

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • OCTOBER 2020

## Celebrate National Cooperatives month and member appreciation with us

Story and Photo by Joy Bullock

Eighty-two years ago this month, a group of 10 farmers from Wayne and surrounding counties met at the county agent's office in Monticello to start a new rural electric cooperative with a loan from the Rural Electrification Administration—an organization that was formed by President Franklin Roosevelt as part of his New Deal.

Those 10 farmers who met and started South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation on October 8, 1938, were: W. Dalton, Foxie Dunagan, L.G. Dunnington, R.H. Henninger, J.D. McKechnie, Ray Oatts, G.P. Rice, T.M. Shearer, A.V. Stearns and W.I. West.

South Kentucky RECC was formed as a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative with each of its electric consumers being one of its member-owners. It was founded on the idea that the cost of electricity to its owners/members would be just what it cost to provide the electricity.

This idea continues today. While South Kentucky RECC has grown and now serves parts of 11 Kentucky and two Tennessee counties with more than 69,000 connected meters, the co-op's rates are still based on what it costs to provide electricity to its members.

Each October has been set aside as National Cooperatives Month to recognize cooperatives, including electric cooperatives like South Kentucky RECC. Because South Kentucky RECC recognizes the importance of its members, the co-op has chosen to use October's National Cooperatives Month as a time to honor its owners by hosting member appreciation days at each of the five offices.

To protect our members, this will be a drive-thru event. Members will be able to go to their local office, drive thru to register and get a free bucket with LED lightbulbs, as well as be eligible for door prizes, like a new, 55-inch, smart television.

The member appreciation day schedule is:

- October 19—McCreary County office
- October 20—Wayne County office
- October 21—Clinton County office
- October 22—Russell County office
- October 23—Pulaski County office

All times will be 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

In addition, you will be given a special form to update your account information. Once you get it home



**At this year's member appreciation days, members will be given a form to update account information. Once it is taken home, filled out and returned to the co-op, that member will be entered into a drawing for this truck. The drawing will be held December 18.**

and filled out, return it to the co-op to be placed in the drawing for our truck giveaway. We are giving away a 2011 four-wheel-drive Ford Ranger pickup with a topper. The drawing will be held December 18 at 11 a.m. ET.

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend member appreciation day at a South Kentucky RECC office near you! **DSK**

Call (606) 451-4141 for more information on member appreciation days.

# Free tool from South Kentucky RECC takes the guesswork out of electricity use

Story by Donna Abernathy

Many of us are spending a lot more time at home these days. With work, school and even recreation time shifting to the kitchen table, TVs and computers run longer, the oven and microwave work overtime and house lights shine more hours each day. If all those extra hours of energy consumption—and the associated electric bill—have you concerned, it's time to check out South Kentucky RECC's Virtual Energy Assessment tool.

Coffey, the co-op's energy services and member engagement manager.

"As a not-for-profit electricity distributor, South Kentucky RECC is committed to helping our members maximize efficiency without sacrificing comfort in their home or business," Coffey says. "This tool empowers you to make choices and changes that can determine how much electricity you use every day."

With a few taps on a mobile device or clicks of a com-

puter mouse, the Virtual Energy Assessment tool also provides a convenient alternative to calling the South Kentucky RECC office during business hours. Because it is accessed via the co-op's website, the tool can provide answers to billing questions at any time of the day or any day of the week.

Along with learning how much power you're using, Virtual Energy Assessment can also provide an in-depth energy audit without an on-site visit by an energy advisor. The technology can pinpoint specific problem areas and electricity hogs that contribute to higher energy bills. Users also receive do-it-yourself suggestions for reducing energy use, based on individual circumstances and a profile of your home or business.

Getting a handle on your energy use is just a click away. Visit [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com), select "Efficiency & Rebates," then click "Virtual Energy Assessment" and

provide a few pieces of information about your home. This will generate a custom plan for lowering your energy costs, including suggesting South Kentucky RECC programs and services that may help.



**Use South Kentucky RECC's Virtual Energy Assessment to see where you can save money on your electricity bill. Visit [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com) and click "Efficiency & Rebates" to find the link.**

This home energy analysis technology, available on SKRECC's website [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com) and free to members, provides essential data and analyses that take the guesswork out of electricity consumption, says Alan

computer mouse, the Virtual Energy Assessment allows a co-op member to track a home's electricity use and learn exactly where energy is being consumed. The digital tool uses the actual energy data for your home

# Co-op and employees support Ronald McDonald House Charities

Sara Silletto needs only one word to describe the mood when volunteers from Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including South Kentucky RECC, arrive to perform volunteer work at one of the commonwealth's Ronald McDonald Houses. It's "joy."

"We're so happy to see them, and they're so happy to see us," says Silletto, director of development at Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Kentuckiana (Louisville).

RMHC houses in Louisville and Lexington provide a place for families to call home while staying close to a hospitalized child. In addition to providing a comfortable place to sleep, the facilities offer meals, snacks and laundry rooms—all at little to no cost to families.

Last year, the two houses provided more than 14,600 nights of lodging to families. Most come from rural Kentucky communities where intensive pediatric hospital care, such as for premature infants, is limited.

Supporting RMHC is just one way South Kentucky RECC demonstrates its commitment to the cooperative principle of "caring for the

community." Last year, the co-op joined with other volunteers who accomplished more than 40,000 hours of work at the two houses.

"Volunteering at the house is another way I help to distribute energy," says Missy Johnson, benefits administrator for SKRECC. "Not worrying about a place to stay or food to eat allows parents to put all their energy into helping their children get well. With two children of my own, I can only imagine the anguish these parents are facing. If I can do something that takes even a little of the burden off of them, then I want to help."

Co-op employees visit the houses three to four times each year to spruce up landscaping and deep clean interior spaces, as well as prepare meals and snacks for the guests.

Every co-op member and employee has an opportunity to get involved during RMHC's annual Wish List Drive. South Kentucky RECC collects food, drinks, cleaning products and other supplies to donate to the Lexington house.

A favorite RMHC project occurs in November. Co-op employees deck the halls for the holidays by



TIM WEBB

In the past, South Kentucky RECC Benefits Administrator Missy Johnson, right, has packed lunches for people staying at the Lexington Ronald McDonald House.

hanging lights and decorating multiple Christmas trees at the houses.

"It brings a lot of joy and literal light to the house at a time of year when it's even harder for these families to be away from home," says Chelsi McDonald, director of development and communications for RMHC of the Bluegrass (Lexington).

"We know we can always count on the co-op team to be there when we need them," adds McDonald. "They are truly service minded."

At South Kentucky RECC, we're glad to pitch in. It's the co-op way. And we thank RMHC for sharing in our commitment to care for the people of rural Kentucky.



## Helping Heroes Fly

Thank you to all those who've served and continue to serve this great nation. Learn more about how to apply for future flights at [www.honorflightky.org](http://www.honorflightky.org).





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Visit [www.skrecc.com](http://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:



# OVERHEAD LINE SAFETY

## WHEN IN DOUBT, LOOK UP AND OUT

Whether you're on the job or working on an outdoor project around your home, you should always be aware of overhead electrical lines. Follow these guidelines to prevent the most common mistakes made near power lines.

### LOOK UP...

- When using tools of any kind, especially when trees are nearby.
- When using cranes or other lifting devices that approach working distance within 20 feet of power lines.
- When putting up scaffolding, framing a building, painting, pruning trees or picking fruit.
- When moving a tree under a power line. Determine the overhead clearance from the top of the tree. Trees can conduct electric current.
- When working on top of buildings.

When working on an outdoor project, **stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.** If your ladder or piece of equipment touches an overhead line, both you and the equipment can become a path for the electricity.

