

## Challenge and success in 2023

As another year winds down, we approach the holidays with a sense of gratitude and an appreciation for the successes—and challenges—that 2023 has brought. We have done many things well. Some events of this year have been learning opportunities from which we can improve and grow. Here are some highlights from 2023:

- The financial solvency of our cooperative is good. Nolin has felt the pressures of inflation like every other individual and business. The cost of goods and services we utilize have increased. There has also been a significant rise in the cost of raw fuel, which has increased what we pay for the electricity we distribute to you. This has resulted in lower operating margins than we have had the last few years.
- While our operating margins are not as robust as we would like, we are fortunate that our non-operating revenue sources, such as our activities at Fort Knox and subsidiary activities like private tree trimming and automotive work, have kept us in a strong cash flow position. Our financial wellbeing has also been aided by the responsible stewardship of our employees keeping our controllable expenses as low as possible.
- Nolin's subsidiary, Wide Open Utility Service, continues as an essential contributor to the overall integrity of our system. Clearing dead and overgrown vegetation from rights-of-way is one of the biggest challenges and expenses for an electric utility. As part of a long-range plan for improved vegetation

management, Nolin implemented a systemic herbicidal treatment program this spring. We also contracted with Townsend Tree Service this year to help in our efforts.

- Nolin sent 18 linemen on six different storm restoration efforts. This mutual aid supported our fellow cooperatives around the region.
- Nolin employees and members donated more than \$1,000 worth of household products to Ronald McDonald House Charities.
- Our capital credit distributions this year of just over \$2.7 million will give us a five-year total of over \$20.1 million.
- We have had a solid reliability year, even considering several significant weather events that impacted our system. We prepare in every way we can for these kinds of events, but sometimes we are simply at the mercy of Mother Nature. The windstorm in March resulted in more than 17,000 members without power due to widespread damage to our infrastructure, including 30 broken poles. The diligent efforts of our employees and several mutual aid crews made restoration times as short as possible.
- As is evident in the many building projects going on in the area, the economic growth in our communities continues. In T.J. Patterson Industrial Park, there are three projects presently under construction that, when completed, will be among the five biggest loads served by Nolin. Two South Korean company plants, Lotte Aluminum

and Advanced Nano Products Co., manufacture products in the supply chain for electric vehicles. The other, Whiskey House of Kentucky, is the largest custom whiskey manufacturing facility in the United States.

- Last but not least, our corporate softball team placed second in this fall's co-ed league at the Elizabethtown Sports Park. Our 7-3 record was a testament to our perseverance, as we worked most of the season to improve our cohesiveness and, for several of us, reclaim acceptable physical conditioning. Most of all, I am proud that we had employees from nearly every department—and board members—participate on the team. Congratulations to the LaRue County Lightning team that pummeled us in the championship game.

May God bless each of you—and your family—this holiday season. As I try to use this time of year to intentionally focus on the many blessings and gifts I have been given, I hope you are able to find peace and joy as we prepare for a new year. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.



by Greg Lee

From the  
President/CEO

# Cooperative principle: Education

## Operation Round-Up's Be a Light Teacher Grants

Operation Round-Up awarded thirty \$200 grants to teachers in Hardin and LaRue counties for the 2023-24 school year. The Be a Light grants are a way to honor and thank local educators for the impact they make in our communities every day.

Winners were selected through a random drawing from all eligible entries received and included 10 kindergarten-fifth

grade teachers, 10 sixth-eighth grade teachers and 10 ninth-12th grade teachers.

Operation Round-Up funds come from the generosity of Nolin RECC members who voluntarily sign up to round up their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. To learn more about Operation Round-Up, visit [www.nolinrecc.com](http://www.nolinrecc.com).

Photos: Sarah Fellows



Shannon Sheroan, Creekside Elementary



Bryleah Garvin, Heartland Elementary



Jenna Colson, Heartland Elementary



Kristen Hand, New Highland Elementary



Marcie Kazorovich, Radcliff Elementary



Vicki Pitcher, Radcliff Elementary



Kristen Richardson, Woodland Elementary



Kekera Ruff, Bluegrass Middle School



Baylee Sims, Bluegrass Middle School



Heidi Blankenship, East Hardin Middle School



Ellen Douglas, East Hardin Middle School



Sylvia Stuckey, James. T Alton Middle School



Anna Benningfield, West Hardin Middle School



Vicky Quiggins, West Hardin Middle School



Emily Riggs, West Hardin Middle School



Jacqueline Brangers, West Hardin Middle School



Amy Pritt, Central Hardin High School



Tonya Gray, Central Hardin High School



Sarah Dakin, Central Hardin High School



Sherry Johnson, Central Hardin High School



Eric Lynch, Central Hardin High School



Megan Williams, Central Hardin High School



Carissa Argueta, Central Hardin High School



Bobbi-Lynn Thompson, North Hardin High School



Crystal Brown, North Hardin High School



Tim Gross, LaRue County Middle School.  
Photo: Michelle Rogers



Ashley Carter, LaRue County High School  
Photo: Michelle Rogers



Jennifer White, Morningside Elementary



Sara Burke, St. James Catholic School

Not pictured: Jennifer Williams, Hodgenville Elementary

# Rodeo

Photos: Sarah Fellows

Congratulations to all the Nolin RECC linemen who competed in the 2023 Kentucky Lineman's Rodeo in September.

Josh Hess had a second place finish overall in the senior division and placed in these individual events:

- 1st place—Mystery 2 transformer arrestor change
- 2nd place—Individual capacitor de-energize/isolate
- 3rd place—Hurt man and Mystery 1 Individual skills climb

Nolin competitors were:

## Individual

Josh Hess, Anthony Huff, Brandon Hurd and Bryson Puyear

## Teams

Josh Sanders, Anthony Huff and Jarred Gardner  
Daniel Disselkamp, Ryan Ray and Tyler Hornback  
Shad Ray, Tucker Shelton and Brandon Hurd



## Washington Youth Tour and scholarship applications available now!

One of the core principles of cooperatives is education, that's why youth programs have been a part of Nolin from the early days. Washington Youth Tour is a chance for five high school juniors to experience our nation's capital and learn about leadership, government and the role citizens take in our democracy. Our scholarships award seniors either \$1,500 or \$2,500 toward

college or career training.

Applications are open NOW for both Washington Youth Tour and our scholarship program. Find details and applications at [www.nolinrecc.com](http://www.nolinrecc.com).

2023 Washington Youth Tour students Brock Gross, Carly Gregory, Blakyn James, Sophia Stover and Shelby Burris pose in front of the Washington Monument. Photo: Tim Webb





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## How to reach Nolin RECC

### ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road | Elizabethtown, KY 42701  
8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon-Fri | (270) 765-6153

### RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd.  
Radcliff, KY 40160  
8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon-Fri

### TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS

1-888-637-4247

### PAY DIRECT BY PHONE TOLL FREE

1-855-938-3651

### FOR EMERGENCIES

(270) 765-6153

[www.NolinRECC.com](http://www.NolinRECC.com)

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Download our SmartHub App



## MAC meeting

Member Advisory Council members gathered in October at the Hardin County Extension Office for a meal and an update on co-op business. Nolin's board of directors, president & CEO, executive staff and others were on hand to talk with members about current issues impacting the co-op as well as economic development in the region. Guest speaker John Hargrove, co-founder, president and COO of Whiskey House of Kentucky, gave an update on his new business in Nolin service territory. Members also heard from Washington Youth Tour student Sophia Stover.



Guest speaker John Hargrove. Photo: Sarah Fellows

Anyone interested in being more involved in their co-op can apply to be on the Member Advisory Council by calling (270) 765-6153.



## Office closure

Our offices will be closed December 25 and 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday. We will also close for the New Year's holiday on January 1.



L.J. BROWN

## Right-of-way work schedule

In an effort to keep our members informed, we are providing information about where our right-of-way crews plan to work each month. This information is subject to change.

December 2023:

Wide Open Utility Service—Vertrees Substation, Hardinsburg Road, Newman Lane, Stiles Lane, Horn Road and Tower Hill Road  
Contract crews—Radcliff Substation, Red Hill Road, Hill Street and Lincoln Trail.

Free wood chips are available, call (270) 765-6153, ext. 2714 for details.

Watch for a SmartHub update in January! This will change the look of the desktop version and the "pay now" portal.

