

# Northwestern Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Youth Tour provides once in a lifetime experience *NWEC delegates collect memories in D.C.*

For the past 51 years, groups of Oklahoma high school students have traveled to Washington, D.C., to tour our nation's capital as part of the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This past June, Madison Evans and Morgan Miller joined 67 fellow Oklahoma students for an eventful, fun-filled week in Washington, D.C.

The annual tour began June 12, 2015, with a "Get Acquainted Banquet" in Oklahoma City. The 69 winners, representing 25 of the state's rural electric systems, departed for the nation's capital the next morning.

Once they landed in Baltimore, the delegates began their week-long adventure touring Baltimore's Inner Harbor. After a short bus ride to D.C., they started their whirlwind tour with the Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.

"The most exciting part of the trip for me was getting a private tour of the Capitol building from Congressman Mullin," said Madison. "Other highlights of the trip were The Holocaust Museum, seeing the Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence, and going to the Sunset Parade."

Morgan enjoyed making new friends from all over Oklahoma. "Making new friends, experiencing new things and visiting new places were just a few of the highlights of my trip," said Morgan. "The most



**Madison Evans and Morgan Miller collected lots of memories when they experienced the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C., during the 2015 Youth Tour.**

exciting part for me was getting to tour and see the working political buildings of our nation."

In addition to seeing all the historical monuments and taking photos of the White House during their stay, the Oklahoma winners toured the U.S. Capitol, U.S. Holocaust Museum, Pentagon, Mount Vernon, Ford's Theatre and enjoyed a riverboat cruise on the Potomac River. The group also hosted a Congressional Summit for the Oklahoma Delegation, aides and guests, assisted by Congressman Lucas, Cole and Senator Inhofe and their staff.

Morgan had the opportunity to collect even more memories when she returned to Washington in mid-July as the Oklahoma delegate for the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Judges representing the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives selected Morgan from a field of 13 students competing for the YLC position during the 2015 Youth Tour.

As a YLC member, Morgan will participate in the 2016 NRECA Annual Meeting next spring in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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**NOTICE**

A copy of NWEC Bylaws will be made available for any member upon request.

**Web page: [www.nwecok.coop](http://www.nwecok.coop)  
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**How much does it cost to use that appliance?**

If you knew how much money it would cost you every time you turn on a dishwasher, clothes dryer, ceiling fan or table lamp, would you use it less often?

You can take some control over your energy bills by educating yourself about how much you're spending when you choose to leave an unused computer plugged in, run the dishwasher when it's only half full or walk out of a room without switching off the lights.

Here's a formula for estimating how much your appliances and electronics are costing you to operate:

**Step 1:** Learn the wattage of the device. On most appliances, the wattage is stamped on the bottom or the back, or on its nameplate.

**Step 2:** Do this simple calculation:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours Used Per Day} \div 1000$$

That will reveal its daily kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption.

**Step 3:** Multiply the daily kWh consumption by the number of days you use the appliance during the year. The answer is the appliance's annual consumption. (13878002)

**Step 4:** Learn what your electric utility's rate per kWh consumed is. NWEC's farm and residential rate averages 10 cents per kWh. This does not include the base charge, fuel adjustment or consumer cost adjustment.

**Step 5:** Multiply the annual consumption in kWh per year that you calculated above by NWEC's rate per kWh consumed. That will reveal the annual cost to run the appliance.

Here's an example. Your desktop computer and monitor would cost \$39.40 a year to operate if you use them four hours a day.

$$[(120 \text{ Watts} + 150 \text{ Watts}) \times 4 \text{ hours/day} \times 365 \text{ days/year}] \div 1000 = 394 \text{ kWh}$$

$$394 \text{ kWh} \times 10 \text{ cents per kWh} = \$39.40/\text{year}$$

Can't find the wattage? The chart on page three shows some common ones, as calculated by the Department of Energy.



**The wattage on most appliances is stamped on the bottom or back as shown on this heater.**

**May 2015 Operating Report**

	2014	2015
Revenue - Billing .....	2,974,082	2,419,719
Cost of Power .....	2,046,891	1,513,916
Miles of Lines .....	4,955	4,976
Members Connected .....	11,799	11,905
Density per Mile .....	2.38	2.39
Average Member KWH .....	2,417	1,947
Average Bill .....	252	203
KWH Purchased .....	31,773,354	24,951,203
KWH Sold .....	28,512,443	23,177,470
Income per Mile .....	604	488
Expense per Mile .....	606	496

## Wattage Chart for Common Appliances

- ▶ Coffee maker: 900 - 1,200
- ▶ 40-gallon water heater: 4,500 - 5,500
- ▶ Vacuum cleaner: 1,000 - 1,440
- ▶ Hair dryer: 1,200 - 1,875
- ▶ Clothes dryer: 1,800 - 5,000
- ▶ DVD player: 20 - 25
- ▶ Dishwasher: 1,200 - 2,400
- ▶ Flat-screen TV: 120
- ▶ Ceiling fan: 65 - 175
- ▶ 16 cubic-foot refrigerator: 725
- ▶ Desktop computer and monitor: 270 “awake”
- ▶ Laptop computer: 50



## Woodward County Fair hot dog feed

Thoughts of a county fair bring back memories to many people of fun times—sack races, showing a calf, winning a blue ribbon and the best tasting hot dogs in the world.

Join us this year at the Woodward County Fair on Aug. 29, from noon until 1 p.m., for a free hot dog.

## Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Justin Watson and James Cline for recognizing their account number in last month's newsletter.

We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses and will look similar to this example (XXXXXX).

If you recognize your account number, all you have to do is give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we'll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month's numbers are worth \$25 each. Happy hunting!

## Country cooking

### Ro-tel Chicken Spaghetti

- 4-6 chicken breasts, cooked & chopped**
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup**
- 1 can chicken broth**
- 1 can Ro-tel tomatoes**
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese, cubed**
- 12 ounces spaghetti, cooked & drained**



In a bowl mix together the soup, broth and Ro-tel tomatoes.

In a 13x9 greased casserole dish layer as follows: spaghetti, chicken, soup mix, cheese.

Bake in preheated 350 degree oven until heated through and cheese melts, about 30-45 minutes.

As soon as you remove from the oven stir to mix well, adding salt and pepper to taste.

# Got capital credits? We do!

It pays to be a member/owner of Northwestern Electric Cooperative

**W**hen you sign up for service with Northwestern Electric Cooperative, you become a member/owner. One of the benefits of being a member/owner is capital credits. When Northwestern Electric makes more money than it needs for operating costs, capital improvements and cash reserves, we return that money to you, our member/owners, in the form of capital credits.

Capital credits are allocated annually based on how much you paid to the co-op for electricity during the previous year. There are two ways capital credits are refunded: general retirement (when board approves) and estate retirements (when a member is deceased). The following addresses questions/scenarios we often encounter.

► **What's the difference between allocated and retired capital credits?**

Allocations are made annually based on NWEC's margins (profits) and reflect member equity/ownership. The funds have no cash value until they are retired. When capital credits are retired, a physical check is mailed to the member or credit is given on active electric accounts for the year(s) being retired.

► **How often do members receive capital credits?**

Northwestern Electric's board of directors decide every year whether or not to refund capital credits. When the Cooperative is strong enough, the board directs our staff to refund a portion of past years' capital credits. In March 2015, our board approved a refund of \$996,810 for the years 1994 and 1995.

► **Do I lose my capital credits in the years the board decides NOT to approve a general retirement?**

No. All capital credits are allocated for every year members are served by NWEC and are maintained in individual member accounts until a retirement is approved.

► **What happens to capital credits when a member leaves the cooperative's service area?**

The allocated amount is held in the former member's capital credit account. When the retirement is approved for the year(s) the member received service from NWEC, a check is mailed to the forwarding address we have on file. It is important to leave a valid forwarding address when you move so you can receive your last allocation notice and your general retirement checks years down the road.

► **What happens to the capital credits of a member who dies?**

The capital credits of a deceased member can be approved to pay without waiting for a general retirement. However, these estate payments are not automatic. A representative from the estate must contact our office or visit our website ([www.nwecok.coop](http://www.nwecok.coop) Account Services-Capital Credits) to receive a proper form to complete on behalf of the deceased's estate. Along with the completed form, a certified copy of the death certificate and final decree of a will or a trust is required to complete the application process. These are approved and paid out monthly by our attorney and board of directors.

These legal documents are required because capital credits are considered to be personal property of the member (NOT whoever is paying the bill). They are distributed according to the will/trust provided for the member(s) who's name is on the account.

When a member passes away, we recommend the surviving spouse or family member contact our offices (Buffalo or Woodward) so a name change on the account can accurately end accruals and start the claim process for capital credits. (11021008)

► **Why is it important that my electric service account be in my own name?**

The name on the account is the person to whom the capital credits will be allocated and who will receive refunds in the future—whether they are paying the bill or not.