



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 390, Fredonia, KS 66736

620-378-2161

www.radiantec.coop

**RADIANT
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

HI-LITES

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Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rate Study Part 4: Rate Design

The last three months we have examined the different aspects of a rate study being conducted by the cooperative. The revenue requirement aspect of the study examines test year data to project what the cooperative's revenue and expenses will be in the future. The cost-of-service study analyzes how the revenue and expenses identified from the revenue requirement aspect of the study are assigned to the different customer classes. This month, we will examine the rate design aspect of the rate study.

Rate design is the procedure that the board of trustees uses to develop a strategy for recovering the costs to provide electric service to the members. The overall objective of the rate design process is to set fair and equitable rates for each of the customer classes. Previous aspects of the study identified the costs to serve each customer class and what the nature and function of each cost was. These costs were then assigned to the customer class that contributes to the cost. Rate design now seeks to establish rates for service that will recover those costs.

In addition to purely recovering costs through rates, at this stage, the board of trustees will examine other factors such as the competitive position of the cooperative in relationship to other energy suppliers, the equitability of rates paid by different classes, and the affect of rate changes on each of the customer classes. While rate design is an art, the board cannot lose sight of the objective of recovering the cost to provide service in doing so through rates in an equitable fashion. After the rate design aspect of the study, the study will be presented to the board of trustees for review. When the board of trustees has reviewed the study, the board will recommend that notice be provided to the membership of the time and place of the meeting of the board of trustees where the board intends to discuss and vote on any suggested rate changes. This notice will appear in these pages of the magazine, and you will be given an opportunity to attend the meeting, ask questions, or hear the discussion of the proposed changes by the board of trustees. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the co-op office.

Welcome New Members

Reyna Almond, *Buffalo*

Loren Hall, *Buffalo*

Earl Mackenzie Jr., *Buffalo*

David Bierbrodt, *Cherryvale*

Chansi Long, *Cherryvale*

Larry Brott, *Coffeyville*

Dusty Degraw, *Coffeyville*

Sid Haffener, *Coffeyville*

Clayton McElroy, *Fredonia*

Marty Bass, *Frontenac*

Patrick Benfer, *Independence*

Chad Reichenberger,

Independence

Christopher Stockton,

Independence

Stella Wilson, *Independence*

Brader Farms LLC, *Lenexa*

Gary McCain, *Neodesha*

Wesley Mitchell, *Toronto*

Jerry Crews, *Brenham, TX*

BPG Capital LLC, *Frisco, TX*

Local Event Calendar

CHANUTE

MAY 1 TO JUNE 30 – Art Exhibit. See the works for Irene Schomacker and Jim Sollenback at the Chanute Art Gallery and the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum.

MAY 6 – St. Patrick's School 5K Run.

EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY – VFW Bingo. Sundays at 6 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY – American Legion Post 170. Monday Night Feed.

EVERY TUESDAY – Farmers Market. Begins at 4:30 p.m. at Main Street Pavilion.

FREDONIA

MAY 1 TO MAY 19 – Wilson County Area High School and Middle School Art Competition. See the art work of students from 7th grade – 12th from the Altoona, Neodesha and Fredonia school districts. Located at the Fredonia Arts Council Stonehouse Gallery at 320 N. 7th St.

EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY – Farmers Market. Located at the Methodist Church parking lot. Begins at 8 a.m., 402 N 8th St.

MAY 27-29 – Avenue Flags. Fredonia City Cemetery.

JUNE 3 – Wildflower and Nature Tour. Nature walk for all ages, sponsored by the Wilson County Conservation District Auxiliary. Meet at the Old Iron Club meeting building at 10392 Jade Rd., Fredonia (located just east of the Hwy 400 roundabout on KS Hwy 47, then south on Jade Rd.). The meeting place will open at 8:30 a.m. Tours will begin at 9 a.m. There may be a nominal fee to cover expenses. For more information, call Pam Walker, district manager at the Wilson County Conservation District, at 620-378-2866.

INDEPENDENCE

EVERY SATURDAY – Farmers Market. Located at Myrtle St. west of Penn Ave. From 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

YATES CENTER

MAY 27 – Yates Center Days. Sponsored by the Woodson County Chamber of Commerce on Memorial Day weekend. Enjoy live music, vendors, kid games, food vendors, class reunion and a parade.

Shop Local Farmers Markets

It's that time of the year when you start to crave fresh fruit and vegetables. There's no easier work way to find those items than at your local farmers market.

Local gardeners do all the work and then set up a table or sell out the back of their pickup truck. Whatever the case, you can be sure nothing taste sweeter than fresh goods from your local gardener.

Radiant Electric Co-op

The 69th Annual Meeting of Members of Radiant Electric Cooperative was held on Thursday, April 6, at the Radiant Electric warehouse located in the headquarter facility.

Radiant member **RORY HAMILTON** prepared and served around 500 barbecue meals, desserts, and drinks to 201 registered members and guests. All registered members received \$5, a digital desk caddy, and a rain gauge with the Radiant Electric logo as a registration gift.

Board Member Carol Wehmeyer welcomed attendees, and Board President Loren Dickens introduced meeting guest speakers, including Carol Dorr, Executive Secretary for Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), and Mark Barbee, Vice President of Engineering for Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Other guests in attendance included Pam Henderson, District Representative for U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, and former Radiant Electric Board members.

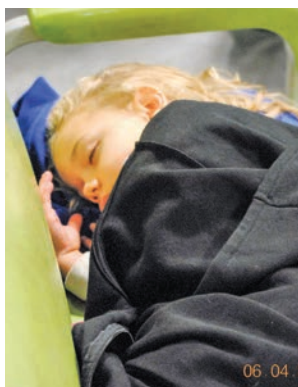
Board members and employees were recognized. Service plaques were presented to **BRIAN SUMNER** for 15 years, **BENNY STEPHENS** for 25 years, and **DENNIS DUFT** for 40 years of service. In addition, Safety Coordinator **JEFF REED** was recognized with KEC's



Megan Gulley and Hannah Newland were present to receive the Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc. Merit Scholarship Award. No Lost Time Accident Award and NRECA's Safety Accreditation Award. Outgoing Board President **LOREN DICKENS** was then presented with a service plaque for 24 years of service on Radiant's Board of Trustees.

In addition to the business meeting, the results of the election for the Radiant Electric Board of Trustees were announced. By majority vote of the mail ballots, the three-year terms were filled by **LARRY FELTS**, who was newly elected to District 2, Position 4; **MICHAEL SPRINGER** re-elected to District 3, Position 6; and **NICK FRANKENBERRY** re-elected to At Large, Position 7.

Scholarship recipients were announced for the 2017-2018 school term. Receiving the Merit Scholarships Awards were **HANNAH NEWLAND**, daughter of Justin and Alicia



Lily Wood, daughter of Derek and Candace Wood of Fredonia, had all the excitement she could handle and slept through half of the meeting.



The "exploding hot dog" featured during the Safety Demo Board demonstration is always popular. Jeff Reed, Safety Coordinator has provided this demonstration to area schools throughout the school year.

2017 Annual Meeting Highlights



Patricia Wambsgans, Cuff Lorentz, Don and Sharon Robertson, and Mike and Pam Lorentz enjoyed catching up.



Trustee Loren Dickens talks with members before the meeting.

Newland, Neodesha; **WILLIAM DEAN YOUNG**, son of Randy and Juli Young, Howard; **MEGAN GULLEY**, daughter of Michael and Natalie Gulley, Thayer; **CARTER ODELL**, son of Darrell and Heather Odell, Fredonia. **KENNEDY NUNNELEY**, daughter of Sam and Chrissy Nunneley, Caney was announced as the recipient of the Radiant Electric Cooperative Tech Scholarship.

Door prizes were drawn before the conclusion of the evening meeting.



Dennis Duft, Operations Manager receives a plaque from Trustee Michael Springer recognizing 40 Years of Service.

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff—*Larry McVey, Line Foreman*



Larry McVey

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT RADIANT ELECTRIC?

29 years

DESCRIBE YOUR JOB.

I supervise the line crew, coordinate daily work and future construction plans, among many other things.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT RADIANT?

Good place to work and good people to work with. Enjoy having time in the field and in the office.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife, Kathy, is a kindergarten teacher at Fredonia, and I have two great kids—Bradley and Amy—who returned to our area after college and live here with their spouses.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I was raised outside of Coyville and raised my family there.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES/INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Farming and cattle ranching take up most of my time outside of work, but I also like boating, water-skiing, and riding four-wheelers.

WHO IS SOMEONE THAT INSPIRES YOU AND WHY?

My parents. They taught me about hard work, love and loyalty.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE TRAVELED TO/ VACATIONED?

Road trips with the kids growing up were always fun—Colorado, Utah, etc. One year, we flew to Hawaii with the kids, my parents, and my sister and her husband—that was a great trip. Kathy and I took a trip to Key Largo to see friends, which was also a favorite.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE LEARNED FROM WORKING AT RADIANT ELECTRIC?

When I started, I worked on the brush crew; so I guess you could say, that I've learned a lot about electricity since then.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVE SEEN CHANGE/ PROGRESS SINCE YOU STARTED WORKING IN THIS FIELD?

The equipment is safer and more efficient; and the technology has changed a lot.

WHAT IS A FAVORITE MEMORY DURING YOUR TIME WORKING AT RADIANT?

I have a lot of great memories with the crew—some I probably shouldn't share; but I enjoyed traveling with the guys to provide mutual aid after storms. We've had a lot of laughs over the years.

WHAT DO YOU WANT OUR MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT RADIANT ELECTRIC?

Our employees really try to take care of our members and give them the best service we can.

Driver Shares Story to Remind Others of the Importance of Safety

“It was one of ‘those wrong place at the wrong time type of deals,’” says Clint Shults. On a snowy morning in April 2016, Clint loaded a school bus with Future Farmers of America (FFA) students from Meeker High School. The group was heading to a competition at Colorado Northwest Community College, about 65 miles away. A heavy, wet snow was accumulating.

Clint, a long-time volunteer for FFA, drove the school bus. The FFA team’s horse judging coach, Silvia Otabachian-Smith, followed the bus in her car. The caravan travelled just seven miles when disaster struck.

Out of the corner of his eye, Clint saw a flash of snow falling off a power line and then heard the sound of a wire coiling. From behind the bus, Silvia witnessed several bursts of fire. The bus had snagged a power line just as it was falling to the ground under the weight of the snow.

“There’s an unmistakable sound, if you’ve ever heard wire unraveling from a roll,” says Clint, “the noise of us dragging the wire across the highway and just through the air...and then the strain of the wire as it became unraveled.” Rather than throwing on the brakes, Clint took his foot off the accelerator and let the bus coast to a stop.

Behind the bus, Silvia’s first thought was to get out of her car and check that the students were unharmed. Luckily, a phone call from a student kept her safe. “They all started yelling at me on the phone,” she explains. “At that point, I knew we were in pretty big trouble.”

Amidst the chaos, Clint and his wife, who was also on the bus, were able to keep the students calm and call 911 to notify dispatchers of the accident. Once Clint was able to assess the situation, his next concern was whether oncoming traffic would be able to stop in time, as the bus signals had been shorted out.

John Purkey, line superintendent from White River Electric Association,



Clint Schults, volunteer bus driver, shares his story to encourage safety education.

and Sherriff Anthony Mazzola soon arrived on the scene. Sheriff Mazzola says, “John Purkey got out first. He needed to secure the scene.” He ensured that the lines were de-energized and untangled from the bus and that the scene was safe before first responders moved in.

White River Electric had regularly provided training to local first responders. “We knew from this training that you don’t approach a scene because there is such a thing as step voltage, that even though the wire is on the ground as you walk into that scene, you could be stepping into different voltage variations and injure yourself,” explains Sheriff Mazzola.

The rescue took less than 20 minutes, and everyone remained safe because of knowing the right steps to take. “Everybody did everything right,” comments Sheriff Mazzola. “The dispatcher told them not to leave the bus. Clint and his wife told everybody not to leave the bus.”

“In my opinion, a very dangerous situation was avoided because the correct steps were taken,” says Silvia. “People were patient. People communicated. Luckily, we had cell phones and help was there almost immediately.”

Afterward, the students and

adult volunteers were able to continue according to schedule. “We were told to get back on the bus, went on to CNCC, and competed,” shares Clint. “Some of the kids got their names called, and it ended up being a good day in spite of what happened that morning.”

Clint and others are working with Safe Electricity to share their story so that others can learn from their experience. Safe Electricity wants you to know the steps to take to stay safe if you are in a vehicle that comes into contact with a downed line or power pole:

1. Stay calm, and stay inside the vehicle.
2. Call 911.
3. Warn others to stay away from the vehicle.
4. Stay seated, and do not exit the vehicle until utility personnel say it is okay to do so.
5. If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or “bunny hop” to safety.

For other chaperones who travel with students and might encounter a downed power line, Clint urges, “Do not tell any young person or any passenger to get off the bus.”

“Electricity is invisible, and there is no way to determine visually if a wire is energized,” explains Frank Sampson, manager of operations at White River Electric. “Never assume that a wire has or doesn’t have electricity in it because you can’t see it. You can only see the effect of it, and it travels at the speed of light. It’s extremely destructive and exceedingly fast.”

After 26 years in law enforcement, Sheriff Mazzola knows firsthand the importance of electrical safety education. “Everybody needs to know what electricity can do, and we all need to be aware of it.”