



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
 P.O. Box B  
 1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, KS 66846  
 620-767-5144  
 www.flinthillsrec.com

**FLINT HILLS RURAL  
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**NEWS**

**Flint Hills RECA**

Charles Goeckel, General Manager

**Board of Trustees**

**Roger Zimmerman**

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**Duane Kaiser**

Vice President

**Duane Carlson**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Dale Andres**

Trustee

**Korby Efland**

Trustee

**Tim Miser**

Trustee

**Terry Olsen**

Trustee

**Shawn Potts**

Trustee

**Member Services**

- ▶ ACH / Bank Draft Program
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144.

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**Board Selects Goeckel as Manager**

The Flint Hills RECA Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that **CHARLES (CHUCK) GOECKEL** will be the new General Manager. Goeckel replaces General Manager Robert Reece, who is retiring at the end of January 2018.

Goeckel attended Marymount College of Salina and Wichita State University earning degrees in computer science and business administration. He began his rural electric co-op career as an accountant for Sedgwick County Rural Electric Cooperative in Cheney, then joined Flint Hills RECA on Jan. 15, 1990, as office manager. In 1995, he was promoted to assistant manager.

To further his education in the rural electric world, Goeckel completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Management Internship Program at the University of Wisconsin School of Business in 2014.

In addition to his commitment to Flint Hills RECA, Goeckel has been actively involved in community clubs and other organizations. He is currently a member of the Council Grove Rotary Club (past president), St. Rose of Lima Church Parish Council (past president),

and the treasurer for the Morris County Hospital Foundation. He is also a member and past president of the Kansas Rural Electric Accountants Association. Goeckel's family includes wife, Marla, and three children: Megan, Matt and Mason.



**Chuck Goeckel**

"I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve the members, Board of Trustees and employees of Flint Hills RECA. The co-op is blessed with very dedicated employees who all actively participate in carrying out the co-op's mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power to the members we serve. The co-op's future is bright. We look forward to the many opportunities we will have to bring value to our membership," said Goeckel.

The Board of Trustees and employees are confident that Chuck will continue his dedication and passion that he has shown during the past 28 years with Flint Hills RECA, to provide the best possible service to the co-op members in his new role.

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Annual Meeting March 20**

The Flint Hills RECA Annual Meeting will be held on March 20, 2018, at the Herington Community Building.

We hope that you will attend the Annual Meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

March 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31		

## New Vote by Mail-In Ballots for 2018 Annual Meeting

The Flint Hills RECA election voting process will be changing for the 2018 election of the Board of Trustees. Members will be receiving a mail-in ballots to elect trustees. The new mail in ballot voting process allows members/owners the opportunity to cast their vote by mail. Following is an explanation of how the new election process will work.

### Nominating Trustee Candidates

The board-appointed nominating committee will select candidates to run in the four districts that will be up for re-election in the year 2018. The names and addresses of the appointed nominating committee was listed in the Flint Hills RECA's December 2017 *Kansas Country Living*.

The nominating committee will meet on Jan. 4, 2018, to choose two (2) qualified candidates from their respective district to be voted upon by the members to fill the trustee positions whose terms of office are set to expire at the next (2018) annual meeting. Nominations for a qualified candidate may also be made by petition filed at the Council Grove office on or before the close of business on the fifteenth

(15th) day following the nominating committee's selection of nominees, which will be January 19, 2018. The petition must be signed by not less than 5% of members of the district for whom the trustee is to be elected. All signatures must be obtained within sixty (60) days prior to the date nominations are filed at the headquarters' office. The candidate(s) nominated by petition must meet the same qualifications as any candidate nominated by the nominating committee.

### Voting

The election of trustees shall be by mail in ballot. Only those nominees selected by the nominating committee or nominated by petition shall appear on the mail-in ballot. The ballots will be mailed to all active members the second week of February 2018. All ballots must be returned to the Flint Hills RECA office by March 9, 2018. The board-selected election committee, consisting of at least three qualified members of the Cooperative, will be responsible for opening and counting all mailed in ballots. The election committee will follow a confidential counting process during

the ballot opening meeting held on March 14, 2018.

### Annual Meeting

The voting results will be announced, along with other Cooperative business, at the March 20, 2018 Annual Meeting and will also be posted in Flint Hills RECA's section of your April 2018 *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

Your attendance at annual meeting is important because Flint Hills RECA is run by a democratically elected Board of Trustees. They are a board who is given the privilege to serve because of your vote. The trustees you vote for are a part of your local communities and are committed to remain dedicated to providing its member/owners, safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. For more information on the voting process, please call 620-767-5144 or visit our website, [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com), and click on the Member Service tab to view the cooperative's Member Bylaws.

Please remember to cast your vote and return it on time to ensure your cooperative is in good hands for the future.

## Employees Raise \$960 for Christmas Donations

Flint Hills RECA's employees donated a total of \$960 to be split between two charities this year. Half of the donation went to the Morris County Care and Share program to supply food, clothing and Christmas toys to local families

in need. The Silver Angel Tree program, sponsored by the Emprise Bank in Hillsboro, received the second half of the collected donation. This program is in support of Marion county residents over the age of 55, who could use some

extra assistance and cheer this holiday season.

"It is part of our commitment to the communities we serve," said Diann Diehl, Member Service Manager. "Flint Hills RECA's employees and board of trustees are proud to donate to both charities that will help give local families a happy holiday season again this year."



Flint Hills RECA employees donated more than \$900 to local charities this holiday season.

# Reece Retires After 43 Years of Service

Flint Hills RECA helped **BOB REECE** celebrate his retirement with an open house get together on Dec. 15, and an employee Christmas/retirement party on Dec. 3.

Reece was presented an engraved meter lamp as a token of appreciation for his 43 years of dedicated service to Flint Hills RECA and many other retirement cards and gifts, including numerous golf balls to use during his retirement. Over 100 guests attended the open house to wish Bob farewell.

On behalf of the staff, board and membership, we would like to thank you for your years of dedicated leadership. Best wishes in your retirement, Bob!



Top left: Bob Reece's wife and three daughters came to help celebrate his retirement at the December 15 open house party. Stephanie Frazier, wife, Marie, Jena Stockwell and Brenna Scott.

Top right: Bob Reece was presented a meter lamp at the Employee Christmas/Retirement party located at the Historic Hays House on December 3rd.

Lower left: Bob Reece congratulating the new General Manager, Chuck Goeckel.

## Bob's Retiring! Congratulations!

**43 Years of Service (1975-2018)**  
3 Billion kWh's Sold  
4,000 New Services Built

**28 Years General Manager (1990-2018)**  
99.9% Service Reliability  
\$9.4 Million in Capital Credits Paid to Members  
\$5 Million of Subsidiary Margins for the Coop  
\$60 Million of Construction  
25 Board Members Served  
300 Homemade Desserts for the Board (Thanks Marie)  
150 Employees Managed  
1.9 Million Employee Hours Worked  
Zero Employees Lost on the Job!  
Countless Employee Family Members Impacted

**Thank You for Your Dedication and Service!**

*Scott W. Zimmerman*      *George Effel*      *Jim Miller*  
*Al Duane Haines*      *Dale F. Anderson*      *Jerry Olson*  
*Duane Carlson*      *Shaun & Patti*



Raelyn Scott (left) and Maya Eidman pose by Elk River near camp.

# Apply to Win a Free Trip of a Lifetime

The Flint Hills RECA is sponsoring two all-expense-paid trips to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 13-19, 2018.

Rafting, hiking and building memories—it's not just another trip! At camp, you will join winners from other co-ops in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains to build valuable leadership skills and friendships of a lifetime. So pack your sunscreen and hiking shoes and get ready to build memories that will last a lifetime.

The contest is open to all current high school sopho-

mores and juniors in Flint Hills' service area whose parents or guardians are members of Flint Hills RECA. Contest entrants will be interviewed and required to take a brief written test covering material that will be made available to each contestant.

If you are a high school sophomore or junior and are interested in this trip, please complete the application form below and send by **Feb. 6, 2018**, to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Diann Diehl, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846.

Once we receive this form, material will then be sent to you for the interview process.

## Contest Application for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp—Due Feb. 6, 2018

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Diann Diehl, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or [diann@flinthillsrec.com](mailto:diann@flinthillsrec.com) by **Feb. 6, 2018**.

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.**

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to apply for the 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp sponsored by Flint Hills RECA.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_