



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
 P.O. Box 390, Fredonia, KS 66736  
 620-378-2161  
 www.radiantec.coop

# RADIANT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## HI-LITES

### Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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- Tom Ayers**  
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- Benny Stephens**
- Brian Sumner**
- Tracy Tindle**

#### Contact Us

9346 Jewell Rd, P.O. Box 390  
 Fredonia, KS 66736  
 620-378-2161  
 www.radiantec.coop

#### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Rate Study Part 2: Revenue Requirement

Last month, you were informed that the cooperative had engaged the services of a consultant to perform a rate study. The purpose of the rate study is to determine whether the existing rates are sufficient to enable the cooperative to meet its service obligations to the members and its financial obligations to its lenders. There are several phases to the rate study, and this month we will discuss the revenue requirement phase.

The revenue requirement is simply an analysis of the cooperative's existing revenues and expenses as a tool to predict future revenues and expenses. If we could accurately predict the future, this would be an easy process, but fortune-telling is not a recognized science. Instead, the traditional rate process utilizes a "test year." The test year is simply a 12-month period of time that is used

to predict future periods.

Usually the most recent year is selected as a test year for the purposes of conducting a rate study, and that is what the cooperative has done. But as everyone knows, not every year is the same. If unusual events occurred during the year selected to be the test year, those events are "normalized" to more accurately reflect a normal year. Examples of normalizing a test year would be adjusting for unusual weather such as ice storms, prolonged heat waves and drought.

The revenue requirement aspect of the study also examines the plant in service to provide electric service to the members. A determination is made as to what plant will be included in the rate base used to determine rates. Any plant that becomes part of the

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## Local Event Calendar

### CHANUTE

**MARCH 5 – Acoustin Eidolon.** The musical duo of Joe Scott who performs on a GIT JO, a unique custom-designed double neck guitar, and Hannah Alkire, a classically trained and award winning cellist, bring their repertoire to Memorial Auditorium. Their music includes genres such as Celtic, Latin, Folk and Pops. Show time is 7 p.m.

**APRIL 2 – Ring Theory Barbershop Quartet** at Memorial Auditorium. The afternoon presentation will bring familiar music and rich acapella harmony to those attending. Performance begins at 3 p.m.

### COFFEYVILLE

**MARCH 3-4 – Interstate Farm and Home Show.** Located at Coffeyville Community College, Nellis Hall. March 3 hours are from 1 to 7 p.m., March 4 hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### FREDONIA

**MARCH 31 – Biscuits and Gravy** at the Senior Citizen's building located at 629 N. 7th St., from 6:45 a.m. to 9 a.m.

## 2017 Trustee Candidates

The Radiant Electric Nominating Committee has met on two occasions, Jan. 12, and Jan. 26, 2017.

Officers of the committee are Paul Nelsen, Chairman, and Larry Felts, Secretary. Other committee members include Lee Bracken, Sheldon Eisele, William Racy and Tony Signer.

The Committee has nominated the candidates listed below for their respective districts.

### District 2, Position 4

#### ► LARRY FELTS

3405 CR 5600  
Liberty, KS 67351

#### ► SHIRLEY LINE

5564 CR 5600  
Cherryvale, KS 67335

### District 3, Position 6

#### ► MICHAEL SPRINGER

8603 500 Rd  
Neodesha, KS 66757

#### ► DAVID BATZER

11512 K47 Hwy  
Fredonia, KS 66736

### At Large, Position 7

#### ► NICK FRANKENBERY

13475 Newton Rd  
Fredonia, KS 66736

#### ► SHELDON EISELE

9124 Ottawa Rd  
Altoona, KS 66710

Ballots for the Trustee election in each district will be mailed in the second week of March, along with the Annual Report.

Please watch for the Annual Meeting Notice with the ballot and return your voted ballot to the Radiant Electric office by April 3, 2017.

## Radiant Electric Rate Study Part 2 *Continued from page 16-A* ►

cooperative's rate base must be used and useful in providing electric service to our members.

The revenue requirement aspect of the study also looks at the cooperative's rate of return and examines how much patronage capital is contributed by the members and how much debt is taken on by the cooperative.

The study also examines the cooperative's capital credit policy and whether our patronage capital objectives are being met through current rates. The cooperative will examine the cost of the debt it incurs versus the cost of its member's equity used in financing the operation of the cooperative. While most people believe it is always preferable to avoid debt if possible, that concept is not always true given the nature of operating a public utility. Oftentimes, borrowing money for long-term (35-year or more) investments is preferable

than recovering all of the costs of the investment from the members through rates.

Finally, the study will examine how much margin the cooperative should recover in rates. Margin is simply the difference between what the cooperative receives for providing electric service applied against what it costs to provide electric service.

As you know, these margins, if any, are allocated to the members at the end of each year in accordance with the cooperative's not-for-profit member-owned status.

At the conclusion of the revenue requirement aspect of the study, we will know what revenue will need to be collected from the members to fulfill our mission to you to provide sufficient electric service. Next month, we will examine how the decision is made to recover the revenue through the use of a cost-of-service study.

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

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- Mail: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410;
- Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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# Meet Your 2017 Trustee Election Nominees

## District 2, Position 4

**LARRY FELTS** – 3405 CR 4700, Liberty, Kansas 67351. Telephone number 620-485-3236. Larry and his wife, Ruth, reside two miles west of Liberty. They are the parents of three grown children, Kristi Ewing, Kelly Smasal and Tommy Felts. They also have eight grandchildren. Larry is a grain and livestock producer and is a partner with his brother, Richard, in Felts Farms. They primarily raise corn, wheat and soybeans, in addition to owning and managing a cow-calf herd. Larry is a graduate of Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville and graduated from Kansas State University in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and Industry. Larry currently serves on the Liberty United Methodist Church Administrative Board; is Treasurer of the Montgomery County Rural Fire District #1 Fire Fighters Relief Association; is a member of the Montgomery County Local Emergency Planning Committee; and chairs Verdigris Drainage District #3 in Montgomery County. In 2015, he completed four, three-year terms of service on the Board of Radiant Electric Cooperative and served as Secretary-Treasurer. While on the Board, Larry obtained his NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification and the NRECA Board Leadership Certification.

**SHIRLEY LINE** – 5564 CR 5600, Cherryvale, Kansas 67335. Telephone number 620-331-9193. Shirley resides two miles north of Cherryvale. She is the mother of three grown children, JJ. Line, Tiffany Main and Carrie Thomas, and has six grandchildren. She is a graduate of Labette County High School and attended Coffeyville Community College. Shirley retired from Westar Energy after 32 years of service as an electric distribution designer. She has a small cow-calf herd, and enjoys attending sporting events for her grandchildren. Shirley attends St. Francis Xavier Church in Cherryvale.

## District 3, Position 6

**MICHAEL SPRINGER** – 8603 500 Rd, Neodesha, Kansas 66757. Telephone number 620-633-5121. Michael and his wife, Christy, reside seven miles west and two miles north of Neodesha. They are the parents of two children Mason, 11, and Cooper, 8. He is a graduate of Neodesha High School in 1996, and Kansas State University in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Economics. Michael is a farmer raising crops and hogs. He is a managing partner of Springer Family Foods, which is the family's hog operation of 3,200 sows farrow to finish with units located in Montgomery and Wilson counties. Michael is Chairman of the Wilson County Extension Council; serves on the Wilson Medical Center Board of Trustees; and is a member of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Michael and Christy are both active in the Neodesha United Methodist Church, Wilson County Farm Bureau and agriculture advocacy work through the Kansas Pork Association. Michael is currently completing his first three-year term of service on the Board of Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc. He has obtained the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate.

**DAVID BATZER** – 11512 K47 Hwy, Fredonia, Kansas. Telephone number 970-980-3106. David and his wife, Jessica, reside two miles east of Fredonia. They are the parents of three sons, J.P., 6; Zeke, 4; and Malachi, 2. He graduated Beatrice High School, Beatrice, Nebraska, in 1993, and Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in Equine Science and Agriculture and Resource Economics. He is the owner of Twin Mountain Saddlery and is a custom saddle maker, as well as breeding, raising and training Quarter Horses for more than 32 years. He is an avid elk hunter and backcountry outdoorsman. He and his family attend Cornerstone Christian Church in Fredonia.

## At Large, Position 7

**NICK FRANKENBERY** – 13475 Newton Rd, Fredonia, Kansas 66736. Telephone Number 620-332-9766. Nick and his wife, Kira, reside six miles east and two miles north of Fredonia. They are the parents of two children, Kaelyn and Cohen. Nick is a grain and livestock producer. He graduated from Altoona Midway High School and Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness. Nick is a member of the Fredonia United Methodist Church and serves on the church's Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Farm Service Agency's county committee for Wilson and Woodson counties. Nick is currently completing his first three-year term of service on the Board of Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc. He is nearing completion for the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate.

**SHELDON EISELE** – 9124 Ottawa Rd, Altoona, Kansas 66710. Telephone Number 620-205-9745. Sheldon and his wife, Crystal, reside six miles southeast of Fredonia. They are the parents of two children, Noel and Lane. He graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education. In the spring of 2006, he began work as an engineer for TCI Fabrication in Neodesha and Fredonia. In 2015, he left TCI to work full time on his parent's cow-calf operation. Today, he and his wife operate the cow-calf and backgrounding operation in addition to row cropping.

**Return your completed ballot for trustee elections to the Radiant Electric office by April 3, 2017.**



## Radiant Members Volunteer at Big Hill Lake Horse Trails BY MARSHA HAYES

Winding through huge Oaks and climbing tough rock outcroppings, the 17 miles of Big Hill Lake's equestrian trails offer a challenging outdoor experience to those willing to forgo conventional indoor entertainment and opt for the solitude and beauty southeast Kansas has to offer. In addition to the trails, the park offers three equestrian campgrounds to lure riders.

The origin of the trails and the continual enhancement of Big Hill equestrian facilities is due largely to a lively and ongoing partnership between Corps of Engineer personnel and many dedicated volunteers. Radiant Electric members **BILL RACY**, **SUSAN** and **TIM SEARLES**, all of Cherryvale, and **MARSHA** and **DAVID HAYES** of Independence, have been deeply involved for years in keeping the trails clear and bringing improvements like running water and group pavilions to the two major horse camps.

Racy's motivation for volunteering is simple: "I want to give people a place to enjoy their horses. The peace and solitude found on a horse, on a trail, plus the outdoor experience is something everyone should have access to." Racy and the Big Hill Horse Trail Riders, Inc worked with the Corps in 1982 to lay out the trail system. He hosted his first "get acquainted" ride that year and led 102 riders on a tour. He still hosts two open pleasure rides a year, held the first Saturday in June and the last Sunday in October.

Susan Searles agreed with Racy that trail riding offers a peaceful haven from the noise and stress of everyday life. "I love the chance to be alone with my horse," she explained. "I volunteer because I want other people to enjoy



Susan Searles, right, leads Back Country Horsemen volunteers Sonya Whitlock, Scott Bennett, Bill Racy and Kay Stich on a warm winter day to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

the outdoors. I want to make Big Hill as nice as I can."

The Hayes' latest project has been to roll a measuring wheel over every inch of the trails to record accurate mileage and set trail markers every quarter mile. Back Country Horsemen of Kansas, Boy Scout pack #16, and Corps personnel all worked together on the project. The south half of the trail system is completely measured and marked with new trailhead signs and mileage indicators every quarter mile. The north section should be completed this year.

North Horse Camp, located just south of 400 Highway near Dennis offers running potable water (unavailable during hard freeze months), pit toilets, a beautiful new group pavilion with picnic tables, a grill, and two trailheads, one on the East and one of the West side of the lake. Work progresses at North Camp to build 20 pipe horse corrals for overnight campers.

The southern Cherryvale Horse Camp can be found just north of the Corps Office and is accessed off Highway 169 through Cherryvale. It has ample parking, two potable water hydrants (not available during hard freeze months), a pit toilet, a fire ring, and trail access leading north. The trail offers the gentlest terrain for hikers and riders. With volunteer commitment pledges, Big Hill Lake won a 2016 Handshake Award to build a group pavilion in 2017.

A third trailhead access and camp area, Timberhill, lies at the southeast corner of the trail system. Used primarily for day riders, it offers a pit toilet, two picnic tables and access to the trail system. For more information on the opportunities available at Big Hill Lake, email [bighilltrails@valnet.net](mailto:bighilltrails@valnet.net) for more detailed information on equestrian features of the park.



Radiant member David Hayes, left, works with Big Hill staff Jared Goins, Allen Zylstra, and Big Hill Manager Chris Hammerschmidt as they set the first of the new trail head signs.

**MARSHA HAYES** is a Radiant Electric member from rural Independence.