

Northwestern Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



July 2015

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The power of human connections

Co-ops mark 30 years of volunteering at Special Olympics

Long before Touchstone Energy decided on the motto “the power of human connections,” the employees and directors of Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives knew the true meaning of the phrase and demonstrated it by volunteering at the Special Olympics Summer State Games each May.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the co-op employees, directors, managers, and former Youth Tour students involvement in the games, and once again, the co-ops had one of the largest volunteer groups at the games. Over 100 volunteers from 21 co-ops across the state gathered in Stillwater on May 13-15 to honor and assist the 5,000 athletes who had come to compete in the games.

The athletes, family members, coaches and volunteers gathered in Gallagher Iba Arena on Wednesday night for the opening ceremonies. Co-op volunteers spent the evening manning concession stands and hawking drinks and popcorn inside the arena while others were busy making sure the wheelchair athletes made it to their V.I.P. seating.

After an early morning wake up call, the co-op volunteers were on the track at 7:30 a.m. in their bright green shirts ready for the races to begin. Track and field remained the top spot for the co-op volunteers this year as they assisted in staging the athletes preparing for the races, acted as starters and runners during the races, and were official time keepers. Many more co-op volunteers were on hand to place the racers, hug the winners, console those who didn’t win and



NWEC employees Wendy Zapata (left) and Kaylie Cole (right) volunteered at the Special Olympics Summer Games in May. Brenna Kirkwood (center) competed in the games and won two gold medals and a bronze in the track and field events. Brenna is the daughter of John and Tereasa Kirkwood. John is the director of operations/safety coordinator for NWEC.

help make sure everyone received their awards.

Wendy Zapata and Kaylie Cole served as Northwestern Electric’s representatives at this year’s games. Both Wendy and Kaylie are consumer account reps for NWEC.

This was Wendy’s first time to volunteer at the event. “It was really neat,” she said. “It was fun to see how excited the athletes got when they won a medal. And even if they didn’t win, they were still excited just to be there.”

This was the second time for Kaylie to attend the event. Her first experience with Special Olympics was with her previous employer,

Independent Opportunities. She was there with clients so she didn’t have the opportunity to interact with the athletes. “Being a part of the volunteer group and helping the athletes was fun,” Kaylie said. “It was rewarding to see and share their excitement.”

By the end of the games, volunteers have a lot to take home with them from the event—including a few sunburns, tired feet and sore muscles. These, however, are overshadowed by the joyful hearts, wonderful memories and feelings of contributing to such an outstanding cause. The power of human connections indeed!

**NORTHWESTERN
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Woodward, Oklahoma
Operating In
Beaver, Dewey, Ellis, Harper,
Major, Woods and Woodward
Counties in Oklahoma

**TYSON LITTAU
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1-877-9NOPOWER
877.966.7693**

If no answer call:
John Kirkwood..... 580.866.3245
Bob Appell 580.273.4088

NOTICE

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

**Web page: www.nwecok.coop
E-mail: nwec@nwecok.coop**

NWEC 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 complaint 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.

Free camp for children of NWECC members

Northwestern Electric’s Watts Up Kids Camp is a camp for 1st through 3rd graders which will be held at our main headquarters in Woodward on July 29. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

The camp is free for the children of NWECC members. The three-hour session includes a variety of learning tools, games and activities to help kids learn about electricity, where it comes from and how to be safe around it.

To enroll your child, fill out the form and return it by July 13. For more details, call Jonna at 256.7425 or 800.375.7423. Space is limited (first 30 kids) so enroll today!

Watts Up Kids Camp

Wednesday, July 29

Students Name (Print) _____

Age _____ Grade _____ T-shirt size _____

Parent Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ - _____

Work Phone (____) _____ - _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____

Please mail form to: Jonna Hensley
Northwestern Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 2707, Woodward, OK 73802



Happy Fourth of July

**Northwestern Electric will be closed
on Friday, July 3.**

For emergencies, call 877.966.7693.

April 2015 Operating Report

	2014	2015
Revenue - Billing	2,982,119	2,568,686
Cost of Power	1,883,824	1,589,596
Miles of Lines	4,956	4,974
Members Connected	11,775	11,886
Density per Mile	2.38	2.39
Average Member KWH	2,393	2,157
Average Bill	253	216
KWH Purchased.....	28,492,041	26,213,174
KWH Sold.....	28,173,569	25,634,802
Income per Mile.....	605	519
Expense per Mile	585	526

NWEC celebrates 75 years of cooperative power

This July, the 10th to be exact, marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of Northwestern Electric Cooperative. As we celebrate this milestone, we take time to reflect back on the rich history of the electric cooperative movement and how a small group of determined individuals were able to improve their quality of life and the quality of life for all those who would come after them.

Our founding co-op members believed that we would all prosper by helping each other. And we continue to carry on that tradition today. Like other cooperatives around the world, Northwestern Electric operates according to a core set of principles. By practicing the seventh cooperative principle—concern for community—we work for the sustainable development of our communities.



We understand the decisions we make today could greatly affect how future generations live. Through our grassroots advocacy efforts, we help influence policy decisions that will affect our communities now and for years to come. We are the catalyst for change in our communities. We leverage our collective power to get things done. (18151001)

By working together and partnering with other co-ops, local businesses and community organizers, we can achieve economic development goals. Our joint efforts create better opportunities and increase the quality of life for our families and communities—just as our founding co-op members did.

We help build the next generation of leadership through our Youth Tour program by sending high school students to Washington, D.C. to meet with law makers and get an up-close view of how our government func-

tions. Youth Tour participants leave our nation's capital feeling energized. It inspires them to make a difference in their communities and gives them a new perspective. Youth Tour provides young people from our communities with an opportunity they may otherwise have never known.

All of these things, plus so much more, are what make-up the cooperative difference. This July, as we celebrate our past, we also think about the future of electric cooperatives and how we will continue to shape our country and our society. Our board, staff and employees remember what it took to bring power to the countryside and we let the determination of those who came before us, guide us.

We look forward to another 75 years of providing safe, affordable and reliable electricity and giving back to the communities we serve.



Tyson Littau, CEO

Hidden account number contest

Last month's numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Joe McLain and Jack Redfearn.

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, 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 \$75 each. Happy hunting!

Country cooking

Grape Salad

- 16 oz. sour cream**
- 16 oz. cream cheese**
- 1/3 cup sugar**
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract**
- 4 lbs. green seedless grapes**
- 4 lbs. red seedless grapes**
- 1 quart strawberries**
- 4 cups pecan halves**



In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar together. Add sour cream and vanilla. Fold in all other ingredients making sure to coat evenly. Save a little fruit and pecans for garnishing.

Serves 15-20 people

Make a small change for the better

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 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 you clean or change the filter on your unit 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. Ranging from one to 20, this scale gauges a filter's effectiveness at blocking debris. Low MERV-rated filters offer high airflow into a cooling or heating system, but only catch large

air particles. A higher rating isn't always better—those filters block more dirt but also reduce system airflow. Most experts recommend filters with a MERV 6 or higher.

Manufacturers are not required to post MERV on filter packaging. Brands like 3M's Filtrete instead list levels of microparticle performance rating—higher numbers mean the filter catches more particles. Some stores rank filters by good, better, best, and premium. No matter what system a store or manufacturer uses, better (and more expensive) filters mean higher MERV scores. (13593001)

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 about energy efficiency and how simple changes can make a big difference.

Maintaining Your Air Conditioner

Annual maintenance can help improve your comfort and the efficiency of your air conditioner while prolonging the life of your unit. Hire a certified professional when your unit needs more than basic maintenance.

1

Routinely replace or clean your air filters. This can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent.



2

Check your air conditioner's evaporator coil every year and clean it as necessary.

3

If your coil fins are bent, use a "fin comb" to straighten them.

4

If you have a split system, be sure to clean debris and leaves from the fan, compressor, and condenser.



5

Occasionally pass a stiff wire through your unit's drain channels to prevent clogs.

6

For window air conditioners, inspect the window seals to keep cool air from escaping.

