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August 2015

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

 Save the Date!

The 67th Annual Meeting will be held on October 3rd. More information will be available in the September newsletter.

Congratulations!

Ahna Baker is our online survey winner.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: energy.gov

District Meetings in August

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CHEC) will hold district meetings in August for the members who live in Districts 2, 4, and 6.

Theron Croisant serves as the trustee representing District 2. William T. Mills, President of the Board, serves as the trustee representing District 4. Joe Ogle serves as the trustee representing District 6.

CHEC holds district meetings in order for you to elect your representatives to the Cookson Hills Electric Board of Trustees. As a cooperative member, these local meetings give you 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. One trustee represents each district for a three-year term. The Board establishes policies and monitors cooperative finances and procedures.

The Board has set the following dates and times for the 2015 district meetings: District 2 will be held at 4:30 p.m. on August 6, 2015, at Vian High School Cafeteria/Auditorium; District 4 will be held at 4:30 p.m. on August 13, 2015, at Keota High School Cafeteria; and District 6 will be held at 5:30 p.m. on August 13, 2015, at Kinta Public Schools Cafeteria.

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

District Meeting Dates:

District 2... August 6, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at Vian High School Cafeteria/Auditorium.

District 4... August 13, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at Keota High School Cafeteria.

District 6... August 13, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at Kinta Public Schools Cafeteria.



Theron Croisant
Trustee - District 2



William T. Mills
President - District 4



Joe Ogle
Trustee - District 6

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William T. Mills, <i>President</i>	District 4
Joe Falleur, <i>Vice President</i>	District 3
Kenneth Kelley, <i>Sec.-Treas.</i>	District 5
Rocky Woods, Sr., <i>Trustee</i>	District 1
Joe Ogle, <i>Trustee</i>	District 6
Ronnie Pevehouse, <i>Trustee</i>	District 7
Theron Croisant, <i>Trustee</i>	District 2

STAFF

Kendall Beck, *General Manager*
Eric Johnson, *Assistant General Manager*
Dalen Garner, *Director of Operations*
Brett Orme, *Director of Engineering*
Juli Orme, *Chief Financial Officer*
Amy Smith, *Manager of Accounting Services*
Kristie Cash, *Manager of Office Services*

Bill V. Wilkinson - *Attorney*

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.

Felicia Williams, *Editor*
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**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 and organizations of our communities.

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. Each quarter, the seven-member board of directors of the Cookson Hills Electric Foundation, Inc., consider applications from organizations or individuals for grants. These grants assist organizations and people in the communities that we

live in.

The Foundation board recently met on June 9, 2015. At the meeting, the board dispersed funds to assist Maple Rural Fire Department for fire fighting equipment, KIBOIS Community Action of Sallisaw for backpacks for the "Back to School Giveaway" in Sallisaw, and Haskell County Coalition for school supplies for the "Back to School Round Up" in Stigler. The Foundation also approved a grant for an individual in need.

The next meeting will be held on September 1, 2015, with applications due by August 15, 2015. For more information about Operation Round Up or to obtain an application, visit CHEC's website at www.cooksonhills.com or call 800-328-2368.



Photo by: Donna Rhoades

Left to right are: Haskell County Coalition Secretary Brandie Risenhoover, Treasurer Linda Love, Back to School Committee Chair Sandie Rutherford, Cookson Hills Foundation President Margaret Johnson presenting grant, and Haskell County Coalition members Donna Carolan and Kay Box.

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, 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.

A change for the better

By Anne Prince

It's the little things

When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. And the savings gained from having your system run more efficiently can be applied to more fun or entertaining pursuits that your family can enjoy together.

The lowdown on dirt

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs.
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement.
- Lowered system efficiency.

Making the switch

Now, that you know the facts, it's time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of

Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types of filters must be replaced, some filters are reusable. And don't forget about the winter months. Your heating system 1027303 needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm (and your loved one feeling snuggly), and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter – which indicates the direction of the airflow – is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've made the change, turn your system back on.

A teachable moment

Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Watt's Cooking?

Twinkie Desert

Submitted by Janice Forrester

- Twinkies
- Bananas
- Strawberries
- Cool Whip
- 1 pkg instant vanilla pudding

Line the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan with Twinkies that have been split in half lengthwise. Cover with a layer of sliced strawberries, then a layer of sliced bananas. Prepare pudding according to directions. Spread over bananas and strawberries. Top with cool whip. Refrigerate.



Tomorrow's Leaders Tour 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 12 – 18, 2015.

Representing CHEC this year were: Kaylee Childers, Muldrow High School, daughter of Lisa and Gary Childers Jr.; Hannah Holt, Gans High School, daughter of Tonya and Trent Holt; Jessica Magie, Central High School, daughter of Chris Magie and Robert Magie; and Shadow McCain, Central High School, daughter of Tara McCain and Greg McCain.



Left to Right: Jessica Magie, Hannah Holt, Kaylee Childers, and Shadow McCain.

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.
- 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; 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 realization of how privileged we are to live in the United States of America.

For more information about this special trip, you may visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com, or call Donna Rhodes, Youth Tour Coordinator, at 800-328-2368.



2015 Oklahoma Youth Tour Students

