

Weathering the 'perfect storm'

Our nation's electric utility industry is heading into a "perfect storm." While the amount of electricity we use every day steadily increases, the capacity to generate and transmit that power is running short. In the past, fossil fuel-fired power plants were the go-to option to meet growing new demand with proven technology, but looming federal regulations on carbon dioxide emissions are changing that. The cost of complying with new regulations could make electricity less affordable for everyone — a concern Holston Electric Cooperative is fighting to voice.



Larry Elkins
General Manager
 Holston Electric Cooperative

In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a part of the executive branch, issued an "endangerment finding," putting a foot in the door for the agency to issue sweeping new rules that could impose strict limits on carbon emissions, including those from power plants. The cost of generating electricity would go up and, in the end, hit consumer pocketbooks.

Congress is mulling over its own set of carbon dioxide regulations, and we must continue to ask that any resulting legislation be **fair, affordable and technologically achievable**. If passed, congressional legislation should also preempt use of any other existing laws, fixing a regulatory disaster that would only add to costs for consumers with a mess of overlapping regulatory red tape.

Whatever the political outcome, the honest truth is the change won't come overnight. Fossil fuels currently account for more than 70 percent of all electricity generated in the United States. New technology will be key to both keeping these traditional options up-to-date and refining new ways to affordably keep the lights on. Cleaner

use of fossil fuels, an increased use of renewable energy and a big commitment to energy efficiency will all be necessary.

Electric co-ops have a long history of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to their members, and no "perfect storm" is going to keep us from continuing to do our job. Co-op research projects are already under way to expand the current limits of renewable energy, make coal- and natural gas-fired power plants cleaner and more efficient and possibly even capture carbon dioxide from plant emissions before they go up a smokestack and store them deep underground to keep them out of the atmosphere.

The Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network, of which Holston EC is a member, was recently awarded a \$33.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to support a wide-ranging "smart grid" research project. The effort brings together 27 electric co-ops in 10 states that will match the grant money awarded to create a pool of nearly \$68 million for ground-breaking technology development. With a smarter electric grid, we'll be able to deliver electricity to our consumers more efficiently — cutting the amount of emissions we'll need to generate as a result.

Co-ops have stepped up to challenges in the past, and I am absolutely sure our response to this challenge will be the same. But we need your help in relaying to Congress just how important it is to keep climate-change legislation **fair, affordable and technologically achievable**. To make your voice heard, join the Our Energy, Our Future grassroots awareness campaign at www.ourenergy.coop.



Serving more than 30,000 customers in Hawkins and Hamblen counties.



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 Monday-Friday

General Manager
 Larry Elkins

Board of Directors
 President: Otis Munsey
 Vice President: William W. Bales
 Secretary-Treasurer:
 Danny Cockreham
 Dr. David Britton
 Lynn Parker
 Phil Pierce
 William F. Young

To report an outage or electrical emergency, call 423-272-8821 or 423-235-6811 day or night.

Board members contribute to the cooperative and to their communities

First part in a series

Holston Electric Cooperative's 525-square-mile service area in East Tennessee is divided into seven districts. Each district is represented by one member on the board of directors. When elected to the Holston EC board of directors, members bring vast experiences and varied backgrounds to contribute to the board. Directors are responsible for decisions regarding policies, contracts, budgets, work plans, investments and the financial



direction of the \$75 million electric cooperative that is owned by more than 30,000 members.

This is the first in a series of three articles that will introduce present board members and inform the members of their backgrounds and qualifications.



Left, 6th District board member Phil Pierce, Surgoinsville,

Right, 7th District board member Lynn Parker, Church Hill

Phil Pierce has been a member of the Holston EC board of directors since 2000. He is a graduate of Surgoinsville High School and received a bachelor of arts degree in economics and accounting from Emory and Henry College in Virginia. He was employed at Alladin Plastics in Surgoinsville for 37 years and recently retired from his position as senior vice president of finance.

Pierce is a past president of the Medical Board of Surgoinsville, which was organized to recruit health-care providers to the town. Throughout the years, the board has continued with other projects for the benefit of Surgoinsville, including the formation of a fitness center. In his spare time, Pierce enjoys motorcycling, target-shooting and membership in the Appalachian Express, a men's chorus that performs barbershop harmony throughout the area.

Pierce and his wife, Sue, have two sons and two daughters-in-law. They are members of Surgoinsville United Methodist Church.

Lynn Parker has represented the 7th Holston EC district since 1999. He graduated from Rogersville High School,

attended East Tennessee State University and retired from Eastman Chemical Company with 36 years of service as an industrial engineering technician. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two children and four grandchildren and are members of First Baptist Church in Church Hill where he has taught an adult Sunday School class for 33 years.

Parker was recently honored by Of One Accord (OOA) ministries when he was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering more than 4,000 hours to the organization. He is one of three chairmen of the board of directors over the past 10 years that led OOA to becoming a multi-million-dollar organization. He continues to volunteer with OOA as well as serve as a commissioner of the First Utility District of Church Hill, is coordinator of Emergency Services of Church Hill and is an executive board member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He is a past recipient of Character Counts Outstanding Character Award, Hawkins County Schools Exemplary Role Model and a Tennessee Senate Resolution Commendation. When he isn't volunteering, Parker enjoys farming.

The duties of a Holston EC director

The job of Holston Electric Cooperative director is very important. Specifically, the duties of your board of directors are to:

Determine policy guidelines for the daily operation of Holston EC.

Employ a general manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the cooperative.

Determine work plans and establish a budget.

Set rates and fee schedules.

Enter into contracts for the power supply, services and goods and loans for capital improvements.

Evaluate annually the performance of the cooperative and the general manager.

Report to you, the member-owners of Holston EC, about the financial condition of the cooperative.

Attend regular monthly meetings at the cooperative and occasional state, regional and national meetings.

Tons of trash removed during Ninth Annual Cherokee Lake Cleanup

Community members and lake-users converged at Cherokee Lake on Saturday, April 17, to collect 3.46 tons of trash during the Ninth Annual Cherokee Lake *POWER* Cleanup. Groups participating in the cleanup included the Rogersville Heritage Lites, Rogersville Kiwanis Club, Cub Scout Pack 143, Boy Scout Troop 143, Rogersville-Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce and Holston Electric Cooperative employees, directors and family members.

“This is an important event that we’ve helped sponsor for nearly 10 years,” said Holston EC General Manager Larry Elkins. “It’s an excellent way to teach youngsters the importance of taking care of our natural environment. I’m proud to join with so many other individuals, groups and organizations who volunteer their time and effort each spring to clean up the shoreline of Cherokee Lake.”

Seven locations were targeted for cleanup this year: Quarryville Boat Ramp, Melinda Ferry Boat Ramp, Mooresburg Substation Road, Boat Launch Road, Caney Creek, Boy Scout Camp and Lakemont.

Thanks to all who participated this year.



Trash — by the truckload — is brought to the container furnished by Allied Waste Services.



Cub Scout Pack 143, Boy Scout Troop 143



Rogersville Kiwanis Club



Rogersville Heritage Association’s Heritage Lites



Holston Electric Cooperative employees, directors and family members



StopLitter
TENNESSEE'S HAD ENOUGH

Safe working practices recognized at annual safety dinner



Holston EC Board Chairman Otis Munsey, left, is on hand to present safety awards to, from left, Chuck Hurd, Roger Jones, Dustin Fugate, Evin McMillan, Josh LaRoy, Bryan Allen and Derrick Siclari.



Munsey also presents awards to, from left, Renee Odom, Shannon Foster, Stacy Hayes, Rex Cole, Brian Waters and Nathan Franklin.



Munsey congratulates, from left, Renn Lawson, Stacy Ryans, Chad McLain, Larry Greene, Dennis Cupp and Joe Trent.



Employees receiving recognition from Munsey for their years of safety are, from left, Ragen Singleton, Glenn Risner, Dwight Brooks, Jim Collier, Sheila Fobber and Wayne McCracken.

With Holston EC employees working throughout the 525-square-mile service area and driving hundreds of miles each day, there are countless opportunities for work-related accidents and traffic accidents involving cooperative vehicles. Staying safe and staying alive depends on employees who are aware of safety procedures, alert to the current weather and traffic conditions and attentive to their primary responsibility.

At a recent Holston EC annual dinner, 34 employees were recognized for their safety records. The more continuous number of accident-free years that employees accumulate, the better their chances of completing each work day and returning safely to their homes and families. In addition, fewer accidents and injury reports contribute to lowered insurance premiums and operating costs.

Those recognized for their safety records were Bryan Allen, Derrick Siclari and Jamie Winegar, two years; Dustin Fugate, Brian Jarnigan, Josh LaRoy, Evin McMillan and James Rasmussen, three years; Jarrod Bachman, Chuck Hurd and Roger Jones, four years; Brian Parvin and Brian Waters, five years; Rex Cole,



Munsey congratulates Obie Seabolt, center, and Joe Don Stewart on their accumulated years of safety.

Nathan Franklin and Stacy Hayes, six years; Renee Odom, eight years; Shannon Foster, nine years; Larry Greene, Renn Lawson and Stacy Ryans, 11 years; Chad McLain, 12 years; Dennis Cupp, 14 years; Joe Trent, 15 years; Dwight Brooks, Jim Collier, Glenn Risner and Ragen Singleton, 17 years; Sheila Fobber and Wayne McCracken, 19 years; Leonard Eidson, 21 years; Obie Seabolt, 23 years; Joe Don Stewart, 27 years; and Jim Cook, 32 years.