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# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

A publication of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative • Auburn, Illinois • [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop)

## *SmartHub is now online for you!* *Puts your electric information at your fingertips*

The new SmartHub communications tool is now in place for members' use, providing more information than ever before on your computer, smart phone, or tablet. SmartHub lets you view or pay your monthly electric bill, but it also offers so much more information and convenience:

- Quickly pay your bill
- Schedule a future payment
- Review past payments
- Receive bill reminders
- View your hourly, daily, and monthly electric use
- Update your account or contact information
- Get outage information
- Receive alerts from RECC
- Connect with social media

SmartHub can be used on a computer website, and that's where you should register and set up a secure password. Members registered for our previous e-bill site will use the same sign-on information as before. You can go to the SmartHub site from our web page at [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop).

We're also offering a free SmartHub app, which can be downloaded for Apple and Android mobile devices. Just go to the Apple Store® or the Android® Market, and search for Smarthub.

After downloading the app on your mobile device, the installation will prompt you to find your electric co-op. You can type in "Rural Electric Convenience" or just search through the list to find it.

Once you've registered and loaded the app, the SmartHub button will



take you to your account with complete security. You can set your options

**(Continued on page 3)**

## *Helpful videos on* YouTube

To help members understand and use some of the features of SmartHub, we've produced some short videos on different aspects of the portal site. The first is a general introduction, discussing the main links in SmartHub and how to register. There's also a video on downloading and installing the free app for your particular mobile device, as a member of RECC. The last video

explores the Energy Usage reports, a powerful tool to monitor your electric consumption by the month, the day and the hour.

While these videos can't cover every detail, they should help you feel more comfortable getting started with SmartHub. If you have more questions, you can always call our office for help and advice!

**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

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Dana Smith, *editor*



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# Board report

## Regular Board Meeting August 20, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters on August 20, 2013, at 7 p.m., with eight members present. The District 7 director's position is currently vacant. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva, Executive Assistant Sandy Lex, Computer Support Specialist Brandon Taylor, and Attorney Jerry Tice.

\* The minutes of the July 23 regular Board meeting were approved as presented.

\* Chairman Ayers presented a summary and discussion of the Board assessments submitted by the Directors, with only President/CEO Stuva present in the room. The Board then reviewed the President/CEO appraisal report, first among themselves and then with CEO David Stuva.

\* Chairman Ayers made appointments for 2013-2014 committees including Executive; Operations, Member, Public Relations & Marketing; and Finance, Audit, Rate & Planning.

\* Chairman Ayers discussed the process for appointing a Director to fill the vacant position in District 7. The Board agreed to have a letter mailed to each member in District 7 on October 3, with applications for the position, to be submitted by Nov. 1. The Board will conduct interviews of candidates in November to fill the position.

\* CEO Stuva reported on the IMEA Board meeting held August 15.

\* The AIEC Report was presented by Chairman Ayers. He reviewed the Executive Summary of the AIEC Board meeting held August 15.

\* Jerry Tice and Lou DeLaby reviewed a proposed agreement to amend the cooperative's transmission line easement for a residential lot in Chatham.

\* 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, Member and Public Relations, Cash Flow, Cash Disbursements Summary, and Check Listing. The financial and statistical reports for July 2013 were reviewed and accepted for placement in the cooperative's files.

CEO Stuva also:

\* Discussed dates for the Board Strategic Planning meeting in January 2014.

\* Reported that random member surveys will be conducted by telephone and by mail in September and October.

\* 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 25 persons.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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on Facebook**

**Link from our web page  
at [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop)**





for features like notifications to receive alerts when your monthly bill is available, when an automatic payment has been made, when any changes are made in your account settings, and more.

### Energy use reports

One of the most innovative options that RECC has introduced for our members in recent months is the ability to see how much electric energy you've used in the past months, days or even hours. This can help you evaluate your consumption patterns, compare use between different periods and even spot problems if the energy used suddenly jumps.

You can view graphs of monthly, daily and hourly kilowatt hours (kWh) for your account, including any submeters. While the navigation is fairly simple, we have produced a short video on this feature that you can find on RECC's YouTube channel. There's also a help button on each SmartHub page!

### Sign up and win!

To encourage members to check out the great features in SmartHub, we've set up some incentive drawings for this fall. Anyone who registers their account for SmartHub before December 13 will be eligible for one of three prizes. (This will include members previously registered for our e-bill site.) The Grand Prize for the drawing is an iPad tablet, Second Prize is a \$100 credit on your electric bill, and Third Prize is a \$50 bill credit!

We're also offering incentives for members to sign up for our automatic bill payment plan, and for going totally electronic with no paper billing statement mailed each month. (See drawing details at right.)

We're excited about SmartHub and the many features it offers to our members. We hope you'll give it a try, and keep your information about Rural Electric and your account close at hand!

For Android®  
devices



For Apple  
devices



You can scan these QR codes with a smart phone to find and download the free SmartHub app for your device.

# Drawings

SmartHub is just a start at streamlining your electric payments! We'd like to have you register for SmartHub, and also consider our convenient automatic payment plans as well as going to "paperless billing" – electronic delivery of your monthly bill. To add a little fun to the campaign, we're offering free drawings in all three of those categories.

## 1. SmartHub Registration

Anyone registered for SmartHub (or previous e-bill) by December 13, 2013 will be eligible for a drawing:

**Grand Prize –  
iPad Wi-Fi Tablet**

**Second Prize –  
\$100 Bill Credit**

**Third Prize –  
\$50 Bill Credit**

## 2. Automatic Payment Plan

Anyone signed up for automatic bill payment, by credit card or from your bank account, by December 13 will be eligible for a drawing for one of 3 Christmas arrangements from area florists (\$40 value).

## 3. Paperless Billing

All new users of paperless bills between Oct. 1- Dec. 13 will receive a \$10 bill credit.

You can qualify for any or all three of the incentives above, so take advantage of the convenience and increase your chance of winning a great prize!



**WE ALL HAVE A JOB TO DO.** When it comes to using energy wisely, no job is too small. But some are pretty high up. Yet when every co-op member works together, it's a job that comes with countless benefits. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

 **Rural Electric  
Convenience Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**



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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

# ***New generation of security lights introduced***

## ***Members have LED lighting option***

Incandescent bulbs brought light to the countryside 75 years ago. Mercury vapor lamps offered better efficiency, and became popular in the 1960s and 70s. High pressure sodium (HPS) lights brought efficiency a little higher, and changed the prevailing color cast on farmsteads and streets from a bluish tint to a brighter yellow hue.

The “next generation” of lighting has been slowly growing and developing, and it’s not really a light bulb at all. It’s the light-emitting diode, or LED. More like a computer chip, it glows when an electrical charge passes through it, and the newest LEDs can put out more than twice as much light for each watt of electricity used, compared to the high pressure sodium security lights fixtures commonly installed.

In addition to the energy savings offered by LEDs, they also can be designed to produce a “whiter” light than mercury vapor or high pressure sodium, and last longer than other light bulbs.

While the cost of LED fixtures has dropped dramatically in recent years, they are still much higher than traditional lights. But the balance point is arriving where the extra upfront cost can be offset by reduced energy and maintenance costs.

RECC is pushing that cross-over point with the introduction of an LED option for our monthly security light rental program. Our most popular HPS security light is the 100-watt globe light, which costs \$9.00/month including all maintenance and the electricity needed to operate the light. Its LED equivalent uses just 43 watts to provide the same amount of light, with a better color rating to make illuminated objects look more natural.

The LED light will also cost \$9.00/month, but since the LED fixture is four times the cost of the HPS fixture, we will charge a one-time fee of \$75.00 for members requesting the LED instead of HPS. This fee applies for either new light locations being installed or change-outs of existing lights.

The next-larger size light we offer is a 250-watt HPS, for \$11.50/month. This light can be replaced by a 74-watt LED, also billed at \$11.00 a month plus the \$75.00 fee.



*The 43-watt LED security light replaces a 100-watt high pressure sodium fixture. This is the reflector fixture that complies with the “Dark Sky” standard to reduce upward light pollution.*

### ***Dark Sky option***

Another unique option of the LED lights being offered is a reflector shield that directs all light downward, where it’s needed most for safety and security. This fixture reduces glare when viewed from the side, and is compliant with “Dark Sky” guidelines that reduce light pollution going into the overhead skies.

The reflector shield model is the same cost as the standard models.

A great example of these new LED lights can be seen at the Glenwood Lakes Estates subdivision in Chatham, near the Glenwood Intermediate School. All fourteen fixtures were recently converted there to the 43-watt reflector fixtures to provide street lighting in the subdivision.

More LEDs can be seen at RECC’s headquarters building in Auburn, where the parking lot lights are now all LED. One on the west side of the building is a reflector model, while the remaining pole lights are regular globe fixtures. (The lights on the building’s exterior are LED as well.)

If you’re interested in installing or converting a security light at your home or business, contact our office.

# 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.



## Grain harvest running late

A late spring and cool weather in July and August resulted in a lot of green corn in the fields in September, and farmers waiting to start harvesting. Wayne Moose and his sons were able to shell corn on part of this field near the RECC office on September 18, but the stalks were still alive and green in a large portion of the field. RECC expects more electricity use for crop drying this season than in recent years, probably extending well into October.



## Touchstone Energy® Balloon coming to Shelbyville

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative and other Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have teamed up to bring the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon team to nearby Shelbyville on October 11-13. The 4th annual Lake Shelbyville Balloonfest will be held in conjunction with Shelbyville's Scarecrow Daze, with balloon flights planned on Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday mornings, weather permitting. The flights by balloons from around the

Midwest will launch from Forest Park in Shelbyville. A cookout and balloon glow will be held Saturday evening at the 9th Street Beach and Boat Ramp.

Call the Shelbyville Chamber office for more details at 217-774-2221 or go to the Events Calendar at [www.lakeshelbyville.com](http://www.lakeshelbyville.com). You can follow the Balloon Team on their Face Book page, search Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Team.

## Scholarship program announced

The Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program is now open, with applications available through RECC's website. Seven academic scholarships will be offered for 2014 to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family." In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric line-worker school – will also be offered.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A

fifth 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. The eighth scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. For more information, see the the cooperative's website at [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop).

# MEMBER RESPONSE PAGE

**Please send me information on services from RECC:**

Peak Switch                       New Home Energy Guidelines                       Long Distance Saving Rates  
 Dual Meter Heating Rate                       Surge Suppressor Lease                       5% ERC Loans for Efficiency  
 Security Light Rental                       Co-op Connections® Card                      Improvements  
 Air Evac Memberships                       Marathon Lifetime-Warranty  
Water Heaters

## 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 (40 gallon minimum):  
 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](http://www.recc.coop)

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

## *Candidates wanted for Board District 7*

On October 3, a letter was mailed to all RECC members in District 7, announcing the procedure to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Ted Dowson. Ted stepped down from the Board this summer due to health concerns, after serving nearly 20 years as a Director.

Since the next election for District 7 is not scheduled until June 2015, RECC's bylaws state that the remaining directors are to select a person to fill such a vacancy, and that person will serve until the next election in that District.

The October 3 letter informed members of the procedure being followed to recruit candidates, along with the requirements and compensation for the director position. Candidates must live on RECC's lines in District 7, which generally includes the eastern areas of Chatham and Auburn along with Divernon. Any members interested in being considered for the vacant position should send a letter or e-mail to President/CEO David Stuva at [recc@recc.coop](mailto:recc@recc.coop).

Besides their name, address and phone number, prospective candidates should state their qualifica-

tions and reasons for wanting to be on the RECC Board of Directors. Applications are due by November 1, 2013.

A listing of the qualifications and requirements for Director is available from the co-op office. The

Board meets on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month, with other meetings and training at various times. Directors may be involved in co-op work as many as 35 days a year, and receive a per diem payment for those days.

