

ELEC - O - NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Holiday Closing

*The offices of
Upshur Rural
Electric Cooperative
will be closed on
Monday,
May 25, 2015
in observance of
Memorial Day.*

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

Budget Billing

Budget billing helps Members budget for their electric bills by averaging their payments on a monthly basis. It helps absorb the highs and lows of summer and winter. For more information, go to our website at www.urecc.coop or call one of our Member Service Representatives.

The 78th Annual Meeting of the Members of Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation was held on Thursday, April 2, 2015. Three hundred and fifty one registered at the meeting.

The following statistics were reported for the fiscal year 2015:

*Constructed 32 miles of new line to serve 951 new members

*At the end of 2014, there were 45,112 accounts billed

*There are 290 miles of transmission line, 5,962 miles of overhead distribution line and 278 miles of underground distribution line in place

*The total plant investment was \$167,808,521 and the total kilowatt-hours sold in 2014 was 894,923,573

New business transacted at the meeting was the election of the following directors:

District #4 Henry Jackson
District #5 Charles H. Whiteside
District #6 R. Cody Newman



DEPOSITS

In an effort to control write-offs, Upshur Rural Electric routinely evaluates all accounts to identify those that may be consistently late paying, have been disconnected for non-payment or have had a returned banking item(s). URECC will be conducting

one such audit in the forthcoming months. Qualifying accounts that are without a sufficient deposit will be required to secure the account with an initial or additional deposit. Options other than deposit may be available for those that receive a deposit

request based on customer payment history. Contact a Member Service Representative to see if your account qualifies. See our Member Handbook for additional information. The Member Handbook is available upon request or on our website.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity is an increasing presence in our modern lives. As our reliance on electricity grows, so does the potential for electrical safety hazards. Fortunately, most electrical fires and incidents can be prevented.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries, fatalities and property loss. Every May, we celebrate Electrical Safety Month. It's a time when we place a spotlight on ways we keep you, our members, safe.

We're committed to teaching you how to stay safe all year long. To honor Electrical Safety Month, we're focusing on keeping you

safe around the staple of our electric utility industry—power lines.

When thinking about your home or neighborhood, chances are you don't picture power lines. They're easy to overlook, stringing high above your roof, buried across your yard, along property lines and roadways or near trees. But the old adage, "Out of sight, out of mind," may be dangerous—power lines pose serious electrical hazards if forgotten.

Trees can be a power line's worst enemy. Strong winds, storms and heavy ice can topple trees or shatter branches that pull down power lines and cause outages. Sometimes, even if heavily damaged, lines re-

main energized with the potential to electrify trees and nearby objects.

Arcing and flashovers between power lines and trees are also dangerous. In winter, extra weight from snow and ice can bend or break tree branches, bringing them close to power lines. During warm weather or when power lines are carrying heavy electrical loads, they can heat up and sag lower than normal. Electric current caused by arcing or flashovers between power lines and trees in either situation can easily injure or even kill an individual nearby.

Follow these safety tips and be sure to pay attention to power lines:

*Never go near a downed power line.

*Make sure to always look for nearby power lines before you cut down any tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, contact Upshur Rural Electric.

*Treat all power lines as energized. Never climb or attempt to handle a tree that has a limb caught in a power line. You may not see any visible evidence that the tree is "electrified" or dangerous.

*Make sure to maintain required clearances between equipment and power lines.

*If a fire starts from a fallen power line, notify the fire department first and then call Upshur Rural. Stay away from the site of the electrical hazard. Make sure others stay clear of the line and treat it as energized.

*Do not use water on or near a fallen power line.

*If you are in a vehicle and it comes into contact with a downed line, stay in your car if at all possible. Tell others to stay away too. If you have to get out of the car, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Hop with feet together until you are a good distance away from the vehicle.

*Don't drive over downed power lines.



Treat ALL power lines as energized. Never attempt to handle a tree that has a limb caught in a power line!

For more electrical safety tips, go to www.esfi.org.