



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



Thom Hart earns Board Leadership Certificate

RECC director Thom Hart has received the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for completing advanced courses on the role of the board of directors in governing a co-op.

The Board Leadership courses address the technological, regulatory and demographic changes that have reshaped the electric utility business into what it is today – a complicated mix of legal and governmental issues. The directors are encouraged to discuss the challenges being faced by local co-op boards.

Thom, who lives near Waggoner, has been an RECC director for District 4 since 2011. He worked as an electric lineman and crew leader for CILCO for 29 years and at Egizii Electric for nine years. He has volunteered for many community projects, and assisted in a Habitat For Humanity building project last year while attending the NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Coming soon... our new prepaid billing option!

Prepaid Electric Service will give you the power to control your energy costs

The new Prepaid Electric Service option that RECC will be introducing next month will allow you to pay for energy when you choose, in the amount you choose, the same way you buy groceries and gasoline. The easy pay-as-you-go plan will give you greater control over your budget because you can decide how much to pay and when to pay it.



Prepaid Electric Service offers many benefits:

- No large deposits
- No late fees
- Buy electricity when convenient
- Monitor and control your energy use
- Receive low-balance notifications

Watch for more details on Prepaid Electric Service in next month's magazine! Smaller, regular electric payments may be your solution to avoid large one-time monthly bills!

It's easier than ever to "Call Before You Dig"!

RECC members will receive an insert sheet with their electric bills in March, with a reminder to call JULIE, Inc. (JULIE) before any excavation project this spring to identify any underground utilities that may be installed in the area.

It's not only a good safety tip, it's the law in Illinois to call before every digging project, regardless of the size or depth. Whether you're a homeowner or a professional excavator, you should make this important call to JULIE for free underground facility locates.

The nationwide number you can use is 811 to connect you to the Illinois One-Call System, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of the planned digging project.

Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both.

Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that require a call to JULIE. Installing poles or drainage tiles are other typical jobs that need locates first.

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

JULIE encourages Illinois residents to visit www.illinois1call.com for more information about digging safely.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Nominating Committee to meet March 10

The Board of Directors has selected nine co-op members to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will meet on March 10 at 6:30 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 11, 2015 in Chatham.

Director positions up for election to three-year terms this year are District 7 (incumbent Andy Goleman of Divernon), District 8 (incumbent Lou Weitekamp of Raymond), and District 9 (incumbent Cassie Eigenmann of Modesto).

Members serving on the Nominating Committee are:

District 7:

Jan Cimarossa
7675 N. Pawnee Rd.
Pawnee, IL 62558

C. Clark Germann
10477 Gordon Dr.
Chatham, IL 62629

Denise McCrady
16425 Kessler Rd.
Divernon, IL 62530

District 8:

Dennis Rosenthal
3244 State Route 48
Raymond, IL 62560

Melvin Wempen
22198 E. 5th Road
Raymond, IL 62560

Larry Ziegler
22153 E. 5th Road
Raymond, IL 62560

District 9:

James Launer
P.O. Box 229
Modesto, IL 62667

Deanna Lee
11841 Hurricane Timber Ln.
Modesto, IL 62667

Tangy Steinacher
35306 Campbell Rd.
Modesto, IL 62667

What is expected of a co-op director?

Your board of directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected by majority vote for a three-year term. 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 12 (30 days before the Annual Meeting, which is on June 11).

Following is a list of the minimum requirements:

- Directors must receive electric service from Rural Electric Convenience Co-operative 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 Tuesday of each month. Directors must attend all regular monthly board meetings, usually beginning at 7 p.m. (or 6 p.m. during winter months).
- 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, and \$225 with Board Leadership Certificate). 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 represents all members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, not a geographic region.
- 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.



Rural Electric
Convenience Cooperative

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Board of Directors

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Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman
Mel Repscher, Sec.-Treasurer
John A. Beatty, Asst. Sec.-Treasurer
Clayton Bloome
Cassie L. Eigenmann
Andy Goleman
Thomas Hart
Lou Weitekamp

President/CEO

David Stuva

Editor

Dana Smith

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- By phone using Self-Serve 24 (217-438-3575)

See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Is your home protected?

Spring storms can bring an increased threat of power surges, which are sudden, short-lived increases in voltage. Surges may come either from lightning strikes or power lines being damaged by ice or falling tree limbs. Your cooperative can help protect your home from the threat of power surges which could damage your valuable appliances and electronics. We offer a two-stage surge protection program for the different threats to your home equipment.

RECC's whole-house surge protection lease is just \$4.95/month.

External surges

Whole-house surge protection can reduce or stop voltage surges that travel through the power lines, including indirect lightning strikes. Under our whole-house lease program, we install a meter base adapter at your electric meter or main electrical panel.

The monthly lease fee is just \$4.95, with no installation charge.

The whole house unit protects your household appliances and motors, blocking any high-energy surges through your main service.

Internal surges

Most temporary power surges come from inside the home. Whether the disturbance is natural or man-made, your sensitive electronic devices need protection at the point of use, which can be provided by quality plug-in strips. Since devices like TVs and phone answering machines are also connected to outside sources like satellite dishes and phone lines, the plug strips for those devices



should include protection for the other connected wires.

RECC has a selection of plug-in protectors for your home, from single-plug cubes for your garage door opener to satellite system strips with electrical, phone and cable connections. One standard six-plug strip is included in your lease program, with others available for purchase.

Quality ratings

You can assure good quality in any surge suppressors you buy, if you look at the package labeling. Look for the UL 1449 label, which means the device meets the latest approved testing standards.

Surge protectors also carry a "Joule" rating, which is the amount of energy the device can safely divert during a power surge. The higher the joule rating, the higher the quality of internal surge-stopping components.

Protect your equipment now with RECC's easy lease program! Call our office at (217) 438-6197 for more details or to schedule an installation. Or e-mail us at recc@recc.coop.

