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Rural HIGHLIGHTS

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



Real-world safety lessons

Fourth grade students in Montgomery and Macoupin counties learned more about electrical safety recently, through the Live Line Demo program that RECC helped sponsor. Programs were held at Lincoln Land Community College in Litchfield on January 13, and Carlinville Intermediate School on January 14, with area schools invited to attend.

Kyle Finley, a former electric co-op lineman and owner of the Live Line Demo, taught students how to protect themselves or others from injury or death when around electricity. If in a car accident that involves electricity, Kyle stressed the importance of staying in

the car, unless fire breaks out. He also demonstrated safety precautions when dealing with electricity near pools, and helped students learn the importance of GFI outlets in kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoors.

The display is constructed with the poles, transformers, and line hardware used by utilities, helping students understand the electrical distribution system.

Participating schools from RECC's area were Lincolnwood, Litchfield, Zion Lutheran (Litchfield) and North Mac. Local sponsors with Rural Electric included University of IL Extension, MJM Electric Cooperative, Shelby

One of the most popular parts of Kyle Finley's Live Line Demo is "Rocky, the Fire-Breathing Squirrel," which draws an arc of 7,200-volt electricity through the air. Kyle bends low to let fourth graders from North Mac's Virden and Girard elementary schools get the full effect as he puts a "squirrel" between the hot line and ground wire on a transformer pole.



Electric Cooperative, and Lincoln Land Community College.

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Dana Smith, *editor*



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Board report

Resume of Minutes Regular Board Meeting December 27, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters at 6 p.m. on December 27, with all members present. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Executive Assistant Sandy Lex; and Attorney Jerry Tice.

*The minutes of the November 22 regular Board meeting were approved as presented.

*The minutes of the December 22 special Board meeting were approved as amended.

*CEO Stuva presented the IMEA Report.

*The AIEC report was presented by Chairman Ayers. He reviewed the Executive Summary of the December 16 AIEC Board Meeting.

*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: 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. The financial and statistical reports for November were reviewed and accepted.

CEO Stuva also:

* Reported that Ameren and RECC metering equipment would be updated on Dec. 28 at the Harvel substation, as part of the line loss investigation for that substation.

* Noted that the inside work on the office reception area was nearing completion, while the outside work will have to wait for some warmer weather.

* 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 16 persons.

* Approved RUS-219 reports totaling \$790,472.51 for work orders from February through October 2010, to be submitted to RUS for loan funds.

* Set a meeting for the 2011 Nominating Committee on March 3, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. to name candidates for Board elections at the RECC Annual Meeting on June 9.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Special Board Meeting December 22, 2010

A Special monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters at 6 p.m. on December 22, with all members present. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Manager of Office Services, Dean Fuchs; Manager of Operations and Maintenance, Lou DeLaby; Director of Member & Public Relations, Dana Smith; John Michael Davis and Kelly Shores of Davis Financial Group; and Attorney Jerry Tice.

* President/CEO Stuva reported on the new HSA/HRA health insurance plan for co-op employees through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The Board approved the new plan.

* The Board approved new electric heating equipment rebate amounts, to be effective Jan. 1, 2011.

* CEO Stuva and Dean Fuchs reviewed the projected annual sales and proposed 2011 Operating Budget. The Board voted to approve the budget as presented.

* Stuva and Fuchs reviewed the 2009 CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis, comparing RECC to other co-ops in many operational and financial statistics.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.



**Link from our home page,
www.recc.coop**

Rural Electric Youth Day set for April 6

High school juniors, now is the time to apply for great trips to Springfield and Washington, D.C.! Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative is sponsoring area students again this year for the popular Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield and a chance to win a free trip to Washington.

Up to 10 students will be sponsored by RECC at the Illinois Youth Day program on Wednesday, April 6, touring the Capitol and other historic sites, and meeting with their state legislators. Two of those students will be selected to attend the Youth to Washington trip, June 10-17, with about 1,000 young people from around the country. RECC sponsors these trips to encourage students to learn more about our government's operation and about electric cooperatives.

Any junior attending a high school in RECC's service area is eligible for these expense-paid programs. Application request forms have been sent to our local schools, or students can contact our office. We will mail a full application kit and background information directly to the student. The application form includes a summary of the student's school and civic activities and accomplishments, and a brief essay question pertaining to the rural electric program.

Applications must be returned to RECC by March 18, and the ten students selected for the Illinois Youth Day program will be notified by March 23 so that they can arrange their school schedules around the trip. Transportation will be provided from Auburn to Springfield and back.

After the day's activities in Springfield, the students will have individual interviews to select two winners for the trip to Washington, D.C. They will be judged on their application information, personal poise and confidence, and demonstrated understanding of the rural electric program. The

two winners will travel by bus from Springfield to Washington this summer, in one of the best-recognized youth programs in the nation's capital.

Tell your child, grandchild, neighbor or friend about these two super programs sponsored by your electric cooperative, and encourage them to apply. They can send in the request coupon below, call our office at (800) 245-7322 to ask for an application packet, or e-mail a request to recc@recc.coop. Don't let them miss this chance to meet new friends, learn about our government and co-ops, and have fun!



Cut out and return to RECC, or call for an application form. Completed applications are due by March 18.

Request for application – 2011 Rural Electric Youth Day/Youth to Washington Tour

Student's Name _____ Phone No. _____

High School Attended _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Nominating Committee to meet March 3

The Board of Directors has selected nine co-op members to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will meet on March 3 at 6 p.m. at the co-op's office in Auburn. The committee will select candidates for Director elections in three districts, to be held at the RECC Annual Meeting on June 9, 2011 at Glenwood High School in Chatham.

Director positions up for election to three-year terms this year are



Ervin Shores



John Beatty



Melvin Repscher

District 4 (incumbent Ervin Shores of Virden), District 5 (incumbent John Beatty of Auburn), and

District 6 (incumbent Melvin Repscher of Taylorville).

Members serving on the Nominating Committee are:

District #4:	District #5:	District #6:
Pauline Miller 33879 Lead Line Rd Virden, IL 62690	Fred Reichert 16560 Hunley Rd Auburn, IL 62615	Brian Abshire 319 E 1400 North Rd Pawnee, IL 62558
Helen J. Miller 34373 Lead Line Rd Virden, IL 62690	Galen Bailey 12896 Union School Rd Auburn, IL 62615	Fred Vangeison 1152 N 700 East Rd Morrisonville, IL 62546
Kelly L. Pitchford 22507 Thomasville Rd Virden, IL 62690	John Megginson 12959 Lead Line Rd Auburn, IL 62615	Steve Elam 1047 N 900 East Rd Palmer, IL 62556

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JUNE 9!

2011 Annual Meeting Thursday, June 9

RECC's 2011 Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 9 at Glenwood High School in Chatham, so get that date on your calendar! Registration will open at 5 p.m., with a free pork chop dinner. The business meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., and will include elections for three Director positions. All members are invited and encouraged to attend, and you can even bring the family!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JUNE 9!



What is expected of a director?

Your board of directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected for a three-year term and may be re-elected. Majority vote at the annual meeting decides who is elected. Terms are staggered: three directors are elected one year, three directors the next year, and three the third year.

Before each annual meeting of members, a nine-member nominating committee is appointed. The committee consists of three members from each district where a vacancy on the board of directors is to be filled. This committee meets and prepares a list of nominees before the annual meeting. Nominations for a district candidate may also be made by petition, signed by 15 or more members in that district. Petition forms are available from the co-op office, and must be returned by May 10 (30 days before the Annual Meeting, which is on June 9).



Following is a list of the minimum requirements:

- Directors must receive electric service from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative at their primary residence. They pay the same rates for electric service and follow the same policies as all other members. They are not eligible to serve on the board if they have any conflicting business interest.
- Your board of directors meets regularly on the fourth Monday of each month at the headquarters in Auburn. Directors must attend all regular monthly board meetings, usually beginning at 7 p.m. and adjourning three to four hours later.
- Directors must attend all special board meetings, committee meetings and Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's annual meeting. Directors should also attempt to attend one National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) meeting or director's conference every year.
- Other meetings directors attend include one and two day educational seminars. Directors are encouraged to complete their NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certificate during their first term (3 years).
- Directors receive a \$150 per diem (\$200 if director has completed Credentialed Cooperative Director training). They receive the IRS mileage allowance for attendance of Cooperative meetings and expenses when traveling on Cooperative business.
- Directors spend 23-35 days each year representing Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative.
- A director is expected to read and be familiar with information and financial reports from the Cooperative, or other state and national associations.
- A director represents all members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, not a geographic region.
- A director should work in harmony with the whole board. A director must also have the self-confidence and communication skills to express their opinion or disagreement with other directors.
- Directors are encouraged to join NRECA's political action committee – Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE). Regular membership is \$25 per year and century club membership is \$100 per year.
- This board establishes the basic business policies, the same as the board of directors of any other corporation. The board employs a President/CEO, who is responsible for all the operational details.
- Additional details are provided in Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's bylaws.

News & Notes

Watch for downed power lines

We've still got plenty of winter weather ahead of us, and snow/ice storms are possible for a couple more months. If you see power lines on the ground following a storm, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line making them very dangerous, so stay away from all of them.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line; it could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down. If you are in a car which has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and wait until the utility has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.

If you must leave your car – only in the case of fire – jump free without touching the ground and auto at the same time, keeping both feet together and hop to safety. A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out in a pool and the action of walking or running allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the path for the electricity and electrocution is the tragic result.

Update your phone number and e-mail address

There are times when we need to contact members about service problems, billing questions or safety issues, and it's much easier when we have a home or cell phone number on file. Over the years, these contact numbers often become obsolete, which we find out just when we really needed to make a call.

We can keep numbers for a home phone, a cell phone, a business phone or all three. If we have a phone number for your account in our records, it will appear in one of the boxes in the middle of your monthly billing statement. If we don't have up-



dated phone numbers shown on your statement, would you please give us a call or a note with your number(s)? An e-mail address would also be helpful in some situations. We do NOT sell or share these numbers with other organizations.

We made our first automated notification calls after an outage on January 18, to let the 50 members affected know that a wire had broken loose from the insulator on a pole and became grounded. This is another way we're trying to keep members informed about their service and energy use.



YOU'RE ONLY AS ENERGY EFFICIENT AS YOUR OLDEST APPLIANCE.

I'm saving \$146 a year by pulling the plug on my old fridge. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

 **Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

MEMBER RESPONSE PAGE

Please send me information on services from RECC:

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

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.

Clothes Dryer, Electric Replacement – \$25 Water Heater, Standard Warranty – \$200
(less than 10-yr warranty)
 Clothes Dryer, New Home or Gas Conversion – \$25 Water Heater, Life-long Warranty – \$250
(10-yr or longer warranty)
 Electric Range, Electric Replacement – \$25
 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.

Projects keep RECC crews busy ***Line upgrades, pole moves being completed despite winter weather***

Maintaining a reliable electric system is a never-ending job, as RECC's hard-working crews will attest. Even when the temperatures dip and the wind howls, our linemen are looking for potential problems on the lines and completing improvement projects.

In January, two such projects were underway in the Auburn area, with help from a construction contractor. Along BAB Road north of Route 104, a single-phase line is being upgraded to three-phase, to improve the load balancing and meet the growing demand in the area. About three-quarters of a mile is being rebuilt to the Burnstine Road intersection.

On the south edge of Auburn, a three-phase line that sometimes ties the Glenarm and Girard substation together was also upgraded, to carry more load when back feeding from one substation to another. Using these back feeds cuts down on outage time if a substation has problems or the transmission line feeding it goes down, says Lou DeLaby, Manager of Operations and Maintenance.

"If it's going to take some time to repair a transmission or substation problem, our crews can switch the lines to bring power in from another area," DeLaby explains. He says new, larger transformers to be installed at the co-op's Harvel, Farmersville and



Work was nearing completion in late January on an upgrade of three-phase poles and wires along Kennedy Road in Auburn, next to Edgewood Golf Course.

Palmyra substations this winter will also ease the strain when back feeds are needed.

Another project being done at the request of Sangamon County is the relocation of 18 poles along Mansion Road west of Chatham, part of a straightening job planned for the rural road. Housing growth in the

area has led to needed improvements for transportation, which also affects electric lines in the right-of-way. Croft Electrical Contractors is rebuilding that three-phase line, while RECC linemen replace other poles around the system that have been found to be deteriorated.