

Help Cooperatives Keep Electric Bills Affordable



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER BUDDY BANKHEAD

America's families are facing tough economic times. Many struggle to afford the basics: food, housing and energy. In fact, the cost of residential electricity in the United States climbed an average of 26 percent between 2002 and 2007, and it is projected to go even higher. As if that wasn't bad enough, some predict today's electricity supplies won't be able to keep pace with future demand.

Now, elected officials in Washington, D.C., are poised to make important policy decisions that will determine our nation's energy future. To guide lawmakers in a sound direction, electric cooperatives are making sure that your voice—the voice of the consumer—gets heard during legislative debates.

Through the "Our Energy, Our Future" grassroots awareness campaign, hundreds of thousands of elec-

tric cooperative consumers have sent more than 1.5 million messages to their members of Congress.

Through this outreach, co-ops have shared our insight drawn from decades of offering safe and reliable electricity at affordable rates; service that always makes consumers—not the bottom line—priority one.

If you haven't already done so, please get involved in the campaign by asking your representatives on Capitol Hill one important question: Are you willing to work with electric cooperatives like Rusk County Electric to ensure that our nation has reliable power at a price consumers can afford? The stakes are too high to miss this opportunity to help secure YOUR energy future.

To learn more about how you can begin a dialogue with your elected officials, please visit WWW.ourenergy.coop. Together we can keep electric bills affordable.

Now is the time to act. Come to your Annual Meeting on April 9. We will have cards available for you to send to your elected officials with the message, "We must have affordable power, and cost matters!" I look forward to seeing you there.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Ways To Save on Laundry and Lighting

- Wash clothes in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty loads.
 - Do only full laundry loads.
 - If you must do smaller loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the load size, especially when using hot water.
 - Always use cold-water rinse.
 - Use bath towels at least twice before washing them.
 - Clean your dryer's lint trap before each load.
 - Make sure that the outdoor dryer exhaust door closes when the dryer is off.
 - Make sure the dryer vent hose is not kinked or clogged.
 - Dry consecutive loads to harvest heat remaining in the dryer from the last load.
 - Consider using a "solar-powered" clothes dryer—an old-fashioned clothes line.
 - Replace any lightbulb that burns more than one hour per day with its equivalent compact fluorescent lightbulb.
 - Turn off unnecessary lighting.
 - Replace outdoor lighting with its outdoor-rated equivalent compact fluorescent lightbulb.
 - Use fixtures with electronic ballasts and T-8, 32-watt fluorescent lightbulbs.
 - Use outdoor security lights with a photocell or a motion sensor.
- For more helpful energy-saving hints, visit www.tsesavers.coop.*

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING FOR A '09 HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR!

A drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship will be held at Rusk County Electric Cooperative's 72nd Annual Meeting. A booth will be set up in front of the stage for students to sign up.

Immediate family must have been a customer of RCEC electric service at their permanent residence as of January 1, 2009.

Student must be present at time of drawing to win!



ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE



3 p.m.

- National Anthem
- Exhibits & Food

3:30–5:30 p.m.

- Member Registration

5:30 p.m.

- Members' Business Meeting

7 p.m.

- Drawing for Pickup

- Drawing for Special \$1,000 Scholarship (must be present to win)

NONSTOP ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY



HATTI BRIDGES



BROOZE BROTHERS



CASEY RIVERS



BARRON AND ROQUEMORE RETIRE

Congratulations to **ZEKE BARRON** (left) and **RAYMOND ROQUEMORE** on their recent retirement. Both men began their cooperative careers in 1982. After 27 years, they both retired on February 6. We would like to thank them for their many years of hard work and dedicated service.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

The offices of Rusk County Electric Cooperative will be closed April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

We wish you a peaceful and restful holiday.