

Your Benton REA Board of Trustees

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Michael J. Bradshaw
mikeb@bentonrea.org

Is Your Power Out?

If your electricity is out for more than a few minutes...

Check your breaker box to see if a circuit breaker has tripped.

Then, check to see if your neighbors are without power.

Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or via the SmartHub app.

Voter Information on Vote.coop

Think your vote doesn't count? Think again!

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said "The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter." Benton REA would like to add, "The future of rural America is in the hands of the rural American voter."

On November 6, 34 U.S. Senate seats and all 435 U.S. House seats are up for grabs. Fifty-seven members of the current Congress are not seeking re-election in 2018, leaving their seats open. Three more were defeated in their primaries. So, there will be at least 60 new faces in congress next year.

Additionally, 39 gubernatorial elections will be held and more than 6,000 state legislative seats will be decided.

In the 2016 general election, out of approximately 158 million registered voters, only 138 million actually voted. And, in 2017, a Virginia House of Delegates race was decided by pulling a candidate's name out of a bowl. Why? After a recount, the race ended in a tie. That result decided the balance

of power in the House of Delegates. Still think your vote doesn't count?

Benton REA's number



one priority is providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. But doing this job requires a lot more than installing and maintaining power lines. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to serving you, our members.

That's why we're participating in a national program of America's electric cooperatives called Co-ops Vote.

Co-ops Vote encourages all co-op members to participate

in national, state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role played by electric cooperatives in their communities.

Co-ops Vote started as a national nonpartisan get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election.

As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community—one of the seven cooperative principles—through participation in our democracy.

Nearly 60 million people call rural America home. We are more powerful together. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

You can participate by registering to vote and committing to cast your ballot on or before November 6.

If you're interested in getting more involved, visit Vote.coop to learn more about the upcoming elections and access online tools that can help you participate.

Your vote is your voice this coming election! ■

Youth Tour Applications Due Nov. 30

Students wishing to visit Washington, D.C. have until November 30 to apply for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Benton REA will select two area high school students to represent the cooperative on this all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime. The trip will begin June 13 and end June 20, 2019.

Winners will travel with students from Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Idaho to Washington, D.C. While visiting the Capital, they will create lasting memories and friendships, learn about cooperatives, meet with U.S. Representatives and Senators, visit historic memorials and

museums and observe the inner workings of our nation's government.

Emily Bonus, Nathan Cahoon, Hannah Doyle, Tyler Slade and Taylor Smith are past recipients of this life-changing experience on Capitol Hill.

Children of Benton REA members who are in their sophomore or junior year of high school may apply. Applications are available at BentonREA.org/youth and at both Benton REA offices in Prosser and West Richland.

For questions, call 509-786-8265 or send an email to memberservices@bentonrea.org. ■



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COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th Street | P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-2913

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 West Van Giesen Street
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2921

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Toll Free: 800-221-6987
www.BentonREA.org
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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is a product of the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Office

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MORE THAN JOBS. ROOM TO GROW.

When I considered starting my business here, I needed a reliable workforce. I also had to make sure there was room to grow. When I learned Benton REA invested in internet access and a smarter, cleaner energy infrastructure, I knew it was a good fit. As a business owner, I like to know my utility and local leaders are teaming up to keep my community growing.

We are
MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.

To learn how you and Benton REA are [#MorePowerfulTogether](https://www.BentonREA.org), visit BentonREA.org.



Scholarships Available for Members' Children

Your son or daughter could earn one of five \$8,000 scholarships from Benton REA if he or she applies by January 4, 2019.

Current high school seniors whose parents are members of Benton REA and whose main residence is within Benton, Yakima or Lewis counties are eligible to apply for a Benton REA scholarship.

The cooperative offers both Academic and Trade & Technical scholarships. Academic Scholarships may be used to pay for a 4-year post-secondary education. Trade & Technical scholarships may be used to pay for expenses incurred in a 2-year certificate program. All scholarships will award up to \$8,000 each over the course of the student's education.

Applications are judged based upon high school academic performance as



well as a written essay.

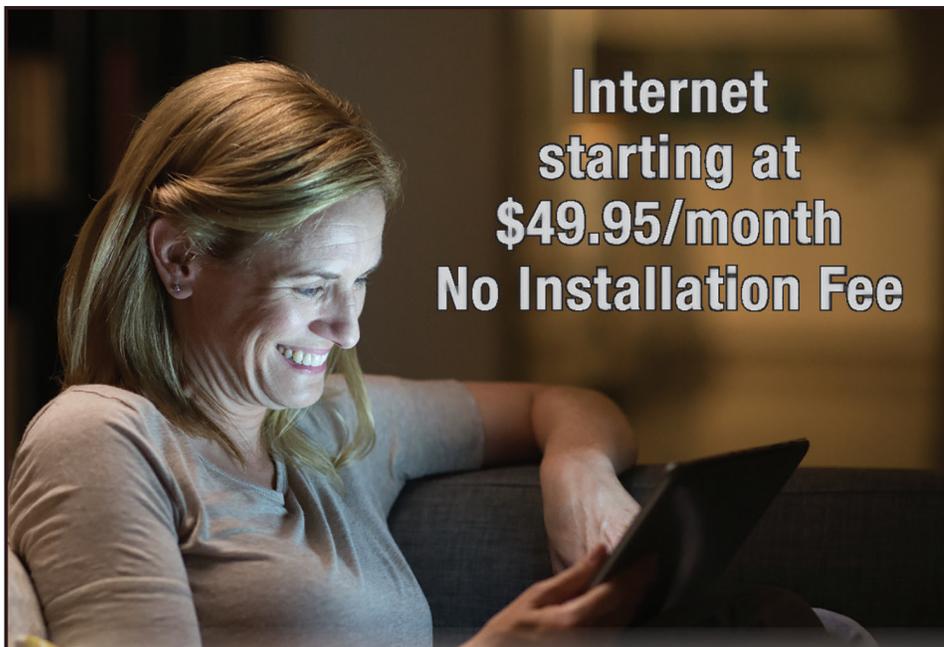
Visit BentonREA.org/scholarships to download the application and provisions for both scholarships. Email memberservices@bentonrea.org or call 509-786-8265 with your questions. ■



*Your Benton REA
Offices will be
Closed on*

*Veterans Day
Observed
November 12*

*Thanksgiving Day
November 22*



**Internet
starting at
\$49.95/month
No Installation Fee**

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BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

BentonREA.org/PowerNET 509-786-4004

CO-OPS



VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

WWW.VOTE.COOP

Members Rate Benton REA Higher than National Satisfaction Score

For the second year in a row, you gave Benton REA an ACSI (American Customer Satisfaction Index) score of 89 out of 100. You rated Benton REA 12 points higher than the cooperative utility industry in the 2018 ACSI report.

In July, Benton REA hired an independent company to survey 250 members. Members who responded either by telephone or online told the co-op where we are doing well and where we can improve.

In addition to the satisfaction score powered by ACSI, scoring highest among the categories were reliable electric service and the co-op's ability to restore power quickly.

"We are proud of our ability to meet our members expectations at the core of our service—providing reliable electricity to our members. It's in our mission to do so," said General Manager Mike Bradshaw. "This annual survey helps us understand your expectations and where we can improve to meet them."



Benton REA journeymen linemen Cody Bradshaw, Roman Cortes and Wade Stanton, and apprentice lineman Curtis Bohlke are pictured constructing overhead power lines for better reliability in March of 2018.

Benton REA plans to increase our energy efficiency education, continue to provide good value for the money our members spend on electricity and invest in customer service training for all employees.

The staff and trustees at your electric cooperative thank those who took the 2018 Member Satisfaction Survey for your honest answers and comments. As always, please tell us how we can better serve you—our members. ■



Billing Clerk Liz Enos takes a call from a Benton REA member.

SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

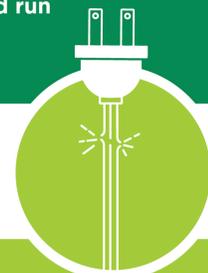
Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.



Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.



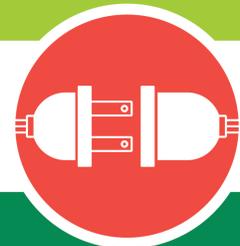
Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.



Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

