



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box B
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620-767-5144
www.flinthillsrec.com

FLINT HILLS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

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Member Services

- ▶ ACH / Bank Draft Program
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144

Join Us for Flint Hills RECA's Annual Meeting on March 3



Meet Macey!

Macey Hensley's presidential knowledge has wowed viewers nationwide on the Ellen DeGeneres Show.

Join us at the meeting to take part in the business of YOUR cooperative.
Dinner Served at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

At the **Herington Community Building** in Herington

Co-op News
Registration Gifts
Prize Drawings
Safety Demonstrations
We hope to see you there!

Notice of New Rate Change

At the November 16 open board meeting, the Flint Hills Board of Trustees voted to accept the rate changes proposed, as published in the November 2015 *Kansas Country Living* magazine. This rate change took effect on January 1, 2016.

Flint Hills Has a New Website Design



Visit our newly redesigned website at www.flinthillsrec.com

Flint Hills RECA has redesigned our website for member's convenience. The new upgraded home page allows improved access to the online bill payment options, contact information options and has added a new alert message bar for important news and information announcements to our members.

We also added a Kids Energy Zone site, which allows children to play energy saving and educational games for a great learning experience.

Please visit the new site and remember to like us on Facebook by searching for Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative.

It's Almost Annual Meeting Time! Mark Your Calendars for Thursday, March 3

Your Annual Meeting will be here before you know it. The 2016 meeting will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at the Herington Community Building located at 810 South Broadway in Herington.

Registration and meal will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Presidential History lesson from our own "junior member" **MACEY HENSLEY** and a safety presentation program, with the business meeting commencing at 7 p.m.

If you haven't already placed a reminder on your calendar or cell phone, now is the time.

The Annual Meeting notice will be mailed with your February 1 energy billing. Please remember to fill out the RSVP card on the back of the notice, and return it to our office with the number of people attending for the meal, or call or email us your RSVP at 620-767-5144. RSVPs must be

March 2016						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

received by February 18, 2016.

Each Flint Hills RECA member will receive a \$10 credit coupon just for attending the meeting. In addition, there will be prize drawings at the end of the business meeting. Remember, you must be present to be eligible for prizes.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, March 3, 2016.

Employees Make Christmas Donations



Flint Hills RECA employees donated more than \$600 to local charities this holiday season.

Flint Hills RECA's employees donated more than \$600 for local charities this year. Half of the donation went to the **MORRIS COUNTY CARE AND SHARE** program to supply food and clothing to needy families this year for the winter months. The **HILLSBORO BANK'S GIVING TREE** program received the other half to help purchase clothes and toys

to fulfill the Christmas wishes of many young children located in the Marion County area.

"It is part of our commitment to the communities we serve," said Diann Diehl, Member Service Manager. "All of Flint Hills RECA's employees were excited and proud to donate again this year."

First Winter Ice Storm Hits the Flint Hills

The Flint Hills RECA's service area was hit by a heavy ice storm that produced power outages for many members in nine counties.

The storm started on Friday, November 27 with heavy rain that quickly turned into heavy ice. By November 28, the power lines and trees were covered in ice and causing major problems.

By Sunday morning, we needed assistance to repair the continuing line damage that the trees and ice had caused. Mutual Aid crews from Caney Valley Electric, Lyon-Coffey Electric, Radiant Electric, Rolling Hills Electric, and Twin Valley Electric came to offer their help with a total of 19 linemen and their trucks ready to go.

On Monday, November 30, we still had 630 meters without power. That afternoon the sun came out, the temperature rose and the ice started to melt fast. When the ice started melting and dropping from the power lines, they started to bounce. This caused problems with lines making contact with each other, which blew fuses, caused arcing, and many lines down. These problems also affected our power supplier, Westar, which caused them to lose power at mul-



A winter storm Nov. 28-29 caused many downed lines and outages for Flint Hills members.

tiple Flint Hills RECA substations.

All of these issues resulted in more outages and by late Monday afternoon we had around 1,665 meters without power. With the help of our surrounding electric cooperatives and our own dedicated linemen, we were able to reconnect all residential meters by late Tuesday night.

Flint Hills RECA would like to, say a big "thank you" to the office staff who answered phones and radios and guided crews to the damaged areas. Not to mention our 15 linemen from the Council Grove and Hillsboro

warehouses, as well as the 19 linemen from the five other cooperatives for their outstanding dedication and tireless determination while working in the freezing rain to make sure Flint Hills RECA members had power.



When the temperatures rose on Monday, Nov. 30, another issue arose. Falling ice caused bouncing lines and left 1,665 members without power.

5 Steps to Sealing Air Leaks

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly half of your home's energy use? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with big energy savings. The updates may cost between \$5 and \$30, but they will result in energy savings of approximately 5 to 10 percent.

For the project, you will need the following materials: **caulk, caulking gun, knife or tool to cut, rags, and water.**

1 Prep – Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk. Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

2 Load – You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun. Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

3 Apply – To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought. Hold the caulking gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material. Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.

4 Release – Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.

5 Clean – Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.

Attention High School Sophomores & Juniors Win a FREE Leadership Experience!

The Flint Hills RECA is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips to Steamboat Springs, CO, on July 16-22, 2016. This trip is part of a four-state Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, sponsored by rural electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming.

Contest winners will learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy problems and interpersonal communications. The contest is open to all current high school sophomores and juniors in Flint Hills RECA's service area, whose parents or guardians are members of Flint Hills RECA. Contest entrants will be interviewed and required to take a brief written test covering material that will be made available to each contestant.

If you are a high school sophomore or junior and are interested in this trip, complete the application below and return by February 8, 2016, to: Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Diann Diehl, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846. Once we receive this form, materials will be sent to you for the interview process.



Above: Elizabeth Meyer (left) and Colton Potts enjoy the view of Elk River near camp.



Left: Kansas delegates attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp along with students from three other states to develop leadership skills and learn about cooperatives. The 2016 camp will be July 16-22.

Apply for Your Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp Today

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA (Attn: Diann Diehl, diann@flinthillsrec.com, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846) by February 8, 2016.

Name of Applicant _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____

Name of Parents/Guardians _____ Parent's Phone Number _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2016 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Flint Hills RECA.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____