

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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South Kentucky RECC cancels annual meeting

Story by Joy Bullock

South Kentucky RECC's planned annual meeting week is just around the corner, which makes this a good time to remind members that this year's events have been cancelled amid COVID-19 concerns and restrictions. SKRECC cares about your safety and is concerned about your wellbeing, as well as that of our employees.

Every conceivable option was explored in rescheduling the meeting, but due to the uncertainty of the current situation, it became very difficult to establish a future date. As there are no required actions of the membership that make it necessary to hold the annual meeting, the co-op is not required to have an annual meeting.

South Kentucky RECC CEO Ken Simmons says it was a difficult, but necessary, decision.

"Throughout this situation, the health and safety of our members and our employees have been our top priority, which is why we took very stringent measures, such as closing our office lobbies. Our board of directors and management do not want to put anyone in danger or at risk of contracting COVID-19. That would be unthinkable."

Simmons adds that SKRECC's annual report with financial information can be found in the May issue of



Annual meeting 2019 as viewed by a drone. The image was captured by SKRECC Dispatch and Technical Services Manager Dallas Hopkins.

Kentucky Living magazine and is also available on the co-op's website, www.skrecc.com.

Annual meeting is part of the co-op's 82-year history and is a very important event to members and employees—our cooperative family. When restrictions are eased, South Kentucky RECC plans to host member appreciation days at each office location later in the year. Plans are to distribute the popular bucket and bulbs at that time. Similarly, SKRECC intends to hold the planned truck giveaway drawing as well.

Once finalized, members will be notified through this publication, via the co-op's website and on social media (SKRECC on Facebook and Twitter and SoKyRECC on Instagram).

South Kentucky RECC fully intends for the annual meeting tradition to continue in 2021.

Simmons says he and the board of directors want to thank the membership for their patience and understanding as well as the employees going above and beyond during this difficult time to keep everyone safe. #WeAreSKRECC **DSK**

South Kentucky RECC People Fund: Changing lives, saving lives

South Kentucky RECC was founded more than 80 years ago on the basic principle of helping the people in its communities, or as its mission states, “to improve the lives in its communities.” That’s what drove a group of farmers in Wayne County to establish the co-op and bring electricity to south central Kentucky. It’s the premise South Kentucky RECC continues to operate on today.

One way the co-op strives to support the people in its communities is through its round-up program called The People Fund. Currently, about 3,300 generous South Kentucky RECC members have opted to round-up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar, with that change being used to create a system of grants available to organizations in local communities whose financial needs

are not being met by other agencies or resources.

The People Fund was started in 2004, and to date, more than a quarter of a million dollars has been distributed in more than 400 grants to organizations and groups, including local schools and food banks. The most that “rounding up” can cost any South Kentucky RECC member in a year is \$11.88 or \$.99 each month, but that bit of change given each month can make big changes in the lives of our members, their children and our communities.

Rick Godbey, chief of Russell County Search and Rescue, can attest to what a People Fund grant can mean to a community. In January, his group was awarded a People Fund grant, which helped the organization acquire additional personal protective equipment needed to aid in the assistance and rescue of individuals.

“Being located on Lake Cumberland, we are called on a great deal to assist with water rescues. Because of the People Fund grant, we have been able to purchase new life vests, which are sleeker in design to allow more movement and mobility. They will make a world of difference to us.”

In addition to new life vests, the People Fund grant also provided funds for new rain gear and universal-use helmets that can be used for ground search, as well as repelling.

Chief Godbey says the all-volunteer group operates almost solely on donations, so getting the grant was a huge help.



Because of funds awarded through South Kentucky RECC's People Fund grant, Russell County Search and Rescue purchased new rain gear, unwrapped here by volunteer George Haming. Photo: Joy Bullock



Russell County Search and Rescue Chief Rick Godbey models the new, sleek life vests that were purchased with SKRECC's People Fund monies. Photo: Joy Bullock

“Russell County Search and Rescue has about 35 active volunteers—volunteers who have taken quite a bit of training on their own time, and without the help of community partners, like South Kentucky RECC, it would be on their own dime. We have a great group of volunteers, and we all appreciate the assistance we get from our community.”

The People Fund slogan is, “Your spare change can change lives.” With its contribution to Russell County Search and Rescue, it could also be, “Your spare change can save lives.”

For information on how you can help change lives in your community

This sonar boat will aid in water rescue and recovery for Russell County Search and Rescue. Photo: Russell County Search and Rescue

through The People Fund, please call your local South Kentucky RECC office or (800) 264-5112.

Applications for The People Fund grants are due on January 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31, and the application is available online at www.skrecc.com, or at any of the co-op's offices. Applications are reviewed quarterly, and grants are awarded by The People Fund's board, which is independent from South Kentucky RECC.



The offices of South Kentucky RECC will be CLOSED on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

If you have an emergency or outage, call your local office or (800) 264-5112 for 24/7 outage reporting.

CheckOut: The newest way to pay your bill

When it comes to doing business with South Kentucky RECC, we are always trying to make it convenient, safe and simple for our members. We understand that our members like to be able to conduct business when it is suitable for them, which is why the co-op has added another way to pay.

CheckOut allows South Kentucky RECC members to pay their bill at local, participating retailers, including Dollar General, Family Dollar, CVS Pharmacy and Speedway, which are open seven days a week, and often have hours later into the evening making it very convenient.

To use CheckOut, members need to visit the South Kentucky RECC's website, www.skrecc.com.

- Click the CheckOut link.
- Enter your account number (found on your statement) in the appropriate field.
- Click "find my account." You will then be asked to verify your street/house number.
- If correct, click the "Get Your Barcode" button. Your personalized barcode, which ties back to your South Kentucky RECC account, will appear.
- Either print the barcode or send it to your email to be used at a local retailer.

Take your barcode to one of the participating businesses and present it at the checkout. The cashier will scan your barcode and retrieve your bill amount, but will not have access to or any information about your account.

A cash-only payment can then be made to your account. The retailer will charge a \$1.50 fee for the transaction.

South Kentucky RECC was started more than 80 years ago on the idea that it could help make life easier for its members by providing electricity. Today, we continue with that same premise—to make life easier and better for our members.

Editor
Joy Bullock

President & CEO
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Board of Directors

Greg Redmon, Chairperson
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Greg Beard, Secretary/Treasurer
Billy Gene Hurd
Boris Haynes
Rick Halloran
Brent Tackett

SKRECC Offices:

Clinton County
715 Snow Rd., Albany, KY 42602
(606) 387-6476

McCreary County
51 Center Ave., Whitley City, KY 42653
(606) 376-5997

Pulaski County
200 Electric Ave., Somerset, KY 42501
(606) 678-4121

Russell County
2405 N. Main St., Jamestown, KY 42629
(270) 343-7500

Wayne County
780 N. Main St., Monticello, KY 42633
(606) 348-6771

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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit www.skrecc.com to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:

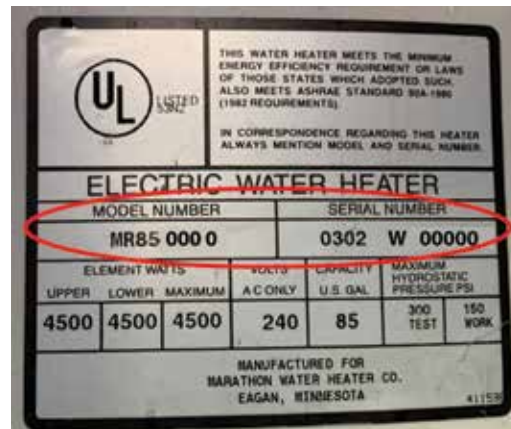


South Kentucky RECC discontinues water heater sales

South Kentucky RECC will no longer be a Marathon water heater distributor. When the co-op first began selling the high-efficiency water heater, it was because there were no dealers in the service territory, and the co-op wanted to be able to provide members with this option. There are now several dealers in this area.

Should you need assistance with your current Marathon water heater, please contact the Marathon technical support line at (800) 321-6718, option 2.

When you talk with tech support you will need to ask for a reference number. This will guarantee whom-ever repairs or replaces your water heater will get reimbursed from Marathon.



Members need the information found on the silver sticker located on the Marathon water heater if calling technical support for assistance.

Before calling, please have the following information for the tech: model number and serial number. Both can be found on the silver sticker on your Marathon water heater.

If you have any questions, please contact South Kentucky RECC at (800) 264-5112.



With a heavy heart, we have made the difficult decision, along with other Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, to cancel our 2020 sponsored Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

As always, we are committed to our members, our communities and our veterans. We look forward to continuing our tradition in 2021.

Thank you to all those who have served and continue to serve our great nation!