someone gave the co-op's crew a hard time when they came out to cut the trees away from the

power lines. The maintenance crew tried to cooperate by not cutting the trees back as much as was needed.

So, the cold, brittle limbs that should have been cut blew down on the lines and broke them. Now, on overtime pay and working in inclement weather, under dangerous conditions, the line crews are brought out to repair the damage and bring your service back on.

There are, of course, variations to this story, but the point is that right-of-way maintenance is necessary if repair costs are to be kept down and good service is to be provided, both of which we're sure that you want. We agree, trees that are misshapen from extensive trimming are not pretty and your co-op doesn't like to cut them that way. But, we don't do it by choice. Tree trimming is a necessary part of providing service.

Actually, when trees are planted or allowed to grow on right-of-way easements, we often don't think that someday they will be large and become a problem. When planting trees, if they are put just about 15 or 20 feet farther from the lines, they may never have to be touched and can live their full lives without being cut out of shape.

The very fact that electric lines are strung on right-of-ways says that these strips of land can always be accessed by the electric co-op for service or rebuilding work and that obstructions can be removed whenever it is needed. But we also like to be considerate of nature's beauty and not abuse that right.



BRUCE KNOX

So, help us where you can, because it helps you, too. We all want good service at the most reasonable cost possible.

Better yet, give your co-op a call if you see tree limbs in the lines, damaged poles or insulators, broken guy wires or any other problem that you think could cause an outage, it may save us all inconveniences and expense.

Whether in 1982 or today, right-of-way maintenance is an important part of our service to our members. And, like right-of-way, our commitment to our members is something that will always be a constant.



Greg Lee
President & CEO

An important partnership

Nolin RECC is a long-time partner of Fort Knox. While Nolin is not the primary power provider for the base, it is Nolin employees who maintain their distribution voltage energy infrastructure.

Several years ago, Fort Knox determined that it needed to be able to power its base independent of any outside energy source. The 2009 ice storm that shut Kentucky down was a major factor in this determination. The

base was without power for five days which caused interruptions not only to family life, but also to vital missions.

In the years since, Fort Knox has invested more than \$60 million in the Energy Security Project. This project succeeded in establishing energy independence through backup generators that can sustain the installation with energy needs indefinitely with on-site natural gas production and diesel fuel reserves.

Each year since 2015, Nolin RECC has been running tests on this system in the middle of the night, one substation at a time. In October 2018, the first test of all five substations at the same time occurred when external power was cut to the base around 10 a.m. It took about 15 minutes for all generator power to be up and running. The test was a success.

In October 2019, Nolin employees once again ran a full test of the system.

“Nolin RECC is proud to have completed another major energy resiliency test at Fort Knox. Power was cut off to Fort Knox, and through their privatized energy security project, Nolin was able to use their own on-site generation to restore the entire 109,000-acre installation in about 10 minutes,” says Manager of Fort Knox Operations Dustin Ward.

Ward said last year’s test did not encounter any issues and he anticipates that this will be a yearly occurrence. With any luck, that will be the only time the system is put to the test.



Pictured are three of Fort Knox’s natural gas generators. Photo: Dustin Ward

Dedication to others recognized

Nolin RECC has been recognizing employees for 20 years for their service to the co-op and the community with the Gene Yates Cooperative Spirit Award. The 2019 winner, honored at the employee Christmas lunch in December, was Line Design Technician Brian Hamilton. Hamilton not only shows his dedication to others through his volunteer efforts at his church and in local youth sports leagues, but through his effort to bring a recycling program to Nolin RECC. Hamilton organized Nolin’s current in-house recycling program from conception to implementation. To date, this recycling effort at Nolin has kept over 2 tons of recyclables out of the landfill.

Nolin RECC employee Brian Hamilton, right, receives the Gene Yates Cooperative Spirit Award from President and CEO Greg Lee. Photo: Sarah Fellows



Toys for Tots

Thanks to our members and employees who donated to Toys for Tots last November and December. Because of you, we were able to send lots of new toys to local children through this program just in time for Christmas.



Nondiscrimination statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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- Mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue SW,
Washington, DC 20250-9410;
- Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Members get something back for giving to others

Members who were signed up for Operation Round-Up by December 2, 2019 were eligible for a cash drawing. These lucky winners had a little extra in their pockets going into the holiday season. Members can sign up anytime to participate by “rounding up” their bill to the nearest dollar. Operation Round-Up provides community impact grants that benefit our local area. For more details or to sign up, call our office at (270) 765-6153.



MICHELLE ROGERS



MICHELLE ROGERS



SARAH FELLOWS

From left, Linda McFarlin won \$300; Lisa Lindsey picked up her \$200 prize; and Cara Kramer holding her \$100 prize.

APPLY NOW FOR ONE OF EIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS!

High school seniors living with a parent/guardian who is a Nolin RECC member and adult Nolin members seeking a continuing education are eligible to apply. Get details at www.nolinrecc.com.

Deadline is April 1, 2020.



BELOZERSKY

DON'T FORGET

our Member Advisory Council meeting on February 18!



CUNICO

Call (270) 765-6153 for details.

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

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247

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

FOR EMERGENCIES — (270) 765-6153

Website: www.nolinrecc.com
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