



## ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **NEWS**

### Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

#### Board of Trustees

**Bob Fredrickson**, Ellsworth  
President – District 1

**Paul Wilson**, Burr Oak  
Vice-President – District 2

**Justin Trost**, Concordia  
Secretary – District 3

**John George**, Lebanon  
Treasurer – District 2

**Eric Andersen**, Jamestown  
Trustee – District 3

**Michelle Brokes**, Wilson  
Trustee – District 1

**Mike Brzon**, Courtland  
Treasurer – District 3

**Corey Dlabal**, Wilson  
Trustee – District 1

**Larry Kendig**, Osborne  
Trustee – District 2

**Tom Marr**, Formoso  
Trustee – District 2

#### Staff

**Douglas Jackson**  
General Manager

#### Contact Us

3075B US Hwy 24  
P.O. Box 339  
Beloit, KS 67420  
785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

#### Like us on Facebook

On Facebook, search for “Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.” and like our page for continued updates, energy efficiency tips, cooperative news and outage updates.



## 17th Annual Meeting Highlights



Shirley Becker, Marie Nelson and Adrien Reed assist at the annual meeting registration table.

Friday, April 5, 2019 was a beautiful evening to attend the 17th Annual Meeting of Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. in the vehicle storage area. Registration recorded 127 members and 107 guests in attendance. Gene's Heartland Foods of Smith Center catered a delicious buffet style dinner.

Last year's Youth Tour recipient, **SIENNA WINGERSON** of Smith Center, and Kansas Cooperative Leadership Camp recipient, **KARA EILERT** of Beloit, each presented her trip experiences and thanked Rolling Hills for providing them the opportunities.

The business meeting convened with business and manager's reports. Board President **BOB FREDRICKSON** introduced the trustees. He then spoke of the ever-changing technological enhancements in the electricity business. Bob reported that the trustees have been working tediously to review

and update policies and the bylaws. The survey that was mailed to a random selection of members in November was well-received and we thank each of you for completing it and your comments.

Manager **DOUG JACKSON** reflected on the Vision, Mission and Core Values and how they guide Rolling Hills in addressing issues now and in the future. Our current metering system has been in use since 2007 and is becoming obsolete. He reported that we will be installing AMI's (advanced metering infrastructure) meters soon. The new metering system will integrate with the mapping program and notify Rolling Hills to better reflect where or possible cause of the blinking or outage. The AMI system will also save the expense of sending trucks out on non-payment disconnects. Doug asked all employees to come to the front to introduce

*Continued on page 16B ▶*

# Prize Winners

**Charbroil Electric Grill**  
**BETTY MAY**

**Vizio TV**  
**DUANE HUITING**

**Ninja Blender**  
**RODNEY ALBERT**

**Leaf Blower**  
**DOYLE SCOTT**

**Tablet**  
**NANCY HENNES**

**\$100 Account Credit**  
**ARLAN BENYSHEK**  
**RICHARD L. VAUPEL**  
**WALTER ADAMS, JR.**  
**MARLENE GRITTMAN**  
**DOUG PAIR**

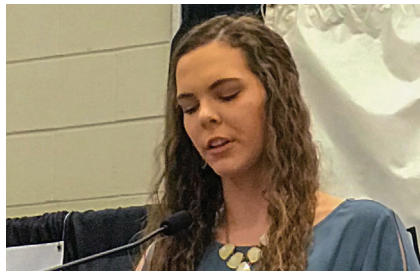
**\$50 Account Credit**  
**ROGER FEDDE**  
**GIB J. HULETT**

**30 oz. Insulated Tumbler**  
**JEFFREY E. MEYER**  
**JAMES L. GARRETSON**  
**ALICE LACOE**  
**MICHAEL V. HUTCHINSON**  
**WILLIAM R. TOBALD**  
**JOHN P. NAEGELE**  
**SANDRA BOYLES**  
**LEON T. ECK**  
**DENNIS GARST**  
**NORMA GIER**  
**JERRY DEAN**  
**JOHN R. ROSS**

# 17th Annual Meeting Highlights *Continued from page 16A*

themselves and how many years they have worked for the cooperative. Jackson next introduced Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer **SUZANNE LANE** of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), Rolling Hills' power supplier, to speak of the electric utility industry. Lane reported that KEPCo is more than 50 percent renewable power and discussed the various types of energy generation.

A short "Safety Around Electricity" demonstration was provided by Rolling Hills Electric's linemen and Operations Manager, **MARC MARTIN**. Rolling Hills and Bluestem Electric Cooperative will be partnering on a safety demonstration trailer to be used in promoting safety to schools, emergency responders, county fairs, etc. Several door prizes were drawn for during the evening.



Kara Eilert presents her Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp experience.



Sienna Wingerson shares her Youth Tour experience.



JR Hynek, Doug Errebo and Adam Badger performed the electrical safety demonstration.



Everyone directs their attention to the safety program demonstrations.



# Technology at Your Fingertips – Facebook & SmartHub

Rolling Hills Electric is constantly looking for ways to communicate with its members.

## Facebook

Within the past 15 months, we started a Facebook page for Rolling Hills Electric. This has been very helpful when we have large outages, such as the blizzard over Thanksgiving weekend.

Rolling Hills Electric had eight substations or 3,400 outages off at one time. We were able to advise members what substations were off and also place maps of the outages on Facebook. Many members commented their appreciation for the continuous updates throughout the day and evening. This allowed the dispatcher and operations departments to focus on the outages and direct linemen to the next location.

We do not monitor Facebook 24/7 but will usually respond as soon as your message is seen, which could be several hours. For this reason, please call in to report your outage. Only the dispatcher and/or operations department assign the on-call linemen or crew to the outage(s).

We are very aware that not everyone has Facebook. We appreciate you sharing our Facebook posts and letting others know about the outages. It is amazing to see our members, emergency management officials and local sheriff's departments monitor and share our outage information.



Tanya Buser assisted members with SmartHub and Facebook questions at the recent Rolling Hills annual meeting.

## SmartHub

What is SmartHub and what can it do for you? The features and tools of this app are awesome! How can you sign up for SmartHub? Easy! Go to our website, which is [www.rollinghills.coop](http://www.rollinghills.coop). In the upper right corner of the screen is a SmartHub button. Click on it and start registering your account information. It will help if you have a recent bill so that you have your account number available. After you have registered your account, e-mail address and password, which you generate, you are on your way to a safe and secure site to monitor your account.

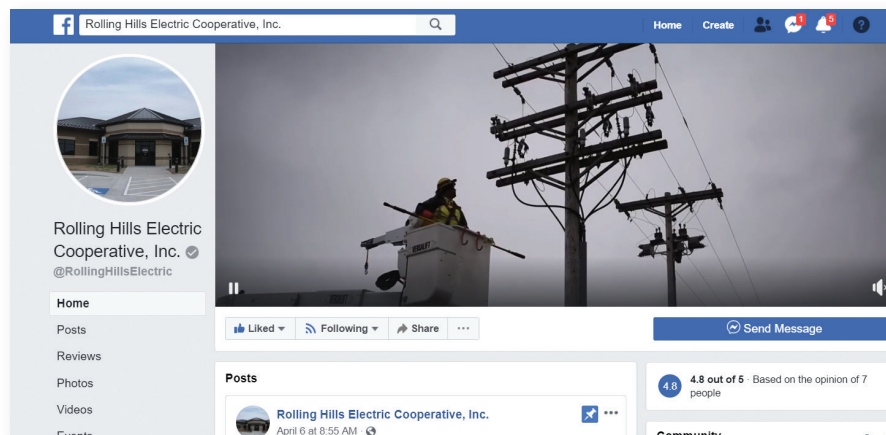
If you would like help setting up your SmartHub account or have questions, give Tanya a call at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572. More technology is on the way!

## Why would I be interested in SmartHub?



Simple! You can pay your account online 24/7 by computer or smartphone.

- ▶ No fee
- ▶ Monitor your daily kilowatt-hours (kWh) usage and establish your own personal budget
- ▶ Compare daily kWh usage to average temperatures
- ▶ Monitor kWh used at a water well in a distant pasture or location
- ▶ Compare monthly kWh to previous months
- ▶ How many kWh does that hot tub really use?
- ▶ Monitor your daily kWhs. Did it change much when I had a house full of company or while away?
- ▶ Print or pay your account before it arrives in the mail.



## Rolling Hills' 2018 Property Taxes by County

2018		2017	
\$ 208.96	<b>Barton</b>	\$ 231.68	
\$ 1,032.72	<b>Clay</b>	\$ 1,125.06	
\$ 100,187.74	<b>Cloud</b>	\$ 106,550.58	
\$ 119,186.82	<b>Ellsworth</b>	\$ 127,332.41	
\$ 112,312.81	<b>Jewell</b>	\$ 109,019.67	
\$ 92,121.02	<b>Lincoln</b>	\$ 94,919.54	
\$ 253,471.30	<b>Mitchell</b>	\$ 283,734.75	
\$ 119,958.27	<b>Osborne</b>	\$ 131,138.89	
\$ 361.96	<b>Ottawa</b>	\$ 393.92	
\$ 1,066.28	<b>Phillips</b>	\$ 1,216.76	
\$ 138,843.11	<b>Republic</b>	\$ 147,410.30	
\$ 7,136.34	<b>Rooks</b>	\$ 6,869.50	
\$ 55,831.95	<b>Russell</b>	\$ 61,033.09	
\$ 371.06	<b>Saline</b>	\$ 416.54	
\$ 102,166.03	<b>Smith</b>	\$ 106,779.25	
\$ 37,004.31	<b>Washington</b>	\$ 39,512.92	
<b>\$ 1,141,260.68</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,217,684.86</b>	



# Staying Safe after a Storm

Lightning, high winds, heavy rains and tornadoes are all signs of a severe storm that can cause damage. After the storm clears we assume it is safe to move about with our busy schedules, but even as the storm passes, danger can remain. Destruction left behind from severe storms can mean downed power lines, flooding and other electrical safety hazards.

Damaged power lines can still be live and energized. Stay away from all damaged power lines, downed lines and any object or water that may be in contact with the lines. Instruct others to do the same. Call 911 to inform your local utility of damaged lines.

Immediately following a storm, follow these safety tips to keep you and your family safe:

- ▶ Listen to your weather radio, tune in to a local radio station or check the weather app on your phone for up-to-date information and instructions.
- ▶ Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets, cords or appliances are under water. The water could be energized by electricity.
- ▶ Do not turn off power if you have to stand in water to do so. Call your utility and have them turn off your electricity at the meter.
- ▶ If you detect the smell of gas or suspect a leak, leave the house immedi-

ately. Call 911 and your utility to alert them of the issue. Do not light an open flame or flip any switches in the house.

- ▶ Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure the gas and electricity are turned off.
  - ▶ If at all possible, stay home and off the roadways to allow emergency personnel and utility crews to tend to injured individuals and damaged areas.
  - ▶ Never drive through a flooded roadway. There is no way of knowing how deep the water is. Remember to turn around, don't drown.
  - ▶ If you are driving and come across a downed power line, stay away and warn other drivers to stay away as well. Contact emergency personnel or your local utility to address the downed line. If you come in contact with a downed power line while driving, stay in your vehicle and wait for a utility to make sure the line is de-energized before exiting the vehicle.
- When cleaning up storm damage outdoors, do not use electrical tools if the ground is wet. Also, do not use electrical equipment that has been damaged by water. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.
- Find out how to stay safe after a storm, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Did you know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$16 billion to members since 1988—\$1.1 billion in 2017 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

