

RADIANT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HI-LITES

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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.

Merit Scholarship Deadline is March 12

Completed applications for the Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc. Merit Scholarship must be received by Friday, March 12, 2010.

The scholarship application is available from high school counselors or can be downloaded from Radiant Electric's Web site www.radiantec.coop. If you would like an application mailed to you please call 620-378-2161 ext. 139.

Applicants must have been included as a dependent on a Radiant Electric Cooperative member's Federal tax return in previous year and maintains the Radiant member's address as a permanent address while attending school.

Recipients of the Radiant Electric Merit Scholarship will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held at the Radiant Electric headquarters on Thursday, April 8, 2010.

Scholarship committee members are Tom Ayers, Lawrence Jontra and Marilyn Kidd.

Applications must be in Radiant Electric Cooperative office on or before March 12, 2010.

Scholarship Guidelines

- ▶ **1. Applicant must maintain** legal residence in the home of a Radiant Electric Cooperative member.
- ▶ **2. Applicant must have been** included as dependent on a Radiant Electric Cooperative member's Federal tax return in previous years and maintains the REC member's address as a permanent address while attending school.
- ▶ **3. Consideration given to all** qualified applicants per numbers one and two above except for scholarship committee family members.
- ▶ **4. Cumulative high school or** college GPA of 3.0 or higher required.
- ▶ **5. Awards to be on a full-time** status of 12 credit hours or more per semester.
- ▶ **6. High school senior** considered on first semester of senior year plus the prior years. College students will be considered as full-time status with at least 12 credit hours per semester and cumulative attained GPA of 3.0 or greater. Applicant must include official transcripts of all academic work, both high school and, if applicable, any college course completed as well as ACT scores. A parent prepared transcript for a home schooled student is acceptable with ACT scores and semester finals attached.
- ▶ **7. Leadership and community activities**, GPA level and ACT scores will be considered.
- ▶ **8. Proof of enrollment** in an accredited four year college required for award payment.
- ▶ **9. Interview may be required.**
- ▶ **10. Decision of scholarship committee** is final and said committee shall have the sole discretion to determine eligibility and award the scholarship.
- ▶ **11. Winners of two awards** of said scholarship or the Max Cain Scholarship not eligible.
- ▶ **12. The Radiant Electric Merit Scholarship Awards program** is an equal opportunity program.

Students awarded the scholarship are eligible to win the scholarship no more than two years.

Incomplete or unsigned applications will not be considered.

Mark Your Calendars

April 2010						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
				1	2	3
				8	9	10
4	5	6	7	14	15	16
11	12	13	14	21	22	23
18	19	20	21	28	29	30
25	26	27	28	29	30	

We hope to see you at the Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2010. See the next issue of the *Kansas Country Living* for more details.

Reminder to Members Using Bank Bill Pay Services

A few of our members are using a payment service through their bank for payment of their electric bill, which is an excellent benefit from your bank.

We would like to remind you that if your bank issues a check to Radiant, be sure to allow your bank plenty of time for the check to be mailed and to arrive before the due date of the 21st. Payments received after the due dates are charged a late penalty fee.

If you find yourself short on time, please call Radiant. Your cooperative still accepts payments over the phone if you do not have Internet access.

Paying your bill by credit card or check by phone is convenient and the best part is Radiant does not charge for this service and your payment is immediately reflected on your account.

Use E-Bill on our Web Site

Remember that you can always view and pay your Radiant Electric bill online at our Web site www.radiantec.coop.

Life Support During an Electrical Outage

For some electric cooperative members, service is more than a convenience; it is a necessity.

Radiant Electric realizes that some homes are equipped with life-sustaining medical equipment that requires a reliable source of power. Our commitment to you is to provide electric service safely and with as few interruptions as possible. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee uninterrupted power 100 percent of the time. Each year, events—some beyond our control—occur and cause power outages.

If your health or well-being depends on electric supply, we offer the following suggestions and strongly encourage you to implement them:

1. Obtain a back-up source of power recommended by the manufacturer of any life sustaining or critical care equipment you may have in your home. For example, battery back-ups or standby generators can provide you with electric power if service from the cooperative is interrupted. Call the office at 620-378-2161 if you have questions or need

assistance with this.

2. Talk with relatives or friends today and devise a plan whereby the individual who relies on this equipment will have somewhere to stay in the event of a major power outage, or even for just a few hours.

3. Have your physician write us a note explaining the situation. Upon receipt of this documentation, we can make a note of the medical need on the account. This way, our representatives will be aware of the condition in the event of an outage or if the account is scheduled for disconnection. The presence of critical medical devices does not exempt service from termination due to non-payment of bill. Anticipated payment delays should be addressed through the cooperative's office.

4. Notifying the cooperative of your situation does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service, nor does it guarantee immediate attention to your individual service should the area experience a power outage. It does alert us to the situation though and Radiant will work until the outage is corrected.

Radiant's Going Green with E-Bill This Year

Life is moving at a fast pace. When it comes to paying your electric utility bill to Radiant Electric, our staff wants you to have the availability to pay it from your computer.

Viewing

and paying your electric bill from Radiant's Web site is at your fingertips. No more postage to buy or walking through inclement weather to the mailbox.

Just go to www.radiantec.coop



Just go to www.radiantec.coop and click "pay your bill online."

and click "pay your bill online." Payments are reflected immediately on your account.

As a reminder, Radiant's members can also "go green" in 2010 by joining the growing group of members that

received their electric bill electronically each month. Electric bills are e-mailed to the members e-mail address, where it can be viewed and paid at the click of a button. It's convenient, it's private and it's instant.

Regulation on the Horizon for Carbon

Federal curbs on emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed as a principal cause of climate change, are quickly becoming a reality. It's just a matter of which government branch gets there first: legislative, executive—or both.

In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), part of the executive branch, declared that six key greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are endangering public health and welfare. Emissions from motor vehicles of four of those greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are also said to contribute to dangerous air pollution under this “endangerment finding.”

“This action puts a ‘foot in the door’ for EPA to promulgate sweeping new regulations that could impose strict limits on carbon emissions from power plants, driving up electric bills,” warns Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents the interests of the nation's 900-plus member-owned and governed electric cooperatives.

The concern is that with carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles falling under federal Clean Air Act regulation, other emitters of carbon dioxide—fossil fuel-fired power plants included—may also soon be subject to EPA oversight.

“The Clean Air Act as written was never designed to deal with carbon, and it would be awkward at best and probably a disaster at worst,” English adds.

Electric co-ops believe that any controls on carbon dioxide should be established by Congress, where the impact of these proposals can have a full public debate. Unfortunately, a climate change bill passed by the U.S. House last summer (H.R. 2454) and another reported by the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in November

(S. 1733) include unachievable goals and timelines for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, inadequate technology development incentives, and no guarantee that electric bills will remain affordable. Current proposals will unfairly penalize members in fossil fuel-dependant states by saddling them with higher bills to essentially subsidize and lower electric bills for those in other regions.

What's more, Senate leaders have admitted that climate change legislation has stalled and will likely be picked up sometime in the spring. This legislative logjam makes it all the more important for co-ops and members to pay careful attention to EPA's current efforts.

English insists that any climate change legislation should protect members and preempt use of the federal Clean Air Act and any other existing laws. Otherwise, utilities and businesses could be burdened with the task of trying to comply with more than one set of regulations.

“Regulation of carbon dioxide as a pollutant will occur with or without congressional input,” English explains. “But Congress must not simply add new legislation on top of old regulations. Any climate change bill should become the roadmap—the single strategy—for reducing carbon dioxide emissions at federal, state, and local levels.”

He continues: “By staying engaged in the process, electric co-ops can have a measurable impact on the outcome.”

Electric co-ops are fighting to ensure that any climate change policy goals adopted are fair, affordable, and achievable. To make your voice heard in this debate, join NRECA's Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign at www.ourenergy.coop. To date, more than 600,000 of your fellow co-op members across the country have already done so.

Donate Today!



Don't forget to authorize Radiant to add a tax deductible 25 cents to your monthly electric bill. By checking this box you can make a one time or a continuous monthly donation.

Making this decision means your helping to provide weekend food for kids who otherwise may go hungry in Radiant's service area. Feeding kids one quarter at a time!

Welcome New Members

Donald Grover—Altoona
Terri Jacobs—Bethany, OK
Robert Corbin—Buffalo
Maurice Kratzer—Buffalo
Sara Maxwell—Buffalo
Karen Splechter—Buffalo
John Wilson—Caney
Jim Dillow—Chanute
Miguel Yanez—Coffeyville
Lynn Stewart—Elk City
Amber Woolridge—Elk City
Robert Donaldson—Fall River
Jack Jones—Fall River
Robert Ball—Fredonia
Shila Ball—Fredonia
Doug Parham—Fredonia
Joseph Delano—Independence
RH Holding, LLC—Lenexa
Ivan Fail—Marshfield, MO
Nathan Claibourn—Neodesha
Charlotte Davidson—Neodesha
Cathy Cope—Perris, CA
Custer Oil and Gas—Skiatook, OK
Chuck Allen—Sturgeon
Troy Babcock—Thayer
Shelby Stites—Thayer
Melissa Pearson—Thayer

Happy Valentine's Day



Wishing our members a happy Valentine's Day on February 14.

Be Prepared for Ice Storms & Power Outages

Severe damage to electrical power lines and transmission systems can sometimes take days to repair.

Typically, there is ample warning of an approaching winter storm system and most know to stay off roads and seek shelter. But everyone, particularly families with special needs, must be prepared and know what to do in case of a winter emergency and long-term power outages:

- ▶ **Have batteries in your flashlights**, make sure they are working, and keep extra batteries on hand.
- ▶ **Keep a battery operated radio handy.** It may be your only link to outside information during a severe weather emergency.
- ▶ **Know where to find extra blankets.**
- ▶ **Keep a supply of foods** that don't require cooking or refrigeration, along with a hand opener for canned food. Have a supply of drinking water.
- ▶ **Assemble a disaster supply kit** that includes these items Don't forget to include a first aid kit, prescription medicines and special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- ▶ **Stay inside and dress warmly.**
- ▶ **Close off unneeded rooms.**
- ▶ **When using an alternate heat source**, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate.
- ▶ **Never use a charcoal grill** to cook or heat with inside the home. It gives off deadly carbon monoxide gas. Grills should only be used outdoors.
- ▶ **If you use a standby generator**, make sure it has a transfer safety switch or that your power is cut off at the breaker box before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.
- ▶ **Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized.** Stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

Keep Your Valentine Safe this Year

Mylar Balloons Create Electrical Hazards on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a special day for sweethearts and families to celebrate love each year.

People flock to their local grocery and party stores to buy candy and balloons for the people they care about. However, the cute heart shaped metallic balloons that are so popular every year could have costly and even deadly side effects.

Radiant Electric and Safe Electricity urge members to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

"Many people are unaware that metallic balloons, called mylar balloons, are actually powerful conductors of electricity," said Kyle Finley, owner of Live Line Demo, Inc. "In fact each mylar balloon carries a warning label which states that it can conduct electricity, it should not be released outdoors, near overhead power lines, and misuse may cause personal injury. Buying mylar balloons is so commonplace, people just completely overlook the warning and never realizes that they're creating an electrical hazard for themselves and their loved ones."

Metallic balloons that are not secured properly can float up into power lines or come down into



electrical substations. The consequences can lead to substantial impacts ranging from power outages to extensive equipment damage. The cost of these impacts can cost thousands and even millions of dollars.

Finley states another risk could actually lead to injury or even death.

"As parents, we often tie balloons to our children's wrists to keep them from floating away," Finley said. "If we tie a metallic ribbon to a mylar balloon and then attach it to our child, we have actually created a potential path to ground for electricity. The results can be deadly."

For example, if the balloon is carried outside near equipment like the electrical service connection or if it happens to touch an exposed wire indoors, it could potentially cause electric shock injury or kill the person holding it.

Radiant Electric wants everyone to enjoy their Valentine's Day with their special someone. However, when the celebration is over please remember to puncture the balloons and throw them away to keep them safely away from power lines and electrical equipment.

To see a live line power demonstration and to learn more about the risks posed by mylar balloons and other electrical safety hazards, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use a microwave to cook when possible. They use 50-65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and don't heat your home in summer.