



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable.Affordable.Responsible



July 2021

Attend Your Annual Meeting

It's not every company that invites its customers to an annual meeting to elect the board of directors and help set policy.

But your electric Cooperative does just that.

When you signed up as a consumer of RVEC, you automatically became a member and a part-owner.

Cooperatives use a business model that's different from other companies. We don't sell stock on Wall Street, so there are no out-of-town investors. Control of your Cooperative is local.

You may run for a seat on the board of directors, if you'd like. You may vote for the candidates who do run — and know that every candidate is also a consumer of RVEC.

It's important to attend your cooperative's Annual Meeting on September 8, 2021. It's a place where you can meet the CEO and staff. You can get to know the directors who advise the staff and decide on important policy matters.

It's also where you can vote for the board of directors and learn what kinds of business issues RVEC is dealing with.

Membership in your Cooperative comes with these privileges. It also comes with the responsibility of casting your vote for the directors you think will do the best job.

Nominating Committee Appoints Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee responsibility is to select director candidates from each of the districts in which directors' terms expire. The following members of the Cooperative were nominated for the office of Director for the term specified to be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on September 8, 2021:

District 2 – Steve Schable

District 3 – Mark Adams
Adam Handlos

District 5 – Mark Ludwig

Candidate profiles will be in next month's newsletter.

Twenty or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures, not less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting date of September 8, 2021. The secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

Watch Cooperative Property When Burning Ditches

It's that time of the year when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.

This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems if a fire is allowed to burn around RVEC poles, anchors, guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.

Burning close to RVEC property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any member-owners involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to RVEC property. 38.04.06

To avoid damage to RVEC property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

Last month I spent a couple days at the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Summer Summit. It was the first national gathering I have attended in a while. The purpose of these meetings is to assemble the member-owners of CFC, which is our long-term financing cooperative, and several other affiliate organizations for the purpose of conducting their annual meetings, including board elections.

Much of the business we do is with a cooperative, including insurance, after-hours call center, material and equipment, and of course, the power we purchase and distribute to you. This makes RVEC a member-owner of these vendors, in the same cooperative manner that you are a member-owner of RVEC.

Democratic member control is one of the seven cooperative principles we follow every day. As a member-owner of RVEC, it is important to recognize the importance of your role in RVEC. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. RVEC is governed by a board of seven member-owners. They are your representatives and are accountable to you.

In September, RVEC will hold our Annual Meeting. The board has decided to conduct this meeting in-person. No matter the form the meeting takes, your role is most important. You have the responsibility of electing directors at this meeting each year. In May, a committee of RVEC member-owners met to nominate directors to serve a 3-year term. Three of the seven districts are up for election this year. In addition to these candidates, the deadline for write-in candidates is July 25th. Contact us to learn how to petition for a write-in candidate.

The one-member-one vote democratic control of the cooperative business model sets us apart from other utilities and provides you, the member-owner, with a voice in how your electric cooperative is governed and operated. For more information, visit our website: www.rvec.coop/board-directors.

Why Membership Matters

You could be a member of a lot of different places; a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different? The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner. You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member-owner of RVEC, you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our Annual

Meeting. You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to determine how your profits are redistributed. Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it back to you. And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters. As your local electric co-op, we get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members – and that's what matters most to us. 09.07.01

- Outage Information -

If you don't have power or have an emergency call 712.659.3649.

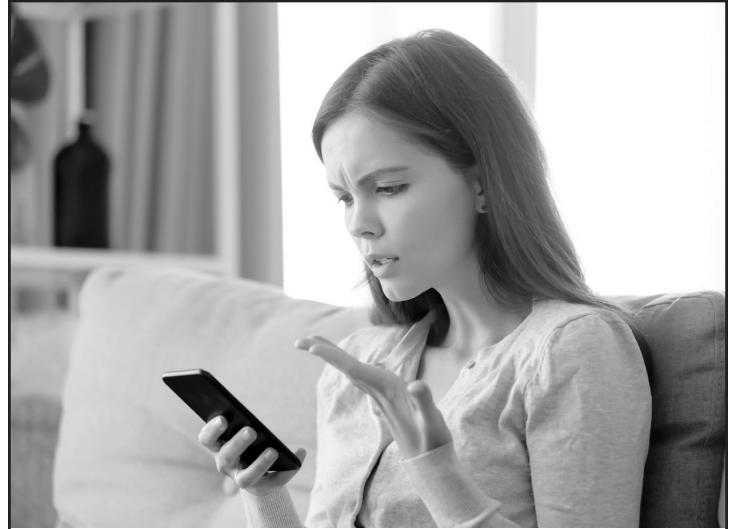
RVEC phones are answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Don't Let Summer Heat Spoil Family Fun

As restaurants continue to reopen and take-out food is available everywhere, home is where the cookouts happen. Moving dinner outdoors is a great way to save energy in the summer. Firing up a charcoal grill uses zero electricity. 18.13.02

Other ways to keep energy bills down at dinner time:

- *Get creative with cold side dishes.* Learn how to make gazpacho, colorful salads that mix fruit with raw veggies, and dips featuring avocados, garbanzo beans or tomato bases.
- *Grill veggies outdoors rather than steaming them on the stove.* Asparagus, corn-on-cob and skewer of mushrooms, onions, tomatoes and zucchini all taste better in the summer when they're grilled.
- *Make potato salad or pasta salad in large batches.* That way, you only have to boil the ingredients on the stovetop once for a supply that can last over several dinners.
- *Skip the baking.* Order fresh bread and desserts from a nearby bakery to show your support for local businesses and keep your own oven closed for the season.



Beware of Utility Scams

With all of the confusion and uncertainty in our world today, scammers are taking advantage of these circumstances to target consumers by phone, email and text.

If you receive a suspicious communication threatening immediate disconnection, please call us at (712) 659-3649 or 800-253-6211.



**Raccoon Valley
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Reliable • Affordable • Responsible

Reduce Energy Usage During Peak Hours

Peak hours are the busiest time for RVEC, since many member-owners are using electricity at the same time. It also costs RVEC more to buy electricity when the demand is high during these peak times, and the cost of your future electricity may also rise. Using less electricity during peak periods of time saves money.

Here's what you can do to help us help you during peak hours. These hours are usually during the hottest summer days between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. For example, wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed at nights.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave uses considerably less energy than your stove or cook top range.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you purchase a highly efficient appliance. Look for "Energy Star" labels when you're evaluating.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently all year!

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

Vacation Usage: Your Meter Doesn't Stop While You're Away

Vacation season is upon us and everyone will be traveling to see the sites and sounds of our great country. And while you are gone for a couple of days or weeks, your electric bill will surely go down, right? Wrong.

A lot of people believe when they are gone their electric consumption decreases or even stops. When in actuality, most electric appliances are still running unless you have taken measures to shut them off. Here are some questions that you need to ask yourself to see if your electric bill is really going to go down.

- Did you shut off your electric water heater? If not, the water heater will still run in order to maintain the temperature that you have the thermostat set at.
- Were the refrigerator and freezers emptied and turned off? Otherwise, the refrigerator and freezer will continue to run.
- Did you shut off your clocks, computers, dehumidifiers, air conditioner, lights, TVs, power ventilators and attic fans? Some of these items seem small, but everything adds up.

View Your Daily Usage

Did you know that you can view your daily usage on SmartHub?

SmartHub is a web application that allows you to view and change account information, notify customer service of account inquiries, and make payments in a secure environment - right from your mobile device, computer or tablet. You are able to monitor and analyze your electric use all at the touch of a button! This service will help manage your account and will free up your time with this convenient and free service. 24.33.01

Go to www.rvec.coop and click on view and pay my bill to register for the service. SmartHub is also available as an app for smartphones and tablets. The app is free and can be downloaded from iTunes or the Android Market.



Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.