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Learn How to:**

Join Our Action
Committee for Rural
Electrification (ACRE)

Vote for Our
Photo Contest

“Watts” Inside

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Vice President

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Robert W. Smith
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PowerLines

Photo by Megan Plunkard of Portersville

Local Control

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Because of printing schedules, I am writing this article before our 2019 Annual Meeting of the Members. I can with some certainty, however, share with you the results of our election. No, this is not based on polling data that we all know can be staggeringly inaccurate, nor is it based on some new-found ability to predict the future. This year simply saw two incumbent directors running unopposed resulting in their reelection and marked my tenth annual meeting here at Central Electric Cooperative (CEC). My sharing of these results is about as close to the election process as I, or any other employee, will get. The election process belongs to the members and we maintain an unbiased distance from the process. I have seen a wide variety of election results. They have included uncontested elections (like this year), incumbents winning opposed

elections, incumbents losing opposed elections, multiple non-incumbent candidates running for the same seat, and even a board appointment. On years where we have a formal election, we provide several ways to vote: electronically, by mail, and in-person at the meeting; allowing for ease of access to the process. A committee of members separate from the board — the nominating committee — verifies each candidate’s eligibility and certifies their ability to be on the ballot, ensuring unbiased access. My point is, no matter the circumstances or the outcome, the election process for your cooperative provides the opportunity for the membership to select — from its ranks — individuals who will direct the cooperative.

There are seven principles that guide a cooperative. They include open membership, autonomy and

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independence, concern for community, and more. I believe none of the principles are more important than democratic member control, or local control.

That is, cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights — one member, one vote.

I would like to dig a little deeper into this because I think it is easy to overlook. The commodity we provide is the same one every distribution electric company provides. As I have mentioned many times, my career has included time with an investor-owned utility and a public power company prior to working with the cooperative. The private, not-for-profit locally controlled model that is electric cooperatives is unique and, in my opinion, superior. Through your member-elected board of directors, our membership decides on the direction of the cooperative based on the needs of, and what is best for, the members.

The founders of this cooperative were brilliant. They not only recognized the future value of electric service, but put in place a governance model that could endure the test of time and allow the entire membership to be fairly represented. Choosing a not-for-profit model ensured the service would always come first. The

one member, one vote approach ensured that all would have an equal voice. That way no one could sway the vote simply because they had the means to acquire more than one electric account. The cooperative model that selects directors from among the membership keeps control of the decisions that affect the members with the members. Lastly, regular elections have ensured that today's membership has the same voice previous generations have had and allow the direction given to staff to reflect the needs and best interests of the members today.

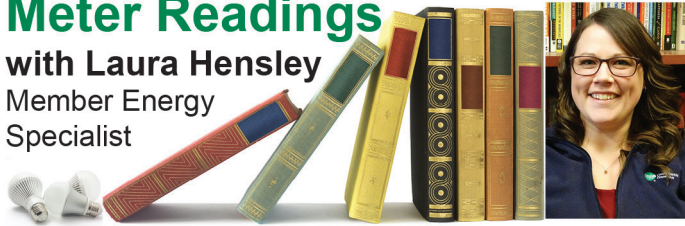
With all that said, let me congratulate and thank our re-elected board members for their participation and willingness to serve in the process that sustains your cooperative. The member-elected board of directors you have chosen to serve continues to be active and engaged in the business of your cooperative — serving as a strong member advocate in every decision before them. They provide the staff and I clear direction to support all areas you have asked them to support.

“There are seven principles that guide a cooperative. They include open membership, autonomy and independence, concern for community, and more. I believe none of the principles are more important than democratic member control, or local control. That is, cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights — one member, one vote.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager

Meter Readings

with **Laura Hensley**
Member Energy
Specialist



When you purchase new appliances, electronics, water heaters, or heating/cooling equipment, they come with a bright yellow EnergyGuide label. This label is required by the Federal Trade Commission and is intended to share with you the efficiency details and estimated cost for operating the product.

The EnergyGuide label is a resource to help you make a buying decision. There is an upfront cost for your purchase, but that is not all you will pay for the product. The yellow tag is there to share with you the estimated cost of owning the product and how it compared to other models.

Keep in mind, this tag does not mean the product is the most energy efficient. Consumer products are required to meet minimum standards by law, but only Energy Star rated products meet the highest of efficiency standards. When making a new purchase look for the Energy Star logo on the product or the EnergyGuide label.

Understanding the EnergyGuide Label

Not all EnergyGuide labels will be the same. Here is an example of an EnergyGuide label for a common household appliance. Below are detailed descriptions of the various parts of the label.

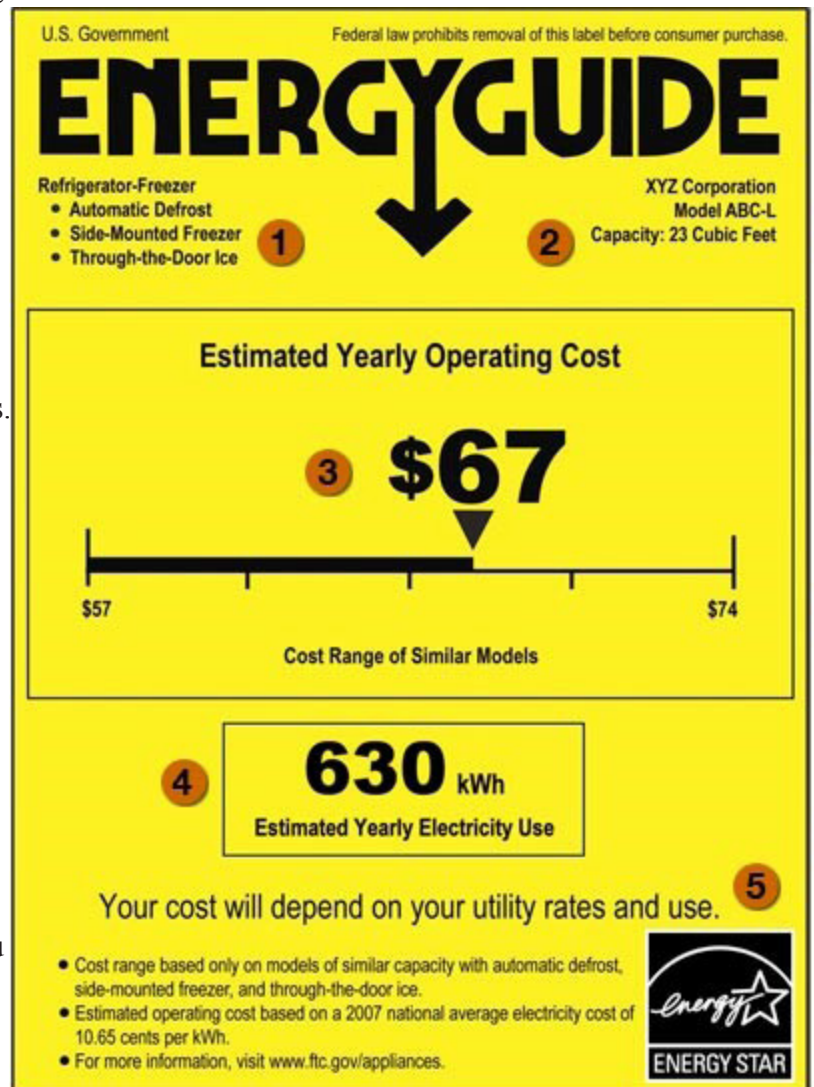
1. List of key features that contribute to the operating cost and allow for comparison to similar models.
2. The make, model, and size which tells you exactly which product the label describes.
3. The estimated yearly operating cost is based on the product's electric use and the

EnergyGuide Labels

national average cost of electricity. The cost range helps you to compare the energy use of the specific product with that of similar models.

4. The estimated yearly electric use is also available in kilowatt hours (kWh), which is the same measurement and you can multiple this amount by the current electric rate on your bill to more closely determine your actual operating cost.

5. When the product is Energy Star rated, the logo will appear in the bottom right corner.



SAFETY MATTERS

Baby Proofing Your Home? Don't Forget Electrical Dangers

Parents (or grandparents) preparing for the arrival of a little one have lots to think about when it comes to baby proofing. There are the usual tasks to check off the list, but CEC would like to remind you that along with usual baby proofing tasks, your to-do list should also include electrical dangers.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately 2,400 children suffer from shock and burns each year caused by items being inserted into the slots of electrical receptacles. Even more alarming is that on average, 12 children die from these injuries every year.

Here are some tips to help make your home electrically safe for children.

- Install tamper-free outlets. These feature slots that appear to be filled with plastic. The plastic serves as a type of spring-loaded shutter that only opens when pushed at the same time.

- Outlet plate covers that have slides on them that must be moved slightly before plugging something in; outlet plugs; and outlet caps.
- Put extension cords away when not in use.
- Utilize power strip covers or hide strips behind furniture and out of baby's sight.
- Install cord shortening devices so cords do not have excess length or droop.
- Purchase anti-unplugging devices (a box-like outlet cover with one open side) so baby can't unplug devices.
- Take the time to electrically baby proof even when on vacation. Masking tape can be used to cover unused outlets or tape down cords for a temporary fix.

For more information about electrical safety, visit www.central.coop.

Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE)

Electric cooperatives recognize the rural electric program was born in politics and could die in politics. Maintaining an active grassroots role in the political process is critical if electric cooperatives are to continue providing reliable and affordable electric service. The truly democratic structure of the rural electric program fosters a natural base of grassroots support.

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action is a grassroots organization of electric cooperative employees, directors, and member-owners that is a growing force in Washington, D.C. and state capitals nationwide. ACRE is a nonpartisan, political action committee (PAC) focused on the future of electric cooperatives.

Your choice to participate in ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action will support legislators who fight for electric cooperative members. Many voices joined together have a mighty impact. Join ACRE by contacting Emily Bartley, at 800-521-0570 x2152 or by visiting our website www.central.coop.

Your support is crucial to our efforts to maintain the way of life we all know and love.



Power Lines

Photo Contest Voting

After 40 members submitted photos for our 2019 Photo Contest, online voting has narrowed it down to five contestants. Please vote from the below photos for the **three** you feel deserve to be our winners! The photo with the most votes will receive first place and a \$100 bill credit, second place a \$50 bill credit, and third a \$25 bill credit. You can also vote on our website until Oct. 18. We will announce the winners in late October and in December's Power Lines newsletter.



Photo Contest Voting Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please check the boxes for the three photos you wish to vote for.

Photo #1

Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4

Photo #5

Return this coupon to CEC by Oct. 18, 2019.

Recipe of the Month

Apple Butter

Ingredients:

- 7 cups apple sauce
- 2 cups cider
- 1-1/2 cups honey
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice

Directions: Cook all ingredients together until a spoon can be put on a saucer and there is no water from it.

*Thank you to Florence Davis
for submitting this recipe!*

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs
Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Elizabeth Kindel of Clarion

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Richard Morrison of Venus

Read Power Lines and win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

1. True or False: EnergyGuide labels are there to show you the estimated cost of owning the product.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Over 2,000 children suffer from shock and burns each year caused by items being inserted into the slots of electrical receptacles.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: There are eight principles that guide a cooperative.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Acct. #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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