



ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

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



Rolling Hills Electric ANNUAL MEETING Friday, April 5, 2019

Members will be receiving the 2018 Annual Report in the mail the third week of March.

April 2019

S	M	T	W	U	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

See Our Safety Demo at the Meeting

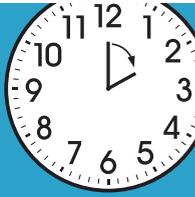
Rolling Hills Electric received several comments about the safety presentation at last year’s Annual Meeting. Marc Martin, Operations Manager, and his safety committee will once again have a safety presentation at this year’s meeting.

Load up your family and join us for a delicious meal, short business meeting and door prizes. Each member in attendance will receive a gift upon registration. Mark your calendar to join us on Friday, April 5. We look forward to seeing you.



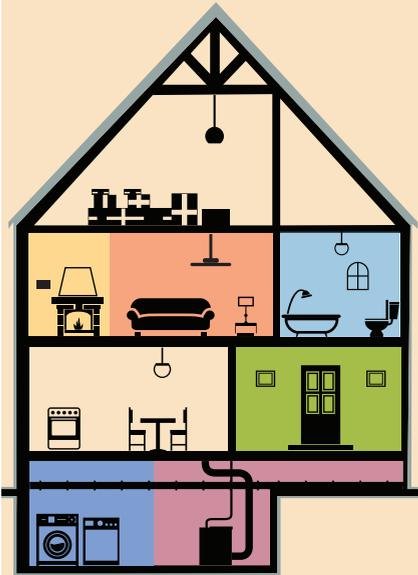
Join us at the 2019 Annual Meeting for the Safety Program.

Daylight Saving Time Checklist



Spring forward with ease!

Set your clocks forward one hour this spring, then use this checklist to keep your home efficient.



- 1 Review and update your programmable thermostat.
- 2 Reverse your ceiling fan's direction to blow down in the winter and up in the summer.
- 3 Clean dryer filter and hoses.
- 4 Check exterior vents to ensure they are clean of debris.
- 5 Check and replace CFLs.
- 6 Check windows and doors for drafts or leaks. Seal any leaks with weather stripping.
- 7 Check and replace furnace and air conditioning filters.

Trips and Scholarship Winners 2019



Youth Tour contest winners (from left): Landon Eilert, Alexis Hansen and Rachel McHenry

The competition for the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, has been finalized. Interviews were held on Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Beloit headquarters.

The scores leading up to the interview were very close so all three youth who fulfilled the requirements were interviewed. Judges were Michelle Schwerdtfeger of Kanopolis and Keegan Bailey of Beloit. Interview questions came from resumes and essays, Rolling Hills Electric history, the open-book quiz, and additional co-op resources..

While each youth was being interviewed, Manager Doug Jackson met with the other candidates and their parents who came along. Once interviews were conducted, the judges completed the score sheets. The scores were then averaged and added to the cumulative score from the quiz, resume and essay. The youth and parents were

called in for the results.

Receiving the top score was **ALEXIS HANSEN**, daughter of Nick and Julie Hansen, Belleville. Alexis accepted the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., which takes place during the month of June. Runner up was **RACHEL MCHENRY**, daughter of Gary and Brenda Danielson, Clyde. Rachel accepted the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, which is during the month of July.

LANDON EILERT, son of Allen and Tammy Eilert, Beloit, will serve as an alternate should one of the others not be able to participate. Each will receive a \$500 scholarship to the college or trade school of his or her choice after high school graduation.

On behalf of Rolling Hills Electric, we congratulate each of these youth. We look forward to hearing them report to the membership about their trip experiences at our Annual Meeting in 2020.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

SUMMER TIP: Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.



2019 Youth Tour Essay

Youth competing for the Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp had to write an essay on “What it Means to be a Servant Leader. **ALEXIS HANSEN** is the 2019 recipient of the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. June 13-20, 2019.



Alexis Hansen,
Belleville

Your success is not determined by winning championships but rather by how great of a servant leader you are. Winning a championship feels good, but it only feels good for a short period of time. Becoming a true servant leader can make you feel good for the rest of your life.

This is where my personal mission statement comes into action: “I will live my life as a meaning of happiness and success. Will work dutifully to fulfill these means by the use of service, dedication, and joyful experiences while being an example for others to follow.” With big aspirations of becoming a doctor, serving others is something that I will be doing every single day. I will be able to constantly follow my mission statement.

My want to be a servant leader started at a young age. Getting involved in wonderful organizations like 4-H helped to instill these values. From helping in the food stand at the county fair to now helping the younger kids begin their journey of serving, my want to serve is still going strong. Now, I have taken on bigger roles in servant leadership. I have become more involved with the clubs in my school that are constantly bringing forward community service projects.

I enjoy going out into the community and delivering Meals on Wheels, helping organize

parades, and serving meals at events. However, the one age group that I enjoy serving the most is children. I have four younger siblings, and I believe that I am showing them how to become servant leaders as well. Whether they like it or not, they are often stuck with me as a babysitter, so I am always put into the position of a role model for them.

My love for children is what has sparked my dream to continue serving them as a pediatrician. The service that doctors bring is fascinating to me. They are there for you when you need them, and that is exactly what I want to do. I want to be there for the children and their parents when they need me. I want to watch them power through struggles, and most importantly, I want to see them succeed.

By emanating an unselfish service to others, I hope to encourage and inspire others to be servant leaders, too. Like my Pediatrician, Dr. Rich, inspired and encouraged me through my battle with Legg Perthes disease when I was younger, I want to inspire my patients. True servant leaders inspire others to want to serve. Most importantly, they inspire by example. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Everybody can be great....because everybody can serve.”

Living a life of happiness all starts with service. Sure, winning championships is exciting, but so is seeing the look on the faces of the people that you help. So, choose to feel good the rest of your life. Choose to be a servant leader.

COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

Electric cooperatives are different than other types of energy providers.

- We are led by consumer-members just like you.
- We were built by the community we serve.
- We still belong to the community.

That's the cooperative difference!

Would Your Home Pass an Electrical Inspection?

Whether you are finding out how electrically sound your home is or getting ready to sell, there are some general guidelines available to assess the condition of your home's wiring and electrical bones. Although it varies depending on where you live, most local codes follow the National Electric Code (NEC).

The NEC is an industry-specific document that outlines required practices for all aspects of residential and commercial electrical installation. Know that even if you choose to read it cover to cover, your local code could vary. Local code always wins out, so be sure to check with a qualified electrician or local building department (start with your city or town) for specific code requirements.

It's important to know whether your home would pass an electrical inspection before danger can strike. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 45,210 reported U.S. home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction per year from 2010 to 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. The home fires resulted in 420 deaths, 1,370 injuries and an annual \$1.4 billion in direct property damage.

Below are all-house guidelines that an inspector would look for; remember they may or may not align with your local electrical code but they are NEC-mandated. If your home has any of the following defects, it may not pass an electrical safety inspection:

- ▶ Old knob-and-tube, along with BX cable wiring, common in the U.S. from about 1880 to 1930
- ▶ New lights and receptacles installed into old wiring
- ▶ Overcrowded wires, i.e., too many wires bundled together producing excess heat
- ▶ Spliced wires that were illegally installed—they must be installed by an approved method
- ▶ Broken or missing carbon monoxide detectors or smoke alarms—whether smoke alarms must be hard wired depends on the age of the home and in most cases, whether any home improvement projects required a permit
- ▶ Noninsulated/noncontact-rated recessed lights that touch attic insulation, which is a fire hazard
- ▶ Improper overcurrent protection, which means the breaker or fuse is too large for the wire rating
- ▶ Improper grounding and bonding of electrical panels and devices

Some other room-specific things to look for include:

Kitchen

- ▶ Does your electric range, cooktop or oven have a dedicated 240-volt circuit?
- ▶ Is the breaker for the range, cooktop or oven sized correctly?
- ▶ Does your island have its own outlet? (The NEC has outlet requirements

for kitchen islands, peninsulas and countertops.)

- ▶ Does your microwave, refrigerator, and garbage disposal each have its own circuit?

Bathroom

- ▶ Are outlets ground fault circuit interrupters? GFCIs are designed to protect people from electric shock around water.
- ▶ Do your combination fan/lights have their own 20-amp circuit?
- ▶ Do the light fixtures in the shower or tub area have a "lens" cover? Are they moisture resistant?

Other Rooms (living, dining, family, bedrooms)

- ▶ Does each room have a wall switch installed beside the entry door?
- ▶ Are outlets installed no farther than 12 feet apart?
- ▶ Are ceiling fixtures controlled by a wall switch and not just a pull chain?

There are also hallway, staircase and garage code requirements, as well as those for the electrical service panel and wiring. Check with your qualified electrician or the city or town where you live for specific code requirements in all areas of your home.

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI)

Many prominent electrical and home-building experts believe that using arc-fault circuit interrupters in these areas of homes has a significant impact on homeowner safety and that they reduce the number of lives lost in home electrical fires.

An AFCI is designed to detect series faults, line to neutral faults and line to ground faults, effectively stopping a fire before it starts.

For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs



Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you – our members!

