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Rural HIGHLIGHTS

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

Energy efficiency seminar set for October 19 ***Energy expert Doug Rye coming to Carlinville***



RECC is co-sponsoring a Doug Rye Home Energy Efficiency Seminar, open to the public, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 19, at Blackburn College in Carlinville. Doug Rye is a national residential energy consultant, an architect who has promoted energy efficiency in new and existing homes since the 1970s. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with refreshments and sponsor displays, with the program from 7:00-9:00.

Since 1991, Doug's weekly "Home Remedies" radio show has provided practical insight into home construction ideas and energy efficiency measures. Doug is known nationwide for his honest, down-to-earth and friendly style. His show airs live each Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) on WSMI 1540AM. Callers with energy efficiency, new construction and remodel questions are always welcome and encouraged to call the show.

"If you build a house with high energy costs, it's your own cotton-pickin' fault!"

Doug has made many presentations across Illinois and other states, in an entertaining but straightforward style. One of his famous comments is, "If you build a house with high energy costs, it's your own cotton-pickin' fault!"

If you're planning to build a home, or trying to make your present house more efficient, please join us at Blackburn College on Oct. 19. The seminar is sponsored by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Geo Comfort geothermal systems, Rheem Marathon water heaters, and Blackburn College to promote energy savings by our members.

Tuesday, Oct. 19 7:00 p.m.
Bothwell Auditorium,
Blackburn College

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative
3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19
Auburn, IL 62615
217/438-6197
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Dana Smith, *editor*



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Board report

Resume of Minutes **Regular Board Meeting** **August 30, 2010**

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 August 30, with eight members present while one Director position is vacant. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Field Engineer & Purchasing Agent Martin Hinton; Member Service Electrician Jeff Lancaster; Executive Assistant Sandy Lex; former Director Lee Marten; construction contractor Weldon Ladage; and Attorney Jerry Tice.

* Chairman Ayers presented a leadership plaque to Lee Marten, in appreciation of his service as Director for Board District 8.

* The minutes of the July 26 regular Board meeting were approved as presented.

* CEO Stuva gave a brief summary of the co-op headquarters remodeling project. He introduced Weldon Ladage and Jeff Lancaster who explained the work to be done to the exterior of the building and new handicap-accessible entrance.

* Martin Hinton presented updates on the construction of a new three phase line in the Farmersville area, maintenance work being done on a substation transformer, and tree clearing along the cooperative's transmission line right-of-way in the Chatham area.

* Chairman Ayers led a review of the Board Assessment Report as completed by each director. After asking management and staff to leave the room, the President/CEO Appraisal Report was reviewed, and then discussed with CEO Stuva.

* Chairman Ayers presented the IMEA report.

* The AIEC report was provided by Chairman Ayers by reviewing the executive summary of the AIEC board meeting held August 19.

* The Attorney's report was given by Attorney Tice and CEO Stuva, with updates on franchise agreements and various contract negotiations.

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 July were reviewed and accepted.

CEO Stuva also 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 13 persons.

* Approved a new employee policy on Leave for Jury Duty, Voting Time and Military Duty.

* Approved a Purchase Power Agreement for a new commercial member account.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Special Board Meeting **August 31, 2010**

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters at 5 p.m. on August 31, with eight members present while one Director position is vacant. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva and Attorney Jerry Tice. The purpose of the meeting was to interview four candidates for the Director District No. 8 vacancy.

Chairman Ayers announced that the candidates would be called in the order drawn by lot, with Lou Weitekamp being the first candidate to be interviewed, followed by Allyn Armour, Gary Meyers and Jim Gray. After the interviews were held, the Board discussed the candidates and voted by ballot. Attorney Tice announced that Lou Weitekamp of Morrisonville was elected as new Director for District 8, to complete the unexpired term of Lee Marten.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

October is National Co-op Month

Time to celebrate the co-op difference

What a perfect time to be celebrating National Co-op Month. Harvesting and field work are making good progress, reflecting the strong agricultural base that RECC and many cooperative organizations share. Interest is high in upcoming state and national elections, highlighting the democratic principles we strive to protect.

Having an opportunity to voice an opinion – positive or negative – or state a position on various subjects, perspectives and issues is one of the most telling examples of how democracy thrives, such as it does in the United States. However, going deeper into the numerous layers of the country's economy, one can find democracy in action on a smaller, yet vitally important, scale. Upon one of those layers rests the cooperative business model, where all cooperatives – farmer, food, wholesale or retail suppliers – share a commonality in adhering to the Seven Cooperative Principles. They also take time one month each year to commemorate and celebrate the cooperative business model.

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Since 1930, October has been designated as National Co-op Month, providing an opportunity to explain the co-op difference to members. The story is unique in that electric cooperatives were built not by big businesses looking for profit, but by ordinary people working together. Some of RECC's members today have parents or grandparents who collected \$5.00 memberships to help bring "the electric" to local homes and farms in the 1930's and 40's.

Cooperatives continue to be essential components of the nation's economy, providing hundreds of thousands of jobs, but also contributing to the communities they serve. For instance, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative has dis-

tributed over \$100,000 this year in grants and rebates to help members with energy-saving projects for their homes and businesses.

Cooperatives serve 120 million members, or four in 10 Americans. They operate in virtually every industry and range in size from small storefronts to Fortune 500 companies.

Despite this diversity, co-ops have some things in common. They are owned and democratically controlled by the people who use their services or buy their goods. They are motivated by service to their members, not by profit. These characteristics give co-ops an uncommon loyalty and commitment to the communities in which they are located.

"The cooperative way of doing business is an American success story we can all be proud of," says President/CEO David Stuva. "The rest of the nation might celebrate the cooperative business model every October, but RECC celebrates it every day," he adds.

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This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the October issue of this publication.

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions and/or civil sanctions.

/s/ Dana Smith, Editor

Who are your Directors?

Your Board of Directors is made up of nine co-op members, elected by you, who meet monthly to determine the course of action that

the management team will follow in the operation of the cooperative business. We've been doing articles about each director over the past

several months, and have a brand new director to tell you more about this month.

District 8:

Director Profile

Lou Weitekamp named to Board of Directors on Aug. 31

The RECC Board met on Aug. 31 to interview four candidates to fill the vacant position in District 8, after the retirement of Lee Marten. (See the Board Report on page 2 for the candidate names.) The eight sitting directors chose Lou Weitekamp of Raymond to serve in District 8, until the next scheduled election in 2012.

Lou grew up on a farm southeast of Farmersville. He graduated from Farmersville High School, and received a technical degree from Southern Illinois University in Architectural Drafting and Design. He moved to the Peoria area, where he worked most of his working life in architecture and construction. Later, he worked for a major tour and motor coach company.

Lou married Judy Goby after college, and the house they now live in was built by Judy's grandparents in 1920. Lou and Judy have two sons, now in other states, and six grandchildren, so they have plenty of traveling to do.

After his retirement five years ago, Lou and Judy decided to move back to Montgomery County to be closer to their mothers and other family members. They purchased the farmhouse and a few acres, remodeled the house and installed a geothermal heating and cooling system.

The acreage has become Lou's garden, with groupings of flowers, vegetables and berries surrounding the house. "We're blessed with great soil here, all I've had to add for fer-



Lou Weitekamp has changed Judy's old family farmstead near Raymond into a garden getaway, with raspberries and other fruits along with vegetables and flowers.

tilizer is nitrogen!" Lou says. Years of livestock on the farm have added to the fertility with their byproducts, he points out.

Besides the garden, Lou and Judy also keep busy with a business they started two years ago, Tons O' Fun Travel. They set up motor coach trips to various destinations and tourism attractions.

When Lou read about Lee Marten's retirement from the RECC Board in the *Rural Highlights*, he said he knew the Board was losing a valuable member. He met with CEO David Stuva to learn more

about the opening. "I thought about it and prayed about it for two weeks, and decided to submit my application," he says. "I was impressed with the operation of RECC, and with the contacts I'd had with different office personnel," he adds.

Lou says he's aware of the challenges of providing reliable electric service at a reasonable cost, and he thinks RECC has done a good job of meeting those goals. In deciding to apply for the director position, he says, "I thought I could offer my time and energies to assist in planning for the future of the co-op."

News & Notes

Budget Billing catch-up time

October bills are time for catch-up on Budget Billing accounts, to zero out any balance due or credited. If a member has underpaid for the year (based on the monthly payment amount estimated), the shortfall will be due on the October billing statement. If payments made exceeded the actual cost for the past year, RECC will refund the excess amount to the member. New Budget Billing amounts will be calculated to begin in November. Any member with at least a year of billing history, and a good payment record, can start on the Budget Billing plan in November.

Tax credits expire this year

If you're thinking about making an energy efficiency improvement to your home, you may want to move quickly to take advantage of federal tax credits that expire on December 31. If you purchase and install certain items you can qualify for a tax credit of 30 percent of the costs, up to \$1,500. Qualifying items are high efficiency gas water heaters, electric heat pump water heaters, gas furnaces, air source heat pumps, central air conditioners, insulation, reflective roofs and biomass stoves. For details on the requirements, visit www.energystar.gov and click on the tax credit link at the lower left corner.

Tax credits on geothermal systems, wind turbines and solar panels will continue through 2016. These 30 percent credits have no limit, and apply to installations in new homes as well as existing homes.

Transformer replaced at RECC building



RECC made an unplanned upgrade on the transformer bank serving our headquarters building, after a transformer shorted out and caught on fire on September 20. The cause of the short was unknown, and the transformer was only a few years old. The Auburn Fire Department was called to extinguish the fire and spray cooling water on the de-energized enclosure and equipment. Some co-op members were out of power for a short time, as the short circuit tripped the breakers on the south feeder from the Glenarm substation. No damage was done to the building, although the transformer was only a few feet from the brick exterior. RECC linemen installed a new transformer on the following day, with new underground cables bored under the warehouse from the back of the co-op's property.

Touchstone Energy Balloon coming to Shelbyville

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative and ten other Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have teamed up to bring in the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon team to Shelbyville on October 8-10. Come see hot air balloon pilots from Chicago, Iowa, Missouri and Central Illinois fly Lake Shelbyville with flights Friday night, Saturday & Sunday mornings and enjoy a night glow Saturday night (weather permitting). The Saturday night glow will be held on the dam off Route 16 in Shelbyville. Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest is being held in



conjunction with Scarecrow Daze. Call the Shelbyville Tourism office for more details at 217-774-2244 or go on line www.lakeshelbyville.com. You can follow the Balloon Team on their Facebook page, search Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Team.

MARATHON WATER HEATERS. NO BAILOUTS NECESSARY.



Mortgage Bailout
"We have designed this plan to...
debts — whether it was...
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very strict program to...

Executive Insider
Auto Industry
Bailout not...
nothing

Big banks
for Bailout

Wall Street
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And, they are warranted not to leak for as long as you own your home, so no bailouts required!

Special Marathon water heater prices for RECC members!

	50 Gallon	75 Gallon
Member Price	\$675.00	\$775.00
Rebate Applied	\$250.00	\$250.00
Net Price (plus tax)	\$425.00	\$525.00
Energy Factor	0.93	0.92
Height (inches)	62 3/4	58 5/8
Diameter (inches)	23 1/2	28 1/4
Tank Warranty	Lifetime	Lifetime
Parts Warranty	6 Years	6 Years

Want efficient, safe laundry? Leave no lint behind

Household chores like laundry seem fairly safe. But hidden problems like lint buildup in a dryer could lead to higher energy bills due to inefficiency and, ultimately, hazardous conditions in your home.

Statistics on dryer fires show no difference between the natural gas and electric dryers, according to John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Inc., a Chicago, Ill.-based not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items. "If you forget to clean the lint screen too many times you're going to get a buildup, and that's where ultimately you could have a problem."

Cleaning the lint screen assures good air movement through the dryer, allowing it to efficiently



remove the moisture from your clothes. Without adequate air circulation, heat flow becomes stymied, clothes take longer to dry, and it costs more to operate the appliance.

Heat buildup in the dryer can lead to a fire.

Manufacturers whose products carry the UL mark are required to ship dryers with safety instructions that specify cleaning the lint screen before or after each load. These instructions also recommend keeping dryer exhaust openings and adjacent surrounding areas free from accumulated lint, dust and dirt, and having qualified service people periodically clean the dryer's interior and exhaust duct.

The exhaust duct also has a cover on the outside of the house, which need to be kept clean. Often these covers have hinged louvers, which can fill in with lint or get stuck in a closed position.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

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: <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

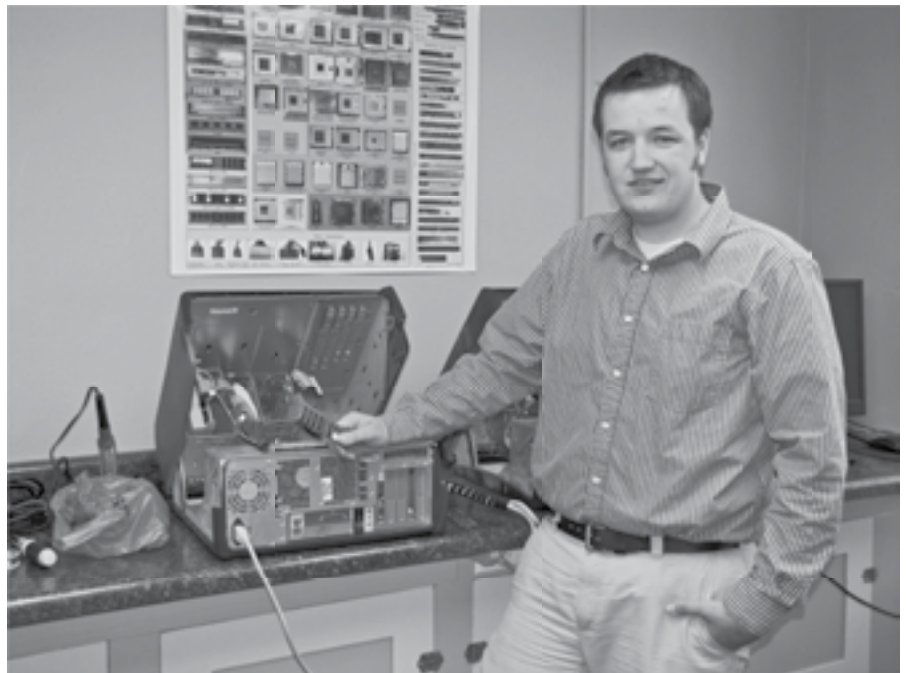
Telephone: (800) 245-7322 (RECC) or (217) 438-6197 • www.recc.coop

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

Brandon Taylor joins RECC

To help meet the challenges of new technology and communications needs, Brandon Taylor joined RECC this summer in the new position of Computer Support Specialist. His job duties include planning and maintaining the co-op's computer systems and office communications network, as well as assisting with our automated meter reading system. You may also see his postings if you follow RECC on the popular Facebook or Twitter internet sites. Brandon is finishing his last class at the University of Illinois-Chicago, and will receive a degree in Moving Image in December.

Brandon is well acquainted with the co-op business, as his father was Marketing Manager at Adams Electrical Cooperative in Camp Point while Brandon was growing up, and is now Vice President of Utility Services at Corn Belt Energy in Bloomington. Brandon also



worked for Adams Telephone Cooperative as an engineering and IT intern while attending college.

Welcome to Brandon, as he

helps us serve our member-owners and bring new technology to our business!