



Editor, Sarah Fellows, CCC

Featured above: Apprentice Line Technician Josh Sherrard, 1 year of service

## Reflecting on an eventful (and successful) year

As we close out another year, I find the holiday season is a good time to reflect on what has been achieved throughout the year, consider what is still left to do and begin conceiving the next wave of tasks that lie ahead. Considering those three categories when I assess my life, I hope there are a few noteworthy items in the first area, always find the second group to be way too full and get ahead of myself with new ideas even though I haven't achieved everything I had hoped. I think this is both a blessing and a curse. While it would be nice to feel that I am arriving at a proverbial finish line from time to time, operating in this manner assures that progress never stops. It means new tasks are always being addressed and that the job is never over. This is the way I prefer things to be.

The same holds true here at Nolin RECC. Let me take you through our year in review:

- Our cooperative finds itself in a very solid financial position. Cost control measures and prudent use of resources by our workforce have left us with a favorable circumstance despite inflationary pressures, low interest rates on investments and drastically increased pricing for much of the hardware and equipment needed for us to perform our duties. We are doing everything in our

power now to make some responsible decisions to extend our state of solvency into the future.

- We began operation of our subsidiary, Wide Open Utility Service, this past spring. Now employing more than 20 people, this organization supports Nolin RECC efforts with respect to vegetation management, fleet maintenance, underground line location and custodial services. This is a direct value-add for our members because of the increased cost control and quality of service it affords us. This program is going well, but we can still use more help. Some jobs are presently open, primarily in vegetation management. Anyone who is ambitious, reliable, loves physical labor and being outdoors is welcome to apply. Through Wide Open, we can offer private tree work service and select auto maintenance services to the public as well. More information about how we may be able to help you is available by giving us a call, or on our website, [www.wideopenutilityservice.com](http://www.wideopenutilityservice.com).
- Nolin sent 47 line techs plus mechanics on four different storm restoration efforts. This totaled over 7,900 employee hours of mutual aid support for our fellow cooperatives.
- Nolin employees and members donated more than \$1,000 worth

of household products to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

- Our employees have taken on an increased effort toward environmental preservation. We have now kept over 9.5 tons of cardboard, 1.25 tons of plastic, 2.5 tons of paper, over a ton of batteries and lightbulbs, and nearly a ton of glass out of local landfills through our own recycling efforts.
- Our capital credit distributions this year will give us a three-year total of over \$8 million. While this is a very strong and ambitious rate of retirement, we feel a duty to make the most responsible use of member capital. When as a result there is surplus and no immediate or strategic need to retain, the responsible thing to do is return it to those who contributed it. We hope to continue this trend in the future.
- We have worked on numerous construction workplan projects to expand our infrastructure and upgrade our physical plant that is at its capacity limits or



Greg Lee  
President & CEO

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reaching the end of its service life. Nolin had the best service reliability of controllable outages of all cooperatives in the state in both 2019 and 2020. We hope to continue that level of success in the future. To expedite some construction efforts, we have hired a contractor, M&M Electrical, to help us keep pace with our need to upgrade our system. We find ourselves in the very fortunate (but very challenging) position that construction activity for new homes, businesses and road projects is occupying a vast majority of our lineworkers' time. This work is timely and most often must take precedent, so we must remain very diligent to keep long-range projects on schedule.

As the new year begins, we will try to capitalize on the opportunities we are given and build on the progress made in 2021. Wishing all of you a happy holiday season.

# Cooperative principle: Education

Supporting our local schools not only invests in students today, but also in leaders for tomorrow. In addition to our yearly scholarship program for graduating students, Nolin makes a donation to each area high school. This fall, we delivered \$750 checks for the schools to use to serve the needs of their students.



Nolin General Foreman–Vegetation Management J.J. Brown talks with students at LaRue County High School about career opportunities with Nolin's subsidiary Wide Open Utility Service. Photo: Sarah Fellows

Top, Central Hardin High School Assistant Principal Tessa Dumbacher; middle, from left, Elizabethtown High School Principal Thad Elmore and John Hardin High School Principal Mark Wells; bottom, from left, LaRue County High School Principal Travis Gay and North Hardin High School Principal Jeff Maysey. Not pictured, Fort Knox Middle High School. Photos: Sarah Fellows



# Space heaters are energy hogs

If you use a space heater in your home, there are two key issues to keep in mind:

1. Using a space heater can cause a significant increase in your monthly bill.
2. Many house fires that occur each winter are caused by improper use of space heaters.

A typical portable electric space heater consumes anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 watts per hour. Some people run space heaters during day and night hours. By the time your bill arrives, the hourly costs add up.

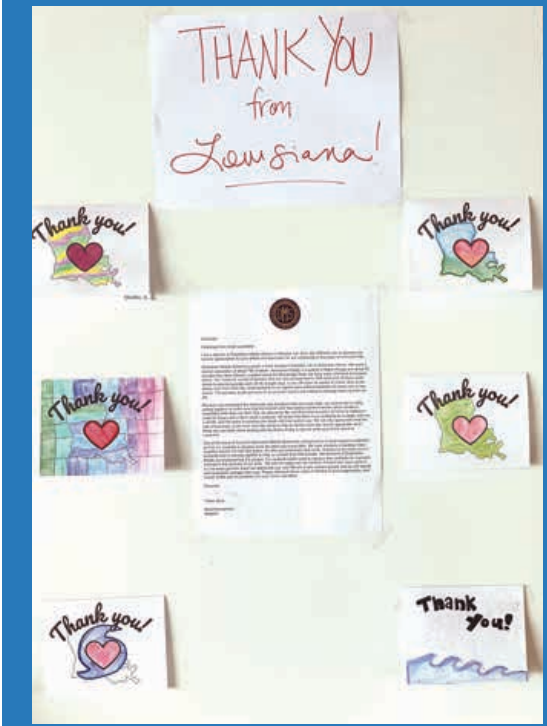
For example, a 1,000-watt space heater operating 12 hours per day could add around \$29 to your monthly electric bill. If you use a 1,500-watt space heater for the same amount of time, your bill could jump by more than \$43 each month.

In addition to cost concerns, it is important to make sure the unit is equipped with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards to keep your family safe.

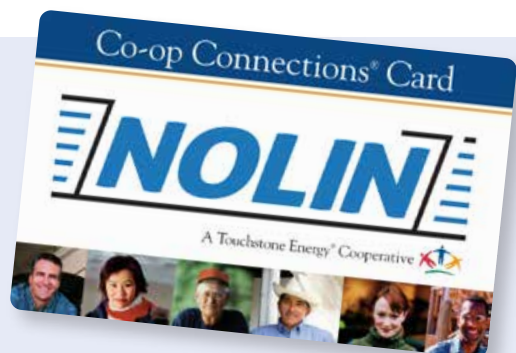
Finally, never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off or unplug the unit before leaving the room or going to bed.

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After Nolin line techs spent weeks helping to restore power in Louisiana following Hurricane Ida, we received some sweet notes from Dutchtown Middle School students in Geismar, Louisiana. We love getting to hear from those who benefit from our employees' hard work! Photo: Sarah Fellows



# Shop local and save this holiday season

Co-op Connections is a great way to save money and support your neighbors. Nolin members can get a free Co-op Connections account and start saving money when you log on at Connections.coop.

# Operation Round-Up grant recipient spotlight: Shepherd's Pie Food Pantry

Among 2021 Operation Round-Up grant recipients is Shepherd's Pie Food Pantry in Magnolia. Their mission is to strengthen the community by supporting needy families. The pantry began in 2009 after Bill and Fran Dowell noticed the need of area families as they worked their mail routes at the Magnolia Post Office. It has grown into a multivolunteer organization that serves LaRue and Hart counties with a weekly supplemental food distribution.

This summer, Operation Round-Up funds purchased fresh milk for 1,838 families served by the pantry over the course of two months. Fresh milk is something that can be very hard to come by for struggling families and it was gratefully received. The addition of this nutritious food supplement was made possible by the generous members of Nolin RECC who participate in Operation Round-Up.

For more information or to participate in Operation Round-Up, give Nolin a call at (270) 765-6153.



Shepherd's Pie Food Pantry volunteers stand in front of a truck with food to be distributed. Shown are Gil Myers, Pete Clark, Patty Clark, Linda McDaniel, Louise Pottinger, Nancy Heath, Rose Cottrell, Karen Peace, Debra Riggs, Randall Perkins, Patty Holbert, Markie Sparks, David Jackson, Eddie Bowen, Joe Bunch, Linda Bowen, Susie Skaggs, Gary Sparks, Sharon Ward and Kelly Flanders. Photo: Dalton Nunn

**Our offices and drive-thrus will be closed December 23 and 24 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and December 31 for the New Year's holiday.**

CANDY/ISTOCK/ADOBESTOCK

**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](http://www.nolinrecc.com)  
email: [comments@nolinrecc.com](mailto:comments@nolinrecc.com)

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