



Benton REA's 75th Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 4, 2012
Housel Middle School
2001 Highland Drive, Prosser, WA

Come Celebrate 75 Years With Us & You Could Win!

Benton REA
Members Only!



VIZIO HDTV 32" LCD

Must Be
Present to WIN!

Benton REA Surplus Vehicle

Winner is responsible for all state and federal taxes and licensing. Truck is presented as is with no warranty. To qualify, the winner must be a Benton REA member, 18 years of age or older, and able to present a valid Washington State drivers license.

Many door prizes will be awarded throughout the Benton REA business meeting, which begins at 12:00 noon.



PMH
MEDICAL CENTER
Working Together for Your Good Health.

Health Fair

Saturday, February 4, 2012

8:30 - 11:30 am

Cholesterol (no food or drink 12 hours prior to test)

Height and Weight Ratio ♥ Blood Pressure

Blood Sugar ♥ Pulmonary Function

Benton REA invites all members to participate in all or part of the health screening. You must register by 11:15 a.m. in order to complete the Health Fair. This health screening is not a substitute for an annual physical with your physician, which Benton REA strongly encourages members to pursue.



Vote for Trustees

This is your opportunity to participate in Benton REA's democratic process as Districts 7, 8 & 9 are up for election. Come and meet the Trustees who represent your district.



Scholarships Awarded

\$8,000 Trade/Technical &
 \$8,000 Academic Scholarships

Health Fair

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Bingo

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Steel Band

11:15 a.m.

Business Meeting

12:00 noon

Safety Poster Contest

Cash Awards

Money in Jar

Guess Closest

Candy in Jar

Guess Closest

Day Care (1+ year old)

Movies & Games

Food & Beverages

Breakfast

-Muffins, Juice, Milk, Coffee

Lunch

-Hot dogs (chili, cheese, sauerkraut), Vegetables (fresh), Cookies, Soda

District #7 West Richland/Bird Hill & Paradise South



Mark Shaver

After graduating with his Masters of Science and Engineering in Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences from the University of Michigan, Mark moved to West Richland in 2007 to take a position as Nuclear Engineer Analyst and begin his career with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland. Mark's position at PNNL includes duties that are both technical and administrative, which gives him valuable experience and expertise to help govern the Benton REA as a board of trustee. Mark recently earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification. Mark is also very active in his church, serving as the congregational vice president and president recently.

District #8 West Richland/ West Lattin Area

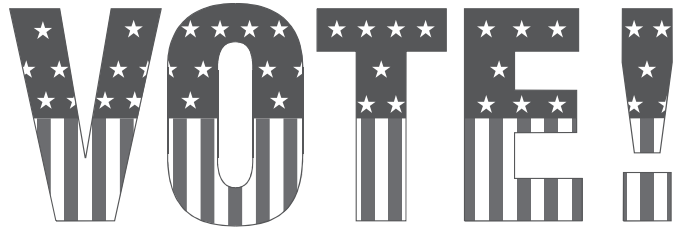


Catherine Russell

Catherine Russell prides herself on being active in the community and feels privileged to represent the Benton REA members as a trustee. "I've always done a lot of volunteer work within the communities I live. I am willing and able to dedicate the time needed to be an effective trustee and represent the members' interest at Benton REA." Catherine has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification. She has a B.A. degree in Social Science from WSU Tri-Cities. Catherine and her husband Kevin moved to the Tri-Cities in 1982 and to West Richland in 1994. They have three adult children, Amy, Ian and Mike. In her spare time, Catherine enjoys traveling, sewing and gardening.

**District #9
White Swan/
Rimrock Area****Virgil Boyle**

Mr. Boyle was born in Toppenish and spent his entire life in the Harrah/White Swan area where he received his education. He and his wife, Nadeen farm a 1,000 acre operation. Mr. Boyle was appointed to the Board in November of 1990 and currently serves as President. Virgil has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification. He enjoys camping and fishing.



Safety Poster Contest

Benton Rural Electric is sponsoring a Safety Poster Contest for all students whose parents or guardians are current Benton REA members with an active electrical account. This contest will be held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 4, 2012, at Housel Middle School, Prosser.

Age Categories

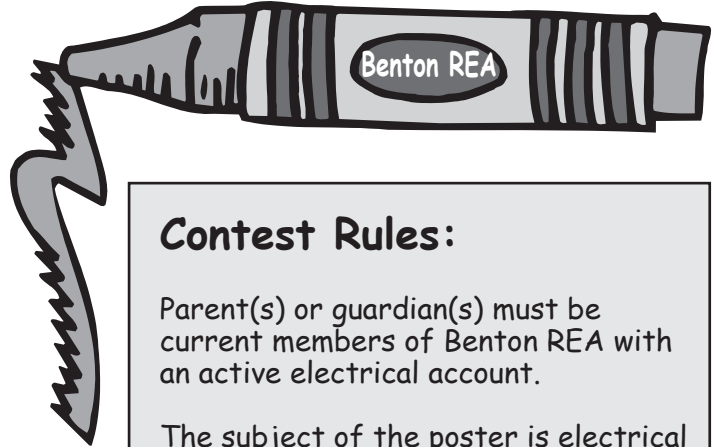
- Kindergarten & 1st grade
- 2nd and 3rd grade
- 4th & 5th grade

Deadline:

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Judging:

All entries will be judged prior to the Annual Meeting and the prizes will be awarded during the meeting on February 4, 2012. All posters will be on display at the Annual Meeting in the multi-purpose room at Housel Middle School.



Contest Rules:

Parent(s) or guardian(s) must be current members of Benton REA with an active electrical account.

The subject of the poster is electrical safety.

The poster can be on either poster board or drawing paper.

The size of the poster can be 8½" x 11" or larger.

The poster may be done in water colors, tempura, crayons, markers, powder paint, oil paint, ink, acrylics, charcoal, or paper cutouts.

The poster must be the work of only the student.

Write on the back of the poster the name, address and phone number of contestant, their parent or guardian's name, their grade and the school they attend.



Prizes

for each category

First place \$30

Second place \$20

Third place \$10

Fourth place \$5

So get out those paints, pencils, crayons and scissors and get your project started today!

Contact Person:

Ann Roth at 786-2913, 1-800-221-6987
or E-mail: ann@bentonrea.org



A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Benton Rural Electric Association

The Board meets the last Wednesday
of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees:

President.....Virgil Boyle
Vice-president.....Kyle Shinn
Secretary-Treasurer.....Fred Guyer
Trustee, District#1.....Buddy Treadway
Trustee, District#2.....Michael Freepons
Trustee, District #3.....Jim Moon
Trustee, District#4.....Mark Platt
Trustee, District#7.....Mark Shaver
Trustee, District#8.....Catherine Russell

Staff:

Manager.....Charles Dawsey
Engineering Manager.....Clint Gerkenmeyer
Special Services Manager.....Mike Bradshaw
Economic Devlpt. Coordinator.....Bruce Etzel
Manager of Finance & Admin.....John Porter
Operations Manager.....Jeff Ekрут
I. T. Manager.....Jeff Bastow
Communications Coordinator.....Troy Berglund
Attorney.....Terry Mundorf
Consulting Engineer.....HDR
Auditor.....Blodgett, Michelson & Naef

Main Office
402 7th Street
P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
www.bentonrea.org
Phone: (509) 786-2913
toll free (800) 221-6987
Fax: (509) 786-0291

◆
Toppenish Office
410 South G Street
P.O. Box 744
Toppenish, WA 98948
Phone: (509) 865-2600

◆
West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen
West Richland, WA 99353
Phone: (509) 967-2921

WA-7

Manager's Message

Building a Better World

Dear Members;

In today's uncertain economic times the question of "Building a Better World" quickly comes to mind. If we want our children and neighbors to succeed, we need a strong and sustainable community. But how do we accomplish this task? History suggests when we band together we can do anything. So, based on history, by working together we should be able to "Build a Better World, and that's where cooperatives all over the world come into play.

This month marks the beginning of a year-long, world wide, celebration marking the "International Year of the Cooperative." Our theme, "The Cooperative Way," resonates loud and clear, especially in the turbulent times we face. This year will offer cooperatives across the nation a chance to showcase the legacy of their innovation and achievement, and remind us of what's important in business—that's putting people first.

You're a member and owner of the Benton Rural Electric Association. It is based upon a community-driven business model shared by most cooperatives and is guided by the "7-Cooperative Principles." You know your cooperative is focused on providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. There are 29,200 co-ops across America taking many forms, from farmers banding together to get a fair price on supplies to credit unions delivering low fees and reasonable interest rates on loans. The cooperative business model works for dairy farmers and small and large business owners, financial institutions, grocery stores, insurance, housing, and child care.

In fact one out of every four Americans is a cooperative member; there are more than 1 billion members around the world. Cooperatives fill a community need, giving a voice and ownership to folks. A voice and ownership that quite frankly are often overlooked by profit-driven, and quasi-public businesses.

Electric cooperatives may only serve 12 percent of Americans, but cooperative lines cover 75 percent of this great nation. By banding together, cooperatives deliver power to 42 million rural Americans in 47 states—and still growing.

Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Programs, cooperative employees are volunteering overseas to deliver electricity to 2 billion people living without power. Over the last 50 years, these efforts have provided light and hope to 100 million people in more than 40 countries. That's how electric cooperatives build a better world.

During the "International Year of Cooperatives" it's important to remember cooperatives put people first.

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Like Benton REA, electric cooperatives across the nation brought electricity to communities to improve quality of life and keep young people from leaving to seek opportunities in electrified-cities. We still want our children to succeed. That's why Benton REA supports high school seniors by offering eight (8) - \$5,000 dollar continuing education scholarships to help send local students to college. These budding leaders will help us build a better world.

We also want to celebrate our legacy of innovation. Cooperatives adapt quickly to change, and we work together—cooperatively—to find solutions to improve service for our members. Can you imagine profit-driven utilities or quasi-public entities working together to keep bills affordable?

Whenever a community faces a need—a challenge to make life better—the cooperative business model comes into play. By putting people first and working together we can “Build a Better World.” After all that is the “**Cooperative Way**.”

75th Annual Meeting

Come see for yourself what makes cooperatives unique and special. On Saturday, February 4, 2012, we will be celebrating the 75th Annual Meeting of the Benton Rural Electric Association. More importantly, those members of the association who live in the districts that have trustees up for election will be voting for their trustee candidate who will represents their district on the Benton REA Board. This unique opportunity represents not only a right, but a responsibility members should take seriously.

So please accept this personal invitation to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 4, 2012. The meeting will be at Housel Middle School in Prosser. The Health Fair will begin at 8:30 a.m., as will registration. The business meeting will begin at noon. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Sincerely,
Charles Dawsey
General Manager

If you are in a district that is up for election and are unable to attend the annual meeting, you may fill out this proxy form below to designate a member in your district to vote at the meeting on your behalf.

PROXY FOR TRUSTEE ELECTION IN
DISTRICT #7, #8 and #9
(CUT OFF AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE MEETING)

I hereby make, constitute and appoint _____ a present member of the Association, qualified to vote in my district, as my proxy to vote for me at the trustee election and on any other matter requiring a vote of our membership; limited, however to those matters of business only as specifically stated in the Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members of the Benton Rural Electric Association to be Saturday, February 4, 2012, or at any adjournment thereof. The presence of a member at a meeting of the members shall be entitled to vote at such meeting in the same manner and with the same effect as if they had not executed a proxy.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Signed _____

Account No. _____

VOTING FOR TRUSTEES IS RESTRICTED TO MEMBERS WHO RESIDE IN THE DISTRICTS THAT ARE HOLDING AN ELECTION AND HAVE AN ACTIVE ACCOUNT. A MAXIMUM OF THREE PROXIES CAN BE VOTED BY ANY ONE MEMBERSHIP.