

Live Lines

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

July 2011

Mark Your Calendar - Wednesday, August 17, 2011.

That is the day of the 73rd Annual Meeting of the members of Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative. Supper will be served from 5 to 6:30 PM with the business meeting starting at 6:30. A complete notice, including director election information, will be mailed to you next month.

Director Candidates Named

According to the by-laws of Woodbury County REC, "It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to each year appoint a committee on nominations consisting of between five and 11 cooperative members". This committee is one of the most important in the governance of the cooperative way of doing business. It is this committee's responsibility to name the persons who will run for election to the Board of Directors.

The Nominations Committee for 2011 met on June 1st and named eight Woodbury County REC members as candidates for the three director seats which will be vacant in August. Those members nominated for election are: Chris Countryman, David Fry, Millard Hair, Lloyd Parker, Tom Ryan, Bruce Sadler, Calvin Tyer and Charles Widman. A biography of each candidate will be included in the Annual Report being mailed next month.

Please take the time to read each biography and vote for your director choice.



Pictured above are the members of the Nominating Committee. They are: (seated l to r) Kimberly Brouwer and Bill Dreves (standing l to r) Larry Etler, Richard Wagener, Jim Cox and Larry Burnham.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Sometimes the Smallest Appliances Are the Biggest Energy Wasters

Do you have a coffee maker? What about a digital picture frame? Or a set-top cable box?

You might not think of these types of devices as energy hogs but when left on all day and night they quickly add up to a lot of wasted electricity.

For example, set-top boxes like cable or converter boxes typically only draw about 30 watts of energy. But because these boxes are often left on even when your television is turned off, one box over the course of a year can use up to 265 kilowatt-hours, equivalent to the annual energy consumption of a 28-inch CRT television.

Meanwhile, if every home in the U.S. had a digital picture frame displaying around the clock it would take five power plants alone to power them, according to a recent Electric Power Research Institute estimate.

As for coffee makers, they also consume a lot of power. Coffee makers usually run on 900 to 1,200 watts. If you want to save energy and money, refraining from making more coffee than necessary or leaving the warmer on for long periods.

Often the best way to combat these energy wasters is to plug these appliances into a power strip, and switch it off after you are done using them.

The Recipe Corner



Slow-cooked Creamy Italian Chicken

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 1 envelope Italian salad dressing mix
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 10-3/4 ounce can cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1 4-ounce can mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- Hot cooked rice or noodles

Place the chicken in a crockpot. Combine the salad dressing mix and water; pour over chicken. Cover and cook on low for 3 hours. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and soup until blended. Stir in mushrooms. Pour over chicken. Cook one hour longer or until chicken juices run clear. Serve over hot rice or noodles.

E-Bill, On-line Bill Payment A popular payment option

Since it was introduced in February, the on-line bill payment option has become very popular. Right now, 200 accounts are paying their monthly bill on-line thereby saving writing and sending in a check and maybe having it lost in the mail.

In addition to paying their bill on-line, these members are also able to look at past months bills and see graphs of their usage.

If you would also like to sign up for this convenient service, go to the RECs web site at www.woodburyrec.com. In the upper right hand corner of the home page you will see the prompt – E-bill login. Just click on that and you will be brought to the e-bill payment page. First time users will need to enter an email address and set up a password then just follow the instructions.

At the present time, only bank checking or savings accounts, with a bank routing number and account number, may be used for E-bill payment. Debit cards and credit cards can not be accepted.

If you have any questions about the E-bill, on-line bill payment option, call the REC office at 712-873-3125 or 800-469-3125.



Regulatory **RED TAPE** Overload

For every cause, there is an effect. The wind blows; a limb falls. Cause-and-effect relationships exist in the energy industry as well. For example, electric bills will climb if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) moves forward with imposing a series of potentially crippling regulations on power plants.

According to a report from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which oversees the nation's bulk power grid, EPA mandates affecting cooling water intake structures, coal ash disposal, interstate transport of air pollutants, and hazardous air pollutants, including mercury, could force electric utilities to retire or retrofit between 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015—power that will need to be replaced in some way, and during a period of rising construction costs. Another hurdle, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, from power plants presents an even greater challenge.

Stringent regulations in each of these targeted areas could potentially impose tens of billions of dollars of extra compliance costs onto the backs of utilities—and electric bills.

Electric co-ops have been actively urging EPA through comments, testimony, and litigation to consider the negative consequences of higher electric bills in adopting new rules.

Until EPA's various power plant rules are finalized, the bottom line remains unknown—cause and effect uncertain. Planning for the power resources you need – uncertain. The only certainty is that if all of EPA's proposed regulations are put in place, electric costs will rise.

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