

August 2014

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## Inside

RoundUp.....2

Youth Tour.....3

Mountain Air.....3



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency

#### Tip of the Month

During summer months, our homes can be extremely hot, making living conditions uncomfortable. Before you fire up your air conditioner, try cooling off with a ceiling fan first. Using ceiling fans can actually allow you to raise your thermostat setting by 4 degrees and still feel just as comfortable.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations!

#### Bradley Nash

is our online survey winner.



## District Meetings in August

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CHEC) will hold district meetings in August for the members who live in Districts #5 and #7.

Kenneth Kelley, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board, currently serves as the trustee representing District #5, and Ronnie Pevehouse serves as the trustee representing District #7.

CHEC holds district meetings in order for you to elect your representatives to the Cookson Hills Board of Trustees. These local meetings are essential to CHEC. Attending these meetings gives you as a cooperative member the opportunity to choose who will represent you on your cooperative Board of Trustees.

The seven-member Board of Trustees governs CHEC, which divides

its service area into seven districts with one trustee representing each district for a three-year term. The Board establishes policies and monitors cooperative finances and procedures. They have set the following dates and times for the 2014 district meetings: District #5 will be held at 5:30 p.m. on August 14, 2014, at the CHEC headquarters in Stigler in Haskell County; District #7 will be held at 4:00 p.m. on August 14, 2014, at the Webbers Falls Schools' cafeteria in Webbers Falls in Muskogee County.

CHEC will send notices to cooperative members in each of these districts. **Please be sure to read your district meeting notification carefully.** If you have questions about the district meetings, please feel free to call 800-328-2368.



Kenneth "Chick" Kelley  
Secretary-Treasurer



Ronnie Pevehouse

### District Meeting Dates:

District 5..... August 14, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. at Cookson Hills headquarters in Stigler, OK.

District 7..... August 14, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. at Webbers Falls Schools' cafeteria in Webbers Falls, OK.

## 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 Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

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

## CHEC Foundation Gives Back to the Community

As a member of CHEC you have a chance to help those less fortunate than yourself. Operation Round Up is a program developed to help the members of our



community. Members of CHEC have the option to voluntarily "round up" their electric bill to the nearest dollar. Those few cents go into a trust, completely separate from CHEC funds. Applications from organizations or individuals are considered by the seven-member board of directors of the Cookson Hills Electric Foundation, Inc. each quarter. The Cookson



Hills Electric Foundation grants assist organizations and people in the communities that we live.

The Foundation board met on June 10, 2014. At that meeting, the board dispersed funds to assist an organization distributing "back to school" supplies for needy children. They also assisted an organization that screens the vision of children in area schools. The Foundation also awarded a grant to a rural fire department to assist in the purchase of fire hydrants in their district. The Foundation also assisted a family who had recently lost everything in a house fire.

The next meeting will be held September 9 with applications due by August 15. For more information 2060102 about Operation Round Up or to obtain an application, visit CHEC's website at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) or call 800-328-2368.

## Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Statement of Non-Discrimination

Cookson Hills Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



# Oklahoma Youth Tour to Washington D.C.

Four area students just returned from an unforgettable chance-of-a-lifetime trip that has forever changed their lives.

The Oklahoma Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. was June 13 – 20, 2014. Representing CHEC this year were: Payton Marr, Muldrow High School, son of Ronnie and Renee Marr; Mason Hamby, Gans High School, son of Sean and Melanie Hamby; D.J. Sustaita, Stigler High School, daughter of Lupe and Cassie Sustaita; and Sefton Shrum, Porum High School, son of Keith and Judy Shrum.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is an annual week-long event in June during which almost 1,600 high school juniors from across the United States convene in Washington, D.C. The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and 25 rural electric cooperatives across the state sponsor students from Oklahoma to this event each year.

The purpose of the tour is to provide a multitude of opportunities to outstanding young people, allowing them to:

- better understand the values of rural electrification;
- become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital through visits to monuments, government offices, and cooperative organizations;
- visit elected officials to better understand how the federal government operates; and
- learn leadership and cooperation skills while gaining new friends and acquaintances.

Points of interest this year included: the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean and World War II Memorials; Arlington Cemetery; Ford's Theatre; Library of Congress; Kennedy Center; Newseum; Smithsonian Museums; U.S. Marine Sunset Parade; Mount Vernon; Congressional Summit; Holocaust Museum; the Washington Monument; a tour of the Capitol with Congressman Mullin; and numerous other sites as well. Each of the students came back with a newfound respect and understanding of our great nation, and with the realization of how privileged we are to live in the United States of America.

CHEC sends four students on Youth Tour each year. For more information about this special trip you may visit our website at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) or call Donna Rhodes, Youth Tour Coordinator, at 800-328-2368.



OAEC

***"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."***

**- Quote by Franklin D. Roosevelt**



OAEC

2014 CHEC Youth Tour Delegates left to right: D.J. Sustaita, Mason Hamby, Sefton Shrum and Payton Marr.

## Mountain Air



In 1995, before geothermal systems became commonplace in our area, Richard Hurst was installing geothermal units in homes in Haskell County. Originally called “Quality Heat and Air,” Richard began his heating and air business from his home that year.

“I worked for another contractor for several years, and with his encouragement, I decided to go out on my own. I started basically by myself. My son would help me in the summer and in the evenings, and my dad helped me some as well,” said Richard.

The original business began in a shop near Richard’s home southeast of Keota, which installers continue to use today as a staging area. Many customers from Haskell and LeFlore Counties remain loyal to his company.

But as the customer base grew in Sequoyah County, he opened an office in Roland more than ten years ago. The move to Roland was a strategic decision to centrally locate to accommodate all of their customers.

“When we established the office in Roland, we wanted to make the company more marketable, so we decided to change the name of our company. I read an article about branding and it said use a common name in an uncommon setting. We floated names around from the people who worked here and from friends and family, and just about everybody made a suggestion. Someone came up with ‘Mountain Air,’ and you think of cool, crisp air. An employee came up with the tag that’s on our logo which states, ‘Taking Comfort to a Higher Level’. It seemed to fit together, and ‘Mountain Air Cooling and Heating’ was born.”

Mountain Air Cooling and Heating is a full service residential HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) company offering options in heating and cooling systems to its customers. They employ licensed technicians who routinely undergo training to keep them on the cutting edge of today’s technology.

**Conventional Air to Air Systems:** Conventional heat and air systems, whether it be replacement or new construction, comprise about 40% of the business. They can design and install a new heating and cooling system for your house that can maximize comfort and efficiency. There are some air to air systems with variable speed compressors which constantly change to the demand in the house. A comfort specialist can assist you in choosing the system that best meets the requirements for your home.

**Geothermal Systems (Ground Source Heat Pumps-GSHP):** A GSHP uses the earth as a heat source (in the winter) or a heat sink (in the summer). This design takes advantage of the moderate temperatures in the ground to boost efficiency and reduce the operational costs of heating and cooling systems, GSHP’s are among the most energy efficient technologies for providing HVAC and water heating.

The geothermal department comprises about 30% of the business, and it has been on the increase the last couple of years. People are taking advantage of the federal tax credits in effect

until 2016, manufacturer’s incentives, financing promotions, and rebates from Cookson Hills Electric and other utilities in Oklahoma.

Geothermal installations are generally a two-step process. A comfort specialist goes to the home where his main job is to measure the house, look at the windows, look at insulation, inspect the duct work, and check everything out from top to bottom. Then he provides a heat gain/heat loss load calculation while he is in the home. He can sit down with the customer and usually show them the options that are available to them. In the office he reviews the details to determine the requirements to convert to a geothermal system.

“Geothermal has been a big part of our business. The contractor I worked for did geothermal systems, and that’s where I learned about it. In 1995, I got my International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) certification. Installing high efficiency systems give you more comfort, and geothermal systems give you better comfort than anything you can put in.”

**Service:** Service, repair, and maintenance constitute the remaining 30% of the business. Mountain Air offers a full line of maintenance options for people to choose from. They offer preventative maintenance options and planned service agreements to keep your existing equipment working at optimal performance.

“Our goal is 100% customer satisfaction. We are not just putting in a system; we provide a service to our customers. We can feel good when we install a system in a home and leave knowing the customer is comfortable. That’s what they are looking for, and that’s what we are providing. I didn’t want the business focused on me, but focused on us as a company, and as a team of people that can take care of the needs of our customers, and I think it has made that turn.”

In the last year Mountain Air has shown a substantial growth. They have outgrown their current facility at Roland and will be moving across the highway to a larger location. They currently employ 7 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee. Normal working hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with 24 hour answering service. For more information, visit their website at [mountainaircoolingandheating.com](http://mountainaircoolingandheating.com), or call them at 888-966-3138 or 918-427-4844.

### Mission Statement

*Mountain Air strives to be the most trusted and referred solution-oriented Service Company, providing cutting edge opportunities for efficiency and comfort while providing the utmost care and concern for our customers, employees, and all we do business with.*