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November 2010

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

If your home is more than 10 years old, it likely needs more insulation. How much depends on a variety of factors, most importantly where you live.

Check out [simplyinsulate.com](http://simplyinsulate.com) to find out more.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

### Congratulations

Sandra McFarlands of Gore is our online survey winner!

Timothy Talley of Roland and Sam Philpott of Vian are this year's Annual Meeting survey winners!

### Office Closing

CHEC's offices will be closed on Nov. 25th & 26th in observance of Thanksgiving.

## Cookson Hills' 62nd Annual Meeting a Success

### ■ *Live Music, Prizes and Electric Credits Pull in Crowd.*

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 62nd Annual Meeting was well attended this year with 1,279 members registered, up slightly more than last year. It is estimated that approximately 3,000 registered members and their guests attended the meeting.

Registration for the meeting was held in front of the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Each registered member received an energy efficiency bag and a \$20 electric credit. Everyone in attendance enjoyed music by the Ritters Family Band before the meeting came to order.

After the business meeting, Kendall Beck, Cookson Hills General Manager, gave the members a financial update for the cooperative. Beck stated that there was no forecasted rate increase for 2011, unless some unexpected catastrophe happened, of which we have no control.

Beck also spoke about the legislation for a climate change bill which may eventually lead to a rise in electricity rates with new regulations.



Members pose for the camera during 62nd Annual Meeting. Photos by: Larry Mattes

Beck encouraged members to get on board with the Our Energy, Our Future Campaign and urge their elected officials to find a fair, workable solution to climate change legislation. Members must ensure that when their elected officials vote on a bill, it is done with America's best interests in mind.

Visit [www.ourenegy.coop](http://www.ourenegy.coop) to read more on this debate and send a message to Capitol Hill.



Annual Meeting prize drawings.



CHEC employees hand out energy efficiency bags.



[www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com)  
**ONLINE**

More Annual Meeting photos available on our web site.

**Hot Watts**  
is published monthly by  
**Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
*Hot Watts* informs members in parts of  
seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about  
Cookson Hills' programs and issues.  
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative  
continually strives to provide quality  
electrical service at a reasonable cost  
for its members.

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**Cookson Hills Board of Directors**

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Joe Ogle ..... Director / District 6

Bill V. Wilkinson - Attorney

Larry Mattes - Editor

Cookson Hills welcomes members to  
submit photos, and articles which will  
be subject to Cookson Hills editing.  
Any submissions must be received  
before the 12th of the month prior to  
the publication date.

**If You Find Your  
Account Number Hidden  
in This Issue of the *Hot Watts*  
You'll Receive a \$25 Credit  
on Your Electric Bill**

# Annual Meeting Highlights



## Easy Online Bill Payments!

Log on to pay your bill, review your  
account history, check your electricity  
usage, and more. Visit [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com),  
and click on "Pay Your Bill."



# Kitchen Tips for an Energy-Wise Thanksgiving

The turkey is traditionally stuffed early in the morning and roasted for hours. Since it is a long, slow cook, there is no need to preheat your oven, even when the recipe suggests it. In fact, unless you are baking breads or pastries, you may not need to preheat the oven at all.

Do not open the oven door to take a peek at what's cooking inside. Instead, turn on the oven light and check the cooking status through the oven window. Opening the oven door lowers the temperature inside by as much as 25 degrees, which increases cooking time and wastes energy.

As long as your oven is on, cook several items at the same time. Just make sure you leave enough room for the heat to circulate around each casserole and pie plate.

In an electric oven, you can turn the heat off several minutes before your food is fully cooked. As long as the oven door remains closed, enough heat will be stored inside to finish cooking your meal. The same principle applies to your electric range-top, the metal heating elements stay hot even after the electricity is turned off.

If you use glass or ceramic pans, you can turn your oven temperature down 25 degrees, and foods will cook just as quickly.

When cooking on top of your range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. More heat will get to the pan and less will be lost to the surrounding air. Believe it or not, a six-inch pan on an eight-inch burner will waste more than 40 percent of the energy.

Do not overlook the other cooking appliances at Thanksgiving. Fast and efficient microwave ovens use around 50 percent less energy than conventional ovens, and they do not heat up your kitchen. Consider using them to bake yams, steam your favorite fresh vegetables, or heat up leftover turkey and gravy for a midnight snack. They are especially efficient for smaller portions or items, but when it comes to the turkey or large items, your oven or stove are usually more efficient.

Remember your small appliances, great energy savers that can save you money all year long. Slow cookers (crock-pots) 12400 are perfect for busy families. On average, they will cook a whole meal for about 17 cents worth of electricity. If you're baking or broiling small food items, a toaster oven is ideal because they use one-third the energy of a bigger oven.



*Cookson Hills Stigler Employees*



*Cookson Hills Sallisaw Employees*

# Thank You CHEC Members

Directors and employees at Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative want to see the communities we serve succeed. Why? The answer is simple: we live here too.

Local people working for local good. That is the essence of the Seventh Cooperative Principle, "Concern for Community," one of seven guidelines that governs our electric cooperative's operations.

First and foremost, CHEC strengthens our communities by doing what we do best, providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity at an affordable cost. Our members are not just customers, they are the reason we exist and taking care of them is what we do! We would like to thank you, our members, for attending this year's Annual Meeting.

It is members, like you, that make our local community great places to work and live.

# Congratulations to our 2010 Annual Meeting PRIZE WINNERS

**CHILDREN – AGES 5 – 12**

Bethany Jones  
Gabrielle Cude

**CHILDREN – AGES 13 – 16**

Allison Riddle  
Brittani Breshears

**ADULTS**

James Oder  
Kenneth Sinyard  
Paul Sheridan  
Ralph McLendon  
Linda Stanger  
Quahlahta Charcoal  
Charles Brooks  
Marvin Rushing  
Kayle Griffin  
Karen Harmon  
Terry LeFlore  
Sandra Johnson  
Pam Chappell  
Carol Hale  
James Hinkle  
Patricia Huffmaster  
Patricia Livesay  
Raymond Davis  
Kenneth Murphy  
Sherry Gilmore  
Tammy Toney  
Larry Lane Jr.  
Ted Webster

**GRAND PRIZES WINNERS**

**CHILDREN – AGES 5-12**

Chandler Dimick

**CHILDREN – AGES 13-16**

Aaron Nottke

**ADULTS**

Jimmie Cheater  
Hazel Shackelford  
Timothy Mahan

*Thank you for attending the  
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative  
Annual Meeting!*

# Autumn Electrical Safety

With the arrival of autumn the days become shorter and we begin to spend more time indoors. This is a great time to perform a home electrical safety inspection.

- Make sure smoke alarms are in good working order and are installed on every floor outside sleeping areas.

- Look for signs of electrical problems such as dimming of lights, frequent circuit breaker trips or blown fuses.

- Limit the use of extension cords and do not overload them. Inspect them regularly, looking for damaged or cracked insulation and dispose of any damaged cords.

- Make sure light bulbs are the rated wattage for the fixture; higher wattage bulbs can damage the wires in the fixture and may cause a fire. Better yet, replace those old incandescent bulbs with today's compact fluorescent light bulbs.

- Make sure space heaters are in good condition and certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Also check that power cords are not frayed, cracked or cut.



- Check to see if electric blankets are in good condition and certified by an independent testing lab like UL. Do not tuck your electric blanket under the mattress and do not put anything on top of the blanket. Do not allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.

## The Hot Watts Q&A

**Question:** What do I have to do to set up service with Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative?

**Answer:** A regular service connect requires a \$25 service fee and a deposit (estimated two month average usage at location). The service fee will be waived if you choose to sign up for automatic bank draft or automatic credit /debit card draft, and you remain on the program for at least six months. The deposit will be waived if you can acquire a good letter of credit from your present electric company. You will need an application for service. You can come by one of our offices and pick one up or we can fax or mail one to you. Applications and forms can also be submitted through our web site at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com).

If we are setting a pole we will need a right-of-way easement from all the property owners that we will be crossing. This easement will need to be signed before a notary and filed at the county clerk's office in the courthouse. You will need to bring in your main disconnect or breaker box to go below the meter. If you have any questions about setting up new service please contact one of our customer service representatives at our Stigler or Sallisaw office.

### *Annual Meeting Contributors*

Gordon Construction Company, Inc.  
Huxford Pole & Timber Company  
C.H. Guernsey & Company  
National Information Solutions Cooperative  
KAMO Power  
Northwest Transformer Company  
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.  
Stuart Irby Co., Inc.  
Progressive Solutions  
Lois Johnson (In Memory of Steve Johnson)  
Northeast Rural Utility Services  
Sallisaw High School