



Page 2 June Board report

Page 3 Farmersville Sub replacement

Page 4 Thanks from our Youth Tour winners
Refrigerator recycling starts

Page 5 Pole testing, tree trimming

Page 8 Farm Progress Show

Rural HIGHLIGHTS

A publication of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative • Auburn, Illinois • www.recc.coop

RECC Open House set for September 6 *Kicking off our 75-year anniversary celebration*

September 6, 1936. Nine men (and two wives) met on a Sunday night in Lowder to discuss the need for electric power in the country. “It was a lengthy meeting,” according to one of the participants, George Simon of Farmersville. “We kept talking and planning until two o’clock in the morning.”

Simon and the other men became the incorporators and first board of directors for Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Company that night. Charles Masters, who would go on to serve as the first project superintendent, collected many of the \$5.00 membership fees from farmers and rural residents who wanted electric lights and tools to make their lives easier.

The original groundwork had started in May, when local leaders in south Sangamon County laid out a plan to borrow money from the newly-created Rural Electrification Administration. They found out that REA, set up by an executive order from President Franklin Roosevelt, would only loan money to cooperatives to build rural distribution lines. So, they adopted the cooperative business model, applied for a construction loan, and had their first line energized in February 1937.

RECC is still a cooperative today, and the membership fee is still just \$5.00, but so much has changed in 75 years! The original office in Divernon



The front of RECC’s headquarters building has been updated, along with the lobby and meeting room.

moved to a new building on Route 104 near Auburn in 1955, which has seen some additions to accommodate growth (and larger trucks).

The façade of the Auburn office stayed pretty much the same, however, until the past year. The front offices were spruced up and re-arranged a bit, and the lobby and meeting room got some new flooring. Outside, the original metal entry awning and plate glass windows were removed, and new “eyebrow” awnings help shade the windows across the front and west sides.

RECC members and friends can get a closer look at the updated offices, and help us celebrate our 75th birthday, at an Open House to be held Tuesday, September 6, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Hot dogs, popcorn and cold drinks will be served by co-op employees.

Along with some old-time photos and memorabilia, we’ll show some of the newest technologies we’re now using in mapping, meter reading and lineman equipment!

Please join us on September 6 as we begin our celebration of 75 years of service to our rural community. We’ll be talking about our rich history every month until our 75th Annual Meeting is held next June in Chatham!

RECC Open House

Tuesday, Sept. 6
4 – 7 p.m.
3973 State Rt. 104
Refreshments and prizes!

Rural Electric
Convenience Cooperative
3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19
Auburn, IL 62615
217/438-6197
Fax: 217/438-3212
e-mail: recc@recc.coop

Board Of Directors

Jimmy L. Ayers
Chairman

Chris Wilcox
Vice Chairman

Mel Repscher
Secretary-Treasurer

John A. Beatty
Asst. Sec.-Treasurer

Clayton Bloome
Thomas "Ted" Dowson
Cassie L. Eigenmann
Thomas Hart
Lou Weitekamp

President/CEO

David Stuva

Rural Highlights
(USPS 473-140) is published monthly for \$3 per year by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. Publication Office, P.O. Box 19, Auburn, IL 62615. Periodical postage paid at Auburn, IL and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Rural Highlights, P.O. Box 19, Auburn, IL 62615.

Dana Smith, *editor*



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Board report

Resume of Minutes **Regular Board Meeting** **June 28, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters on June 28, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., with all members present except John Beatty. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Director of Member and Public Relations Dana Smith; Manager of Operations and Maintenance Lou DeLaby; Manager of Office Services Dean Fuchs; Field Engineer and Purchasing Agent Martin Hinton; Executive Assistant Sandy Lex; Journeyman Lineman Dave Flynn; and Attorney Jerry Tice.

* Elections were conducted for officers of the RECC Board of Directors. Re-elected for 2011-2012 were Chairman, Jimmy Ayers; Vice Chairman, Chris Wilcox; Secretary/Treasurer, Mel Repscher; and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, John Beatty.

* The minutes of the May 24 regular Board meeting, and the Board meeting held after the Annual Meeting on June 9, were approved as presented.

* Dean Fuchs reported that he had met with FEMA representatives regarding the cooperative's February blizzard and ice storm expenses. He estimated RECC would receive \$45,000 in reimbursement for qualifying storm expenses.

* Lou DeLaby and Dave Flynn reviewed photos of the work done by Nelson Tree Service and RECC in clearing the Glenarm transmission line right-of-way.

* CEO Stuva presented the IMEA Report.

* The AIEC Report was presented by Chairman Ayers. He reviewed the Executive Summary of the AIEC Board meeting held June 16.

* There was no Attorney's Report.

President/CEO's Report

CEO Stuva reviewed the following reports which had either been mailed or distributed to all directors and attorney: Job Training and Safety, Meters and Outages, Operations and Maintenance, Engineering and Construction, Cash Disbursements Summary, and Check Listing. The financial and statistical reports for May were reviewed and accepted for placement in the cooperative's files.

CEO Stuva also:

* Reported that the GobNob wind turbine generator has been replaced by the manufacturer, under the co-op's warranty contract.

* Reviewed the 2011 RECC Annual Meeting held June 9.

* Reviewed plans for upcoming meetings and classes.

Board Action

The Board acted on the following:

* Approved the application for, or reinstatement of, membership and electric service for 15 persons.

* Approved a Resolution to renew the Cooperative's 5% Energy Resource Conservation (ERC) loan program for members through RUS.

* Approved work order completion forms totaling \$645,557.94 for the period November 2010 through April 2011.

* Passed a Resolution to approve a new master loan agreement authorizing the cooperative to continue its short term line of credit with CoBank.

* Voted to present a "Leadership Excellence Award" to Erv Shores in recognition for his service as a Director of RECC from 2007 through the Annual Meeting of 2011.

* Named Director Repscher as voting delegate to replace Erv Shores at upcoming NRECA regional meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Farmersville substation transformers upgraded

On Friday, July 1, one of the six transformers in RECC's Farmersville substation failed unexpectedly at 10 p.m. As soon as the problem was diagnosed, our linemen switched feeds on the co-op's distribution lines to transfer power from the Taylorville and Girard substations to members on the Farmersville sub by 11:40 p.m.

This enabled all members to have power until a plan was formulated with our engineering consultant to change out all of the transformers at Farmersville, and replace them with a new 5-MVA transformer. The work was quickly scheduled and completed on Thursday, July 7, when

all circuits were returned to their normal feeds.

Lou DeLaby, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, said that an upgrade was already planned for Farmersville, and the new transformer was fortunately delivered earlier this year. The update was only planned to increase the capacity of the substation for improved back feeding operations, he said.

"We had no indication of any problems with the existing transformers at Farmersville before the outage," DeLaby explained. "It was just a failure on one of the bushings (where wires connect to

the transformer), and having the new transformer on hand made it much easier to deal with the emergency situation."

This is the fourth transformer upgrade that RECC has carried out since we purchased the nine substations serving our members from Prairie Power in 2009. One more project is being planned for later this year, at the Harvel substation. "This is part of our plan to maintain and improve our facilities to keep the power on for our members' homes and businesses, where they rely on electricity for so many purposes," DeLaby said.



One of the six smaller transformers is lifted out of the Farmersville substation after the failure of one transformer on July 1. A single 5000-KVA transformer was installed, doubling the capacity of the substation.

Thanks from our Youth Tour winners

Editor's Note: RECC sent two area students on the Youth To Washington Tour in June, with 65 other high schoolers from Illinois and hundreds more from across the country. Logan Kuhn and Mary Kate Berger are shown at right with representative Tim Johnson of Urbana. We wanted to share their thank-you notes which point out the high quality and educational value of this program. Participants are chosen each year in April.



I would like to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. The trip was so much fun, and since I'm going to major in Public Policy Leadership and Political Science, I loved learning about our government first hand, and how it is up to my generation to make sure that our energy always stays affordable. Getting to meet the political leaders from our state was phenomenal, as was visiting all the

monuments, museums and historical sites. I know I made memories that will last a lifetime.

It was an honor for me to be chosen as a Youth Leadership Council finalist. Even though I wasn't elected as the representative from Illinois, it was still an amazing experience to speak to the 74 students from our great state. If you were to ask me what my favorite part of the week was, I honestly could not give you a single answer. I enjoyed every part of the week, but some of my favorite highlights were the River Boat Cruise and Dance, seeing (*Broadway show*) Wicked and, of

course, experiencing government first hand. I did not know what to expect going into the week, but the experience went above and beyond any expectations that I had. I am going to encourage Chatham Glenwood students to participate next year and not miss out on this great opportunity.

Again, please express my gratitude and thanks to all members of the cooperative!

*Mary Kate Berger,
Glenwood High School*

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to go on this trip. It has taught me so much about my government and given me the opportunity to make countless friends. This trip will be an unforgettable experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life. It was sensational. Thank you tons.

Logan Kuhn, Auburn High School

Refrigerator recycling program starts in August

The new refrigerator and freezer recycling program started on August 1, helping our members save energy by getting rid of extra refrigeration appliances that drive their electric bills higher.

RECC has teamed up with the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (the agency that supplies our wholesale electricity) and the Appliance Recycling Centers of America (ARCA), Inc. to offer the Illinois Recycle My Fridge program. By recycling a secondary refrigerator, members can save as much as \$100 a year.

Residents of owner-occupied homes served by the RECC can schedule an appointment to have their refrigerator or freezer picked up from inside their homes, free of

charge, by calling (toll free) 877-341-2313 or visiting the program's website (www.RecycleMyFridge.org). The unit will be properly recycled and, in return, each participant can cash in on the cool savings.

On pick up day, ARCA will collect each fridge or freezer from inside your home, as long as it is a qualifying appliance, plugged in and cooling, with a clear pathway available. The appliance will then be taken to ARCA's local recycling center to be responsibly dismantled and recycled. Within four weeks after the collection of your appliance, you will receive a \$35 pre-paid card.

How to Participate in the Recycle My Fridge Program

- Residents can call 877-341-

- 2313 (toll free) or click on Recycle My Fridge website (www.RecycleMyFridge.org) to schedule a free pickup of their secondary refrigerators or freezers.
- Participants must be an RECC residential electric customer. Appliances will be picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account.
- Refrigerators and freezers turned in for recycling must be in working condition (cooling), 10 to 30 cubic feet and owned by the resident.
- The \$35 rebate will be mailed within 4 to 6 weeks after collection. (Limit of two appliances per household per year.)

Call 877-341-2313 or visit www.RecycleMyFridge.org to learn more.

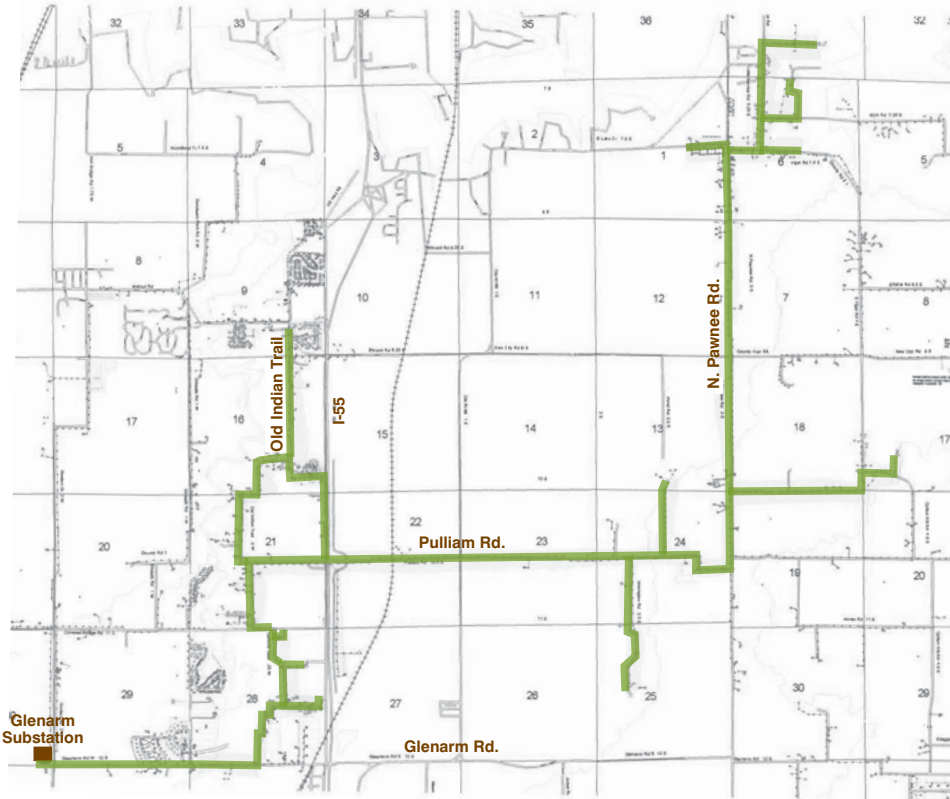
Tree trimming, pole inspections planned

RECC will have contractors working in the Glenarm substation area later this summer, trimming trees and brush near power lines and testing our poles.

Foiles Tree Service will be working on the southeast circuit of the Glenarm substation, clearing the right-of-way under and around RECC's lines to avoid any potential contact with the wires. Even branches that normally aren't close to the lines can be pulled down by snow, ice or wind to cause blinking lights or an outage.

Foiles will deliver notices to homes along each circuit that they will be working on, letting owners know what is planned, who will be doing the work, and how to get any questions answered. When tree limbs are cut, they will be chipped and removed by the contractor.

The entire Glenarm substation area will be inspected by a pole testing contractor to identify any problem poles that need to be replaced by RECC crews. The poles are checked for signs of rot near



the ground line, and 'sound tested' for indications of interior rotting. RECC tests a percentage of its poles each year to find any weak poles and avoid emergency replacements that cost much more to replace than scheduled maintenance jobs.

Manager of Operations and Maintenance Lou DeLaby says the pole testers also hope to begin work

on some circuits in the Harvel area this fall, as well.

These contractors use well-marked vehicles and normally work only during the weekdays. If you see unmarked vehicles or suspicious activity around our lines, please let us know immediately as we've had several instances of copper theft in recent months!

RECC office closed on

LABOR DAY

RECC's office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day. Line crews will be on stand-by as usual for any outages or emergency situations, and the answering service can be reached at (217) 438-6197.

News & Notes

2010 capital credit allocation notification



On your July electric bill, to be mailed on August 5, you will see a message on the left hand side of the bill indicating the amount of capital credits allocated to you for electricity purchased in 2010. This message only appears on your master account and only if you were a consumer in 2010.

As a member-owner of your cooperative, you share in any annual margins. Your share of these margins is called "capital credits." At the end of each year, these net margins are allocated to each member on a basis of the dollar amount of energy used during that year. We are providing you with the amount of the allocation for the year, shown on your July electric bill.

These allocations are not available as cash nor can they be applied as payments on your electric bill. These monies are used by your cooperative for long-term debt retirement, reserves, emergencies, system improvements and other contingencies. Capital credits may be paid to members as the board of directors deems appropriate and as the financial condition of the co-op permits.

Sealing air leaks: A little caulk can go a long way

Air leaks in your home add up. Finding and sealing those leaks can save you energy and money. Here's a tip that can help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter while lowering your utility bill. Caulking cracks and openings to the outside can save you as much as \$100 a year. So let's get started. First, you'll need to find the air leaks in your home. One way to do that is to wait for a windy day, and then carefully hold a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical outlets and other spots where air could be leaking into your home from outside. If the smoke stream moves horizontally, you've found a leak that needs to be sealed.

Next, you'll need caulk and a caulking gun. Experts recommend using silicone caulk, which is waterproof, flexible and long-lasting. Caulk can seal cracks and gaps that are less than ¼-inch wide. Remove any old caulk and clean the surface before applying new caulk. Fresh caulk takes several hours, or longer, to dry, so it's best to do the job on a dry day when the humidity is relatively low and the temperature is above 45 degrees F. In addition to caulk, you can use low-expansion spray foam to seal leaks.

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit Touchstone Energy's energy-saving website or call the energy experts at Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative. Find out how the little changes add up at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

GobNob turbine operating again

The GobNob wind turbine is back in operation, after the generator was replaced by the manufacturer in June. The original generator had shorted out, and a new one was installed under the co-op's warranty agreement. The turbine began producing power again for RECC members on the Farmersville substation on June 26, but then shut down when the battery charging controller failed in the backup system. Representatives of EWT, the manufacturer, repaired that problem, and some other glitches that popped up in the following days. In late July the generator was available to generate electricity, but didn't have enough wind available during the hot, humid periods.

The GobNob turbine was installed in December 2008, and began producing electricity in March 2009. To date it has produced nearly four million kilowatt hours that were used by RECC members.



MEMBER RESPONSE PAGE

Please send me information on services from RECC:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peak Switch | <input type="checkbox"/> New Home Energy Guidelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon Lifetime-Warranty Water Heaters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual Meter Heating Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Surge Suppressor Lease | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Distance Saving Rates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security Light Rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-op Power Plus™ Visa | <input type="checkbox"/> AT&T Wireless Cellular Phone Savings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Convectair Heaters | <input type="checkbox"/> DTN Wireless Internet | |

Electric heating equipment rebates

An electric heat rebate form must be completed. Minimum system sizes apply.

- Geothermal System – \$250/home
- Air Source Heat Pumps – \$250/home (with electric back-up)
- Air Source Heat Pumps – \$100/home (with gas back-up)

Electric equipment rebate request

Please include a copy of your sales receipt for your new electric equipment, purchased and installed within the past 12 months.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes Dryer, Electric Replacement – \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Heater, Standard Warranty – \$200 (less than 10-yr warranty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes Dryer, New Home or Gas Conversion – \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Heater, Life-long Warranty – \$250 (10-yr or longer warranty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Range, Electric Replacement – \$25 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Range, New Home or Gas Conversion – \$25 | |
| | This water heater is for: <input type="checkbox"/> New Home
<input type="checkbox"/> Gas Conversion
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric Replacement |

Member Name _____ Account No. _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ Phone _____

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

P.O. Box 19, Auburn IL 62615

Telephone: (800) 245-7322 (RECC) or (217) 438-6197 • www.recc.coop

Normal office hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

P.O. Box 19
Auburn, IL 62615

Visit us at the Farm Progress Show!

RECC and other central-Illinois cooperatives will have a display at the 60th annual Farm Progress Show in Decatur, August 30, 31 & September 1. This huge show is coming back to the “Progress City” site on the east side of Decatur (every other year it’s held in Iowa), next to Richland Community College.

The Touchstone Energy® electric cooperatives will be in the Varied Industries Tent, near the main gate on the west end of Progress City. The Varied Industries Tent runs the length of Fifth and Fourth Progress Street and is in between West Progress and Central Progress Avenue.

Stop by and check our “Energy Efficiency Wall” and other energy displays. Cooperative members can present your Co-op Connections® card for a special gift. If you don’t have a Connections card or have lost yours, contact our office for a new one.

Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives will also be sponsoring the Live Line Demo, an electrical safety demonstration featuring 7,200 volts of electricity! Great for kids and adults, it’s an experience your family won’t want to miss. Kyle Finley will have his Live Line Demo just outside the Varied Industries Tent on Junior Lot #450.

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will also be making an appearance flying the American flag each morning, and if weather permits the balloon will do a late afternoon flight as well.

Look for more information soon in *Prairie Farmer Magazine* to learn more about the 2011 Farm Progress Show or visit their website www.farmprogressshow.com.

We hope to see you there!



The Touchstone Energy® hot air balloon will make daily flights again over the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, in conjunction with the Illinois Electric Cooperatives display in the Varied Industries Tent.