

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Co-op mourns loss of director Clair McCall

VALLEY Rural Electric lost a friend and co-op supporter June 2 with the death of director Clair McCall.

Clair, 78, had served on Valley's board since 1982. He was board secretary from 1993-2000 and treasurer from 2004-2011. He had been a co-op member since 1963.

A 1951 graduate of Huntingdon High School, Clair also served his country in the U.S. Navy and Army National Guard. He was a resident of Mapleton Depot, Huntingdon County, and worked as a truck driver and checker with Reeves Parvin and its successors, Gateway and Fleming Foods, for 30 years until his retirement in 1994. He also operated a 40-acre farm, where he raised a small herd of beef cattle.

Clair attended the Cornelius Chapel United Methodist Church near Mapleton. He was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 688 in Mount Union. He also served as a trustee of Keller Church near Canoe Creek, and as a Cass Township Supervisor for more than 10 years. At one time, he was also active in the 4-H program. In his free time, Clair enjoyed woodworking.

Clair is survived by his wife of 51 years, Eva; his son, Kenneth McCall and wife



Clair McCall

Sandra, Hershey, and his daughter, Linda McCall, Mapleton. He is also survived by a brother, R. Lynn McCall and wife Shirley, Elizabethtown.

Clair was the son of the late Allison and Mildred (Black) McCall. A sister, Elizabeth Myers, and brother, John McCall, preceded him in death.

The directors and employees of Valley REC extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Clair McCall. His service on behalf of the cooperative was truly appreciated and he will be greatly missed. ☀



LEFT: Valley Youth Tour students Brittany Hawn, left, and Lauren Shearer enjoy the view during a boat cruise on the Potomac River.

Valley REC sponsors 11 area students on Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
Director of Member Services

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative sponsored 11 high school students on the 2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 12-17. The teens represented six schools in three counties.

They joined nearly 1,400 other juniors and seniors from electric co-ops all over the country who participated in the event, which has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., every June since the late 1950s. Ten of Valley's students are juniors and one is a senior.

This year's all-expenses-paid trip was packed with activities, including meetings with federal legislators and rural electric leaders, visits to historic monuments throughout Washington, and tours of the Smithsonian museums, Holocaust Museum, National Zoo and Arlington Cemetery. The agenda also included a cruise on the Potomac River; a parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial and a theater production at the Kennedy Center.

"Youth Tour was amazing!" says Youth Tour student Lauren Shearer of Spruce Creek. "I enjoyed getting the chance to talk to new people from other states and hearing their stories. I liked all of the memorials. My favorite out of all of them would be a tie between the Jefferson (Memorial) and Arlington (National Cemetery)."

"Youth Tour was one of the most amazing trips of my life," adds Corey McKay of Huntingdon. "I met some

great people, had a lot of fun and also learned a lot ... My favorite part was just the whole attitude of the group. Everyone was having fun and enjoying themselves; they were eager to meet the other states and I think it was awesome just to be among so many youth from different parts of the country. I (am grateful) for the chance to do something so memorable."

In addition to sightseeing, Youth Tour participants learned about the cooperative way of doing business and the principles that govern rural electric co-ops.

Recommended by guidance counselors at their respective schools, the students were selected for the trip on the basis of academic achievement, leadership in extracurricular activities and community service.

Two of the Valley REC-sponsored students are from Huntingdon Area High School. They are Dante Fisher, son of Heather Fisher and the late Furl Sneath of Huntingdon; and Zachary Romano, son of John and Susan Romano of Huntingdon.

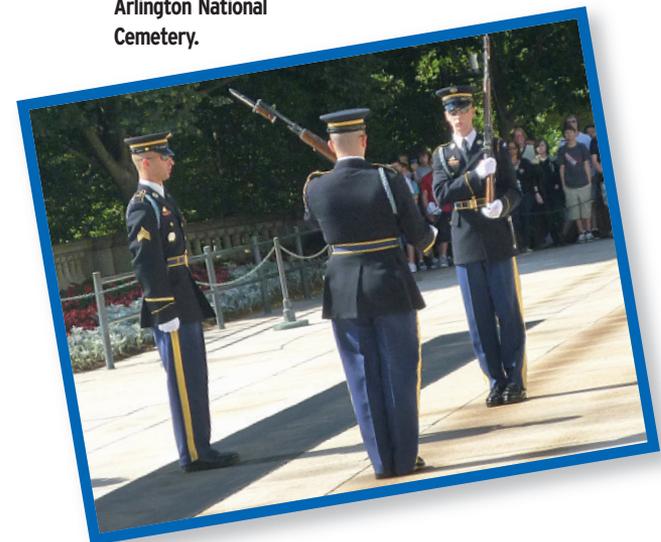
Dante participates in and serves as treasurer for several musical groups, including county, jazz and concert bands, chamber singers, county chorus, Belles and Beaus, and Camerata. In addition, he participates in Key Club and is actively involved in his church.

Zachary is a football player and wrestler who is also a member of student council and Varsity Club. He serves as a lector for church services and is the high school representative on his church's pastoral council. In



ABOVE: U.S. Rep. Bill Shuster (R-9th) answers a question from Valley Youth Tour student Joshua Kizina. While on the tour, students get the opportunity to meet with their respective legislators.

BELOW: A highlight of the tour is witnessing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.



addition, he volunteers for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the United Way Day of Caring and the Red Cross Blood Mobile.

Four of the Valley REC-sponsored Youth Tour students are from Juniata Valley High School. They are Brittany and Krista Hawn, daughters of William and Lisa Hawn of Petersburg; Amanda Merritts, daughter of Ron and Sandy Merritts of Petersburg; and Lauren Shearer, daughter of Doug and Melanie Shearer of Spruce Creek.

For four years in a row, Brittany has been named the outstanding member in her local FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) chapter. She is also a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) and is actively involved in her church, Relay for Life, and her local Grange.

Krista, the only senior on Youth Tour this year, currently serves as the Huntingdon County Dairy Princess. She was active in FFA, student council, yearbook staff and a member of the NHS. She also served as a peer mentor and participates in Relay for Life, church activities and her local Grange.

Amanda serves as student council secretary and vice president of the Library Club. She is a member of the NHS and is on the Leo Club's board of administrators. She also plays volleyball, serves on the yearbook staff and is a peer mentor.

Lauren currently serves as treasurer of her FFA chapter. She has also participated in track and has volunteered for three years as a leader at the spring outing at Eden Hill Conservancy in Spruce Hill.

Two local Youth Tour students hail from Mount Union Area High School. They are Corey McKay, son of Kevin and Judy McKay of Huntingdon; and Kylee Roles, daughter of Robert and Tracy Roles of McVeytown.

Corey is active in Boy Scouts of America, where he serves as a senior patrol leader and junior assistant scoutmaster. He also serves as vice chief of the Oneida Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. In addition, he is a member of PowerSource Club, is active in his church youth group and has traveled to Peru on a mission trip.

Kylee is a member of the NHS, yearbook staff and student council. She has spent 12 years in the Girl Scouts of America, where she currently serves as a

program aide. She is the secretary of Drama Club and treasurer of Key Club. She is also the assistant Sunday school secretary at her church. In addition, she participated in the musical "Vaudeville Baby."

One local Youth Tour student is from Tussey Mountain High School. Morgan Gates is the daughter of Todd and Wendy Gates of Saxton.

A member of the NHS, Morgan plays basketball and is a majorette. She also participates in the Spanish and Physics clubs, and is on the yearbook staff and prom committee. She also serves as student council vice president.

One Valley REC-sponsored student is from Southern Fulton High School. Jenna Hollenshead is the daughter of Joe and Heather Hollenshead of Needmore.

Jenna plays basketball and participates in track and cross country. She is a member of the NHS and chorus. She is also active in her church youth group and participated in a modeling competition where she was featured in a commercial.

One local Youth Tour student hails from Williamsburg High School. Joshua Kizina is the son of Alan and Peg Kizina of Williamsburg.

A member of the NHS, Joshua plays varsity football and basketball. He also participates in band and school plays and is a member of the Speech Club, Math League and Youth Leadership of Blair County. He is also active in his church youth group.

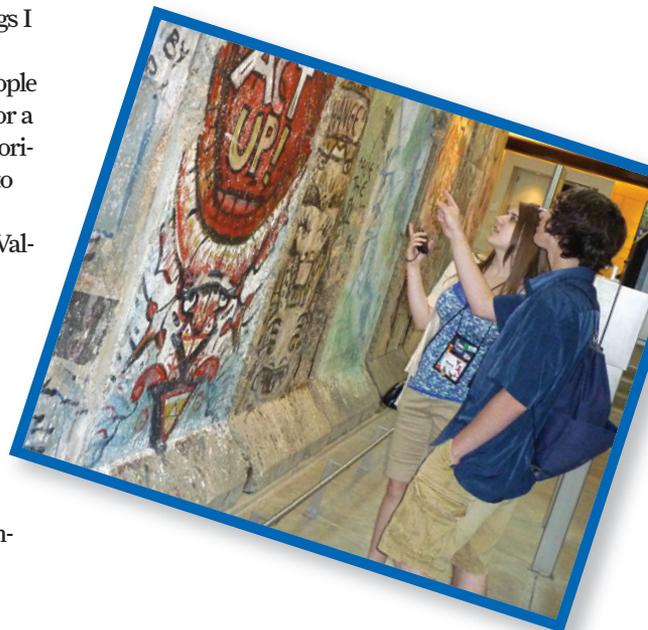
"Youth Tour was one of the best things I have ever done!" Jenna says. "It was so much fun meeting new people. I met people on this trip that I will stay friends with for a lifetime. The Jefferson and Lincoln memorials were my favorites. It is just amazing to see where our country started. I enjoyed learning many new things. Thank you (Valley) for everything!"

To be eligible to participate in Youth Tour, students must be juniors or seniors in high school and must be sons or daughters of co-op members or employees. For more information about the Rural Electric Youth Tour, visit www.valleyrec.com or www.youthtour.coop. Or contact the member services department at Valley REC at 800/432-0680. ☀



ABOVE: Valley REC Youth Tour students pause in front of the Capitol (back row from left, Zachary Romano, Corey McKay and Joshua Kizina; middle row from left, Kylee Roles, Morgan Gates, Amanda Merritts and Lauren Shearer; and front row from left, Brittany Hawn, Dante Fisher, Krista Hawn and Jenna Hollenshead).

BELOW: Kylee Roles and Corey McKay study a section of the Berlin Wall on display at the Newseum.



Watch for big screen savings

BY BRIAN SLOBODA

Cooperative Research Network Program Manager

THE DAYS OF large console televisions, with their wood grain exteriors and antenna wires or rabbit ears, are long gone — no more using needlenose pliers to change channels after the knob breaks or fiddling endlessly to adjust the horizontal and vertical holds. Today's televisions offer larger, thinner screens and, thanks to digital cable or satellite connections, provide a virtually unlimited number of channels.

However, some models require a tremendous amount of energy to operate — almost as much as a refrigerator. And the average American household owns 2.93 TVs, according to a 2010 Nielsen report.

All of this energy use adds up. The Natural Resources Defense Council found that U.S. televisions use more than 46 billion kilowatt-hours per year, or about 4 percent of residential electricity use.

In response to consumer concerns, TV manufacturers are designing sets that use less energy without sacrificing screen size or resolution.

Are you in the market for a new TV, or do you want to make sure you're using your current TV efficiently? These tips will help you tune in to big screen energy savings.

High-definition=high energy use

Although a high-definition TV (HDTV) may transform the latest blockbuster movie into a theater-like living room experience, these sets generally use more power because of better picture clarity. Also, energy consumption often relates to screen size. The larger the screen, the more electricity required.

Four types of TVs are currently available: plasma, liquid-crystal display (LCD), rear-projection, and cathode ray tube (CRT). CRT televisions are the most difficult to find because they employ old technology and screen sizes rarely top 40 inches.

Plasma screens often are cited as the largest energy user — mainly because

their large 42-inch to 65-inch screens typically draw between 240 and 400 watts. Most consume electricity even when turned off.

LCD TVs don't need much power to operate — 111 watts on average. Most LCD screens range in size from 21 inches to 49 inches. These TVs fall into two categories: those with cold-cathode fluorescent lamps to illuminate the screen, and backlit models employing a light-emitting diode (LED). LED units offer several benefits, notably better picture quality and thinner and lighter screens. They also use slightly less energy, at 101 watts.

Rear-projection televisions tend to be the most energy efficient and boast the largest screen sizes. However, due to their overall weight, rear-projection sets are not as readily available as plasma and LCD models.

Shopping for an energy-efficient television can be difficult. Television manufacturers rarely advertise energy consumption, and it almost never appears on in-store labels, though new Energy Star requirements may change that in 2012.

Faced with these difficulties, consumers need to conduct their own energy use research through unbiased online sources such as CNET.com, an online journal for the technology industry. Look for specific model numbers, which you can take to the store.

Tune in to savings

If you're not in the market for a new TV but want to make sure your model is operating efficiently, these tips from CNET.com may help you save energy:

- ▶ Turn the TV and other connected devices off when they're not being used;
- ▶ Turn down the LCD's backlight — you'll save energy and still retain better picture quality;
- ▶ Turn on the power saver mode, which many new TVs offer; and
- ▶ Control room lighting. While many energy-saving tips reduce brightness of the screen, you can compensate by dimming lights around your TV. ☀

Sources: CNET.com, Natural Resources Defense Council and Nielsen. Magen Howard contributed to this article.

Change air filter to save money, energy

It's hot this summer. That means your air conditioning system is working hard to keep you comfortable. Here's a tip from Valley Rural Electric Co-op that can help your cooling system operate more efficiently — and save you money.

Change your air filter regularly. It only takes a couple of minutes to change the air filter in your heating/cooling system and it's not a complicated procedure. Plus, according to information found on TogetherWeSave.com, changing your filter every month can save you \$82 a year on your energy bills.

Did you know that a dirty air filter makes your system work harder to keep you cool, which wastes energy? Changing your air filter regularly helps to ensure efficient operation and keeps your electricity bill in check. What's more, a dirty air filter allows dust and dirt to build up in your system, causing

unnecessary wear and tear. Changing your air filter monthly can reduce the need for costly maintenance and prevent damage to your system.

When winter arrives, it's just as important to change your air filter regularly. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm, and a clean air filter helps it do that properly.

Experts recommend turning the system off before changing the air filter. Make sure the arrow on the filter — which indicates the direction of the airflow — is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've

made the change, turn your system back on. To save time, it's a good idea to keep a couple of spare filters on hand.

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' energy-saving website, TogetherWeSave.com, or call Valley's energy specialist at 800/643-2650.

