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Rural HIGHLIGHTS

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

Delivering the message to Washington

Several Illinois electric co-op representatives visited Senators Dick Durbin and Roland Burris's offices on Sept. 28, and they didn't come empty-handed. Instead, they were carrying boxes full of postcards from Illinois electric co-op members, expressing their concern over proposed climate change legislation.

Actually, to satisfy security arrangements, the co-op folks only delivered a few of the 18 boxes to each Senator's office. The remaining boxes of postcards were sent through the Senate mailroom. But the message was clear about the need for climate change legislation to be affordable, achievable and fair for our member-consumers. To date, Illinois co-op members have signed more than 200,000 postcards, and more than half a million cards sent from across the country.

While a proposed bill addressing climate change has been introduced in the Senate this fall, most insiders agree that a vote would likely not take place until next year due to the ongoing health care reform debate. The House of Representatives approved a bill in May that would raise prices substantially for electricity generated from coal, which would hit Midwest consumers hard.

RECC and the other electric co-ops of Illinois believe in the importance of energy efficiency, developing renewable energy sources, and protecting the environment, but we know that any solutions will take time to implement.



Jim Coleman (left), President/CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative, and Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, prepare a few of the boxes filled with postcards from Illinois co-op members to Senators Dick Durbin and Roland Burris. More than 200,000 postcards were delivered regarding the global warming/climate change legislation being discussed in Congress.

Appropriate technologies must also be developed to use the energy resources we have available, which will require more government and industry research efforts.

The discussion is not over, and we'll

keep you informed on the developments as Congress hammers works on legislation in an effort to reduce global warming. Thanks for your help thus far in getting the needed attention from our legislators!

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Dana Smith, *editor*



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Board report

Resume of Minutes Regular Board Meeting September 28, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters at 7 p.m. on September 28, with all members present except Erv Shores. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Director of Member and Public Relations, Dana Smith; Manager of Office Services, Dean Fuchs; Field Engineer and Purchasing Agent, Martin Hinton; Administrative & IT Specialist, Sandy Lex; and Attorney Jerry Tice.

* The minutes of the August 31 regular Board meeting were approved with corrections.

* CEO Stuva introduced Dana Smith, who reported on the Touchstone Energy "Together We Save" campaign designed to encourage co-op members to conserve energy.

* There was no IMEA Report.

* No AIEC Report was provided since there had been no AIEC Board of Directors meeting in September

* The Attorney's report was given by Attorney Tice. He reported he was awaiting responses on several contract proposals that have been made.

* CEO Stuva asked directors to review the RECC Policy Manuals, which were updated for language and formatting consistency.

* Chairman Ayers set a meeting of the Operations Committee for October 6 at the Auburn headquarters.

President/CEO's Report

CEO Stuva reviewed the following reports which had either been mailed or distributed to all directors and attorney: Member and Public

Relations, Job Training and Safety, Meters and Outages, Operations and Maintenance, Engineering and Construction, Cash Disbursements Summary, and Check Listing. The Board accepted the reports. Financial and statistical reports for August 2009 were reviewed and accepted.

CEO Stuva also:

* Reviewed the operating and financial report for the GobNob wind turbine project.

* Noted that August sales were again below budget, but a very small positive operating margin for the month was still maintained.

* Reported on a request to relocate a portion of the transmission line feeding the Glenarm substation to accommodate a construction project. He said an engineering study will be done to determine the cost of the requested change.

* Reviewed plans for upcoming meetings.

Board Action

The Board acted on the following:

* Approved the application for, or reinstatement of, membership and electric service for 18 persons.

* Approved two purchased power agreements for members.

* Approved contracts for a consultant to analyze the co-op's information technology needs and capabilities, and lead the Board's strategic planning session in January.

* Approved a Resolution congratulating the co-op staff and employees on receiving an excellent score in the Safety Accreditation program.


The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Office closed for holidays



November brings a couple of holidays for co-op employees, when the office in Auburn will be closed. Please note these days if you need to contact us for normal business:

Nov. 11
Nov. 26-27

 Veterans Day
Thanksgiving



Seven Memorial Scholarships available for 2010

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 will be awarded in 2010 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Thomas H. Moore Memorial Scholarship Program. Thomas Moore, who passed away last year, was a long-time CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship,

will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay



that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

Application forms are available from the RECC office in Auburn, and must be returned to our office by Jan. 1, 2010. Winners will be announced by May 1, 2010. You can request an application and rules sheet by calling our office at 800-245-7322. These two documents and a brochure can also be downloaded from our Web site (www.recc.coop). Look under the "Our Community" header for the scholarships page.

Let us help you save on Christmas shopping! Co-op Connections card offers savings



Your Co-op Connections card can save you money year-round, but the holidays are an especially good time to save while you find unique gifts for your family and friends!

Co-op Connections includes dozens of national companies that offer discounts for members of Touchstone Energy cooperatives, and RECC has added local offers from a variety of businesses. There are also some special seasonal offers that you can check out, through our Web site at www.recc.coop!

A few of the interesting offers now added include:

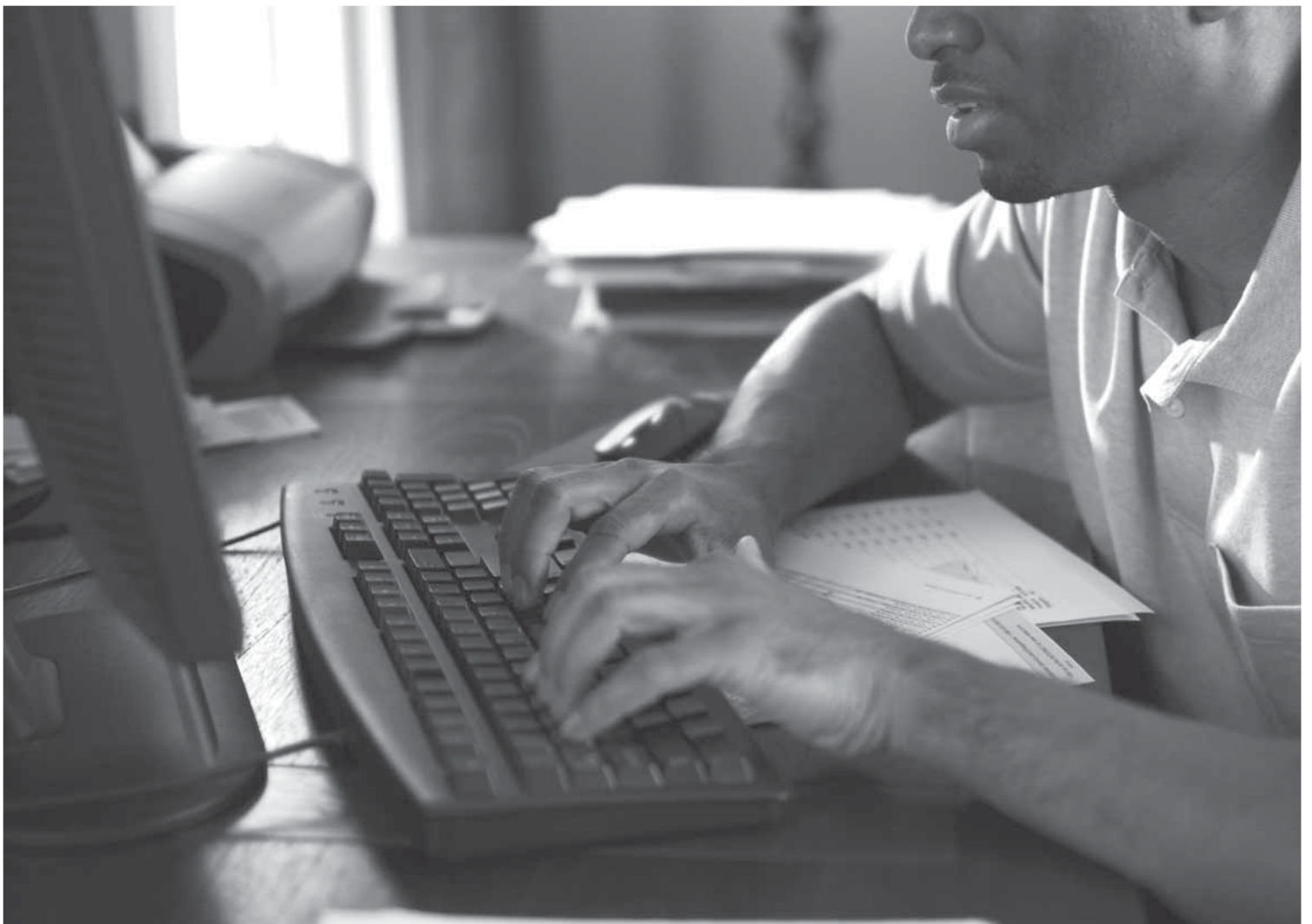
Omaha Steaks - Save 58 percent on the Premium Collection. Plus, get 4 FREE Caramel Apple Tartlets sent to each shipping address in your order. Or, save 68% on the Spectacular Gift Package, plus get 2 FREE GIFTS - a FREE 6-piece Cutlery Set and a FREE Cutting Board.

Jenny Craig - If you eat too much steak over the holidays, weight management system Jenny Craig offers a free 30-day program and savings up to 50 percent off the 6-month program or 20 percent off the One-Year Premium Success Program (plus applicable food and shipping costs).

Coupons.com - This site offers hundreds of coupons for your shopping savings. Just print out the coupons you want for food, household supplies and more!

All RECC members have received free Co-op Connections cards, plus a smaller key fob that can be carried everywhere you go. A list of local participating businesses is available from our office, or at our Web site mentioned above.






STICKING TO A BUDGET IS EASIER WITH MY COMPUTER TURNED OFF.

Makes sense. Less power equals more savings. I'm saving \$105 a year by shutting down all the way. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



**Rural Electric
Convenience Cooperative**

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TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

RECC receives safety certification



RECC has received safety accreditation after an intensive review by the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP), sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). RESAP is an organized analysis of a system's safety and loss control program that measures overall effectiveness. The co-op received an excellent score of 93 on the written application materials and field inspections, according to Lou DeLaby, Manager of Operations and Maintenance. "To achieve accreditation for our safety policies and procedures is a great reward, but a greater reward will be if it helps to prevent just one serious accident," he said. A framed Certificate was presented to DeLaby by Board Chairman Jimmy Ayers at the board's October meeting. "It also takes a total team effort to earn this safety accreditation, and that's exactly what the employees of RECC put forth. Our board offers our sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire staff for earning this recognition," he said. (Photo: Jimmy Ayers, left, and Lou DeLaby)

Tree trimming planned

RECC's tree trimming contractor will be working in our area in late fall and early winter, concentrating on circuits out of the Sicily substation. Funk Pest Control will be working north and northeast of the substation, located near the Kincaid power plant. They will also be clearing several private rights-of-way throughout our system. Funk employees will have magnetic signs on their vehicles with RECC identification. They will also carry a letter from RECC identifying them as contract employees. If a member has any concerns about workers in the area, they can call the RECC office at 800-245-7322 to confirm that it's part of the co-op's program.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative uses tree trimming contractors to concentrate on specific parts of its system, along with tree trimming and clearing done throughout the system by our linemen. We appreciate the cooperation of our members in allowing effective tree trimming around our power lines to help avoid blinks and outages in the future. It's a good example of everyone working together for the benefit of all.

Harvest progressing slowly

Farmers were taking advantage of a rare sunny day on October 19 to pick beans and corn, but things turned worse again in late October with several rainy days. Lowell McNaught was fighting soft ground and balky equipment in a field near Lowder, but got those beans cut on the 19th. Harvest progress is well behind average, and grain is being picked at higher moisture levels than farmers would like, but they're plugging away at every opportunity. Keep watching out for farm machinery on the roads in November!



Weatherization assistance increases

Illinois has approximately \$242 million in additional Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program funding to help low-income families weatherize their homes over the next two years.

The funds were made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. "This funding makes it possible for even more people to get assistance through the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program," said Gov. Pat Quinn. "Individuals can now get the services they need to stay safe and warm this winter at no additional charge while reducing the cost of their home energy bills."

The funds can be used to help low-income families by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. Improvements can include: Weather-stripping and caulking; insulating attics and walls; furnace work; repairing windows and doors and replacing windows.

Eligible people include individuals who earn less than \$21,660; a family of two earning \$29,140 or less; a family of three earning less than \$36,620 or a family of four earning less than \$44,100. Priority for the funds will be given to households with high heating bills in relation to income and households with elderly members, persons with a disability or young children.

The increased funding is making a difference in our area. "We made energy improvements in 87 homes in 2008, and will do 400 homes this year," says Kelly Comerfield, LIHEAP Coordinator in Sangamon County. LIHEAP is the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program that assists qualified residents with their heating bills. Kelly says the budget for 2010 has not been announced,

but hopefully a similar number of homes can be worked on next year.

A candidate must be eligible for LIHEAP and own their home to qualify for the weatherization assistance, Kelly says. Up to \$5,200 may be spent on a home for weatherization, furnace tune-ups and possibly replacement of furnace or leaky windows.

County offices

For more information on LIHEAP and the Home Weatherization Assistance Program, contact your local county agency. For the five counties served by RECC, these offices are listed below.

Morgan County

MCS Community Services
345 W. State St.
Jacksonville, IL 62560
(217) 243-9404

Sangamon County

200 S. 9th St., Room 311
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 535-3120

Macoupin County

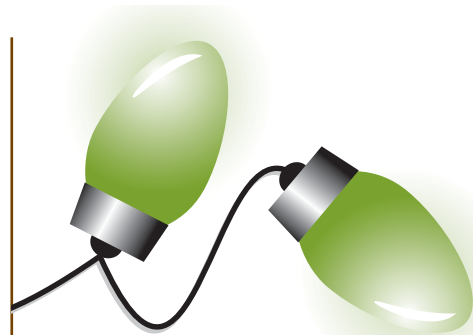
Illinois Valley Economic Dev. Corp.
223 S. Macoupin St.
Gillespie, IL 62033
(217) 839-4431

Christian County

CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.
1104 S. Spresser St.
Taylorville, IL 62568.
(217) 824-4712

Montgomery County

CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.
City Hall, Box 128
Taylor Springs, IL 62089
(217) 532-5971



Safe holiday lighting

Christmas lights add to the joy of the holiday season, but they need to be handled with the same precautions as any other electrical equipment to be used safely. RECC and SafeElectricity.org urge everyone to follow these guidelines while decorating for the holidays:

- Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from all power lines.
- Use only lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label.
- Before use, check each light string for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings. Always unplug light strings while replacing bulbs.
- Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets are not equipped with them.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, or attach cords to utility poles
- Don't string together more than three standard-size sets of lights.
- Do not overload outlets. Use surge protector strips if multiple outlets are needed.

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 – \$500/home
- Air Source Heat Pumps – \$500/home (with electric back-up)
- Air Source Heat Pumps – \$200/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: New Home
 Gas Conversion
 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

Save a buck, Save energy *CFL discount coupons mailed to members*

MANUFACTURERS COUPON EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2009

SAVE \$1.00

on any GE ENERGY SMART®, ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lighting product

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative
Your Techno-Edge Power Partner
Auburn, Illinois

energy smart

imagination at work

Consumer: Coupon valid only on your purchase of any GE ENERGY SMART®, ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lighting product. You pay sales tax. Coupon may not be reproduced or combined with another offer and is non-transferable. Void if transferred, exchanged, sold or reproduced. Offer limited to one purchase in U.S.A., its territories and military exchanges. **Retailer:** GE will reimburse you the face value plus 8¢ handling provided you have accepted this coupon in accordance with GE's Coupon Redemption Policy. Void where prohibited. Cash value 1/100 of 1¢. For copy of policy and/or coupon redemption mail to: GE Consumer & Industrial Lighting Products, P.O. Box 880650, El Paso, TX 88588-0650.

Coupon expires: December 31, 2009 **D204058 47542**

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RECC members are receiving an early holiday gift this month, with a \$1 coupon included in the November billing statements toward the purchase of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

The coupons, which provide \$1 off the purchase price of any General Electric Energy Smart or Energy Star CFL, are part of a comprehensive energy-efficiency program currently being implemented by the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) on behalf of its members. IMEA is the wholesale power provider for Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative.

“We are committed to helping our members take advantage of energy-efficiency initiatives which save energy and money and which benefit the environment as well,” said co-op President/CEO David Stuva. “We’ve given free CFL bulbs in recent programs, and now we can help save on high-quality bulbs purchased at any location.” Members can request up to two additional \$1 coupons from our office, to add to their savings.

From an energy efficiency standpoint, CFLs offer a number of advantages over traditional incandescent light bulbs. They last up to 10 times longer; use a fourth of the

energy compared to an incandescent bulb and can save up to \$30 over the course of a bulb’s lifetime. Another benefit is that CFLs produce the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs, but at a lower wattage.

“If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with a CFL, we would save enough energy to light three million homes for a year,” said IMEA President & CEO Ronald D. Earl. “That is more than \$600 million in annual energy costs and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to more than 800,000 cars.”