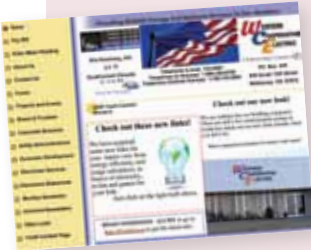


**WESTERN
COOPERATIVE
ELECTRIC**

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC **NEWS**

Western's Payment Options



Western's members can now make payments through our website or by phone using a credit card or electronic funds transfer.

To pay by phone, call our automated service at 800-330-1025, or call our main office to speak with a Western employee.

Through our website, you can also view your account, or enter your meter reading. You will have to set up a login and password the first time you do the online services. You will be prompted to enter your base account number and meter number.

All of these services are available at our website www.westerncoop.com.

Nominating Committees to be Announced

The 2012 Western Cooperative Electric Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

Prior to the meeting, the Western Trustees will appoint Nominating committees. The committees' responsibility is to prepare a list of nominations for Trustees in the districts which have terms expiring and present these nominations for election by members at the Annual Meeting. Article IV, Section 4.06 of Western's Bylaws states the following concerning nominations:

"At least 60 days prior to the annual meeting, the president shall, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, appoint a nominating committee of three members from each of said three Trustee districts, and each of said nominating committees shall nominate one or more members from its respective district for each trustee to be elected from the district, and within 30 days from the date of their appointment said nominating committees shall report their nominations to the secretary of the cooperative who shall cause the list of nominees to be mailed to the members of the cooperative at the time the notice of annual meeting is mailed.

Any 15 or more members of the cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in like manner showing clearly which committee-nominated candidate(s) are being opposed, not less than 20 days prior to the meeting, and the secretary shall

The Trustee Positions for Election are Currently Served by



Melvin Keller
District 1:
Graham,
Osborne, Rooks,
and Sheridan
counties



Craig Crossland
District 2:
Ellis, Lincoln,
Russell, and
Trego counties



Larry Evans
District 3:
Barton,
Ellsworth,
Gove, Ness, and
Rush counties

post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committees is posted.

The secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but no less than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the Trustees to be elected from specific Trustee Districts, and the names and addresses of all nominees, showing separately those nominated by the committees and those nominated by petition, if any.

The chairman, or the chairman's appointee, at such meeting, after all nominations so made have been duly announced, shall call for additional nominations from the floor, and shall ascertain and announce, after any nominations made from the floor, the particular Trustee District from or with respect to which any additional candidates have been nominated. The member making a nomination or nominations shall designate the nominee(s) of the committees and/or the nominee(s) by petition, if any, and/or other nominee(s) nominated from the floor, if any, against whom his nominee(s) shall run.

Notwithstanding the provision contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Trustees after the election of Trustees."

Really? Saving on Your Electric Bill?

Getting cabin fever this winter? Spend time making your home more energy efficient and start saving for that summer vacation!

You can trim your electric bill all year long by taking a few simple steps. Here's a list of Western's recommendations for year-round energy and money savings!

- ▶ **January:** Lowering your thermostat just a few degrees during winter months can save as much as \$85 per year. Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.
- ▶ **February:** turning down the temperature gauge on your water heater to below 120 degrees Fahrenheit can heat up your savings.
- ▶ **March:** Stop air from escaping your home and money from escaping your wallet! Sealing leaky air ducts increases the efficiency of your system and decreases actual run time.
- ▶ **April:** Caulking cracks and openings reduce air flow, with a possibility of saving as much as \$200 a year.
- ▶ **May:** Make sure your refrigerator is on your spring cleaning to-do list. Clean the outside air fins of dust and lint. Check the temperature gauge for maximum operating efficiency. Recommended temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ **June:** When was the last time you changed a filter? Replacing furnace and air conditioner filters regularly can have a big impact on a home's energy use. Dirty filters can restrict

air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system, forcing it to work harder on hot summer days.

- ▶ **July:** Your home's cooling costs can skyrocket—right along with the temperature outside—during summer months. Keeping your thermostat set between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit can save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.
- ▶ **August:** Heading out of town on vacation? Be sure to unplug all of your electronic devices like computers, monitor, printers, TV and cable boxes, DVD players, and microwaves. Electronics with digital displays and instant-on features consume energy even if they're not in use.
- ▶ **September:** Be a "fan-atic". While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On a milder day, a fan is a much more energy-efficient choice than cranking up the air conditioner. Fans cool people, not rooms so turn them off when you leave.
- ▶ **October:** Get ready for winter by insulating your attic. Adding nine or more inches of insulation could save you more than \$150 a year.
- ▶ **November:** As the weather cools down, pull up your window shades. Keeping blinds open during cold weather lets heat from sunlight in, reducing the need to turn up your home's thermostat.
- ▶ **December:** Put a new ENERGY STAR appliance at the top of your Christmas wish list. Upgrading ap-



Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

pliances like washing machines to ENERGY STAR-rated models can save up to \$140 per year.

Western Cooperative Electric is dedicated to being an energy efficiency resource for the members. To learn more about how you can save money through energy efficiency practices, go to www.westerncoop.com and utilize the energy calculators after clicking on the yellow light bulb.

For even more information, check out TogetherWeSave.com, an online portal to energy savings tips that uses real dollar saving projection—based on your individual electric rate and climate zone—to motivate small changes in behavior that add up to big savings. Once you arrive at the site, enter your zip code to be redirected to Western's customized section. You can watch videos that provide detailed instructions about energy savings practices, add up your potential savings with a Virtual Home Tour, and much more.

Western Recognizes Trustees & Employees for Years of Service

Each year Western recognizes trustee and employee anniversaries for their dedication to Western. In December 2011, the following were honored for their tenure at Western. Western would like to thank these individuals for their years of service.

Trustees

- ▶ Melvin Keller—20 years
- ▶ Charles Luetters—5 years

Employees

- ▶ Al Stefek—35 years
- ▶ Dan Weltmer—35 years
- ▶ Terry Long—25 years

- ▶ Mark Klein—20 years

- ▶ Ken Nowlin—20 years

- ▶ Tonya Keller—15 years

- ▶ Chad Schoenthaler—15 years

- ▶ Ron Aschenbrenner—10 years

- ▶ Jeff Mattheyer—10 years

- ▶ Terry Kuhn—5 years

- ▶ Reg Flagler—5 years