



Co-op Comments

REC recognizes two employees for Employees of the Year in 2019

Every year REC recognizes employees who exceed in their defined job description, achieve outstanding results in certain areas and demonstrate loyalty to the Cooperative, and 2019 wasn't any different. Since 1994, REC has honored these employees as its Employees of the Year. Beginning in 2010, REC started recognizing two employees – one from Administration and one from Operations.

Both the 2019 Employees of the Year are loyal and dedicated employees who are active in their community and strive to make REC a better workplace.

Scott Henson was named the 2019 Administrative Employee of the Year. He started as a student summer employee in May of 1996 and came back the next summer. In November of 1997, he worked part-time during the holidays as an Apprentice Groundman. He continued part-time until he was hired as a full-time Groundman/Apprentice Line Worker in January 2000. He was then promoted to Line Worker Trainee 2nd Class in September of 2000. He completed the Lineman Training Program in December of 2003 and then became a Journeyman Line Worker. He moved to the Engineering Department in September of 2013 and became a Staking Engineer and continues to serve today.

He is always willing to take on extra duties and this year he added being the work order accountant and handling the closing of work orders.

He is from Purdy and graduated from Lindsay High School. He and his wife Donna live in Lindsay with their two children Carson and Mitchell. He enjoys spending time with his family and watching his son play basketball.

"Having grown up at REC it is a humbling experience to be named Employee of the Year," Henson says. "I enjoy being able to work with great co-workers and learn from them, which helps all of us excel in our daily tasks."

Just like the Administrative Employee of the Year, REC's 2019 Operations Employee of Year, Jerry Moore is committed to serving REC's members and helping find solutions to their needs.

Moore started as a contractor employee who worked for REC. His 20 years of knowledge as a contractor allowed him to learn about REC's system and service territory. He was hired as a Groundman in May of 2015. He began the Lineman Training Program in August of 2015, and was promoted to Apprentice Line Worker. He completed all four modules of the Lineman Training Program by December of 2016 and was awarded his certification for Journeyman Line Worker in April of 2017. He then was promoted to District Line Worker where he continues to serve today.

He takes his job seriously and commits himself to do whatever is asked of him. He is professional and courteous and is willing to do any job.

He is from Pauls Valley and graduated from Pauls Valley High School. He and his wife Laura live in Maysville with their daughter Harley. When he is not working he is busy with his family and enjoys watching his daughter excel in school.

"It is an honor to be named the Operations Employee of the Year, Moore says. "I am thankful for the opportunity to work at REC and to be recognized for doing my job."



Jerry Moore (left) and Scott Henson (right) named REC's Employees of the Year for 2019.

We want to hear from you-our members



We live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end? 1486500

At Rural Electric, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you text us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email or simply stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Rural Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We hope you will consider us more than

your energy provider, but instead as a local business supporting this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

You will notice throughout the year, we create opportunities for you and other community members to attend co-op gatherings and events in order to hear from you. These include our annual meeting as well as events like our annual tree give away where our members can not only get free seedling trees, but also talk to our employees about their needs.

We are going to conduct a survey at the beginning of 2020 to gather feedback so we can plan for new initiatives, technical upgrades and improvements on existing co-op programs and services. Our planning is led by local members just like you who understand the needs of the community and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix is impacting long-term planning. These are complex issues we will be navigating in the coming months and years. This is why it is important we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

Rural Electric works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective. You can always reach me directly by calling our office—I'm listening.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Three efficiency projects to tackle

New Year brings new opportunities to save energy and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense however this is not always the case.

If you are interested in making your home more efficient but do not want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let us take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades which can help you save energy throughout the year.

Trim Dryer Vent

Level of difficulty: easy. Supplies needed: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape. Estimated Cost: about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have.

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line—it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint build-up, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) for a quick video tutorial.

Seal Air Leaks

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. Estimated Cost: \$25 to \$50 depending on the materials you purchase.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10 to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weather stripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if

you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>

Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

Level of difficulty: moderate. Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. Estimated Cost: \$50 to \$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air

through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage which is not heated and cooled, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy does not have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home.



Classified Advertisement

FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: 300 gallon lick feeder in good condition, \$100. PH:405-496-7874

MISCELLANEOUS-

FOR SALE: Heavy duty wheel chair with padded arms and swing away footing, excellent condition. PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: 2005 Honda Elite 80CC scooter, adult owned and driven, 2,600 gentle miles, always garaged, excellent condition \$1,200. PH: 580-223-2988.

WANTED: For gardening services, lawn

care services, odd jobs and brush hogging. PH: 405-428-7284.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: 2 bed, 1 bath frame house with garage, approximately 950 square feet

on a large corner lot in Duncan, \$25,000. PH: 405-756-4176.

FOR SALE: House on 20 acres near Lake Fuqua, with barn, shop building and pond. PH: 405-756-6371.

Account number worth \$10 bill credit

Locate your account number in an article of this issue; it will be good for a \$10 credit on your electric bill. To claim the prize, you must locate the account number - if the number is yours, contact REC by the 10th of the month and we will credit your account. Only the member assigned that number is eligible for the prize. If you don't know your account number, it can be located on your electric bill.

Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections Card to save you money on lodging, photographs, oil changes and other items. You can also save on prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab work and imaging and chiropractor services at participating locations. Your card is a discount card. If you have misplaced your card, contact REC for a replacement card and use it to save yourself some money.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in. For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10 percent. Learn more at www.energy.gov

Finch completes CCD Certificate



Recently, Board of Trustees member, Mark Finch (left) completed his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate. REC's Board of Trustees President, Gary Jones (right) presented Finch with his certificate.

Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

A-U-Store It, Purcell -

\$5 off first month rent

Backroads Boutique, Lindsay -

5% off everything excluding special order and sale items

Best Western, Chickasha -

15% Off Regular Room Rate

Blue Moose Outdoor

Portable Rentals, Elmore City -

5% Off Septic Tank Pumping, Tent Rental and Special Event Toilet Rentals

Chickasha Diesel Services, Chickasha -

\$50 off any big diesel oil change

Edwards Canvas, Pauls Valley - 5% Off

Jenny's Pics Photography, Lindsay -

10% Off \$50 or More Purchase of Pictures

Lindsay Tire and Lube, Lindsay -

\$5 Off Any Full Service Oil Change

M & M Furniture, Chickasha -

10% Off Any Purchase

Mazzio's Italian Eatery, Purcell -

10% Off Purchase

Photos by Ginger, Pauls Valley -

1 Free 8x10 Print With First Order of \$25

4 Seat Saddles, Boots and Hats -

10% Off \$100 or More, or 5% Off Repairs

Western Fuel Co., Maysville -

2 Cents Off Per Gallon of Propane on a Minimum of 125 Gallons. Cash Sales Only. (No Other Discounts Allowed)

Pharmacy Discounts -

Check out the discounts available using your Co-op Connections Card at participating pharmacies throughout our area. For a complete list of pharmacies, visit REC's website to see if your pharmacy is offering discounts to Co-op Connections Card holders.

