



RuralHILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RECC holds 80th Annual Meeting

More than 550 members, families and guests of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative gathered for their 80th Annual Meeting on June 8 at Glenwood High School in Chatham. Along with a grilled pork chop dinner, visitors enjoyed several vendor displays, bucket truck rides and a variety of activities for kids. They also received free energy-saving light bulbs as part of the Co-op Connections Card program.

Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman of the Board, welcomed members and recognized the service anniversaries for several co-op employees and directors. Lineman Travis Boylen received a 10-year award, Becky Grossner, CIS/AMI Administrator, reached 15 years, Matt Sheerin, Manager of Finance and Administration, also has 15 years, and lineman Tim Hemberger has 30 years of service at RECC.

Elections were held for three positions on the Board of Directors, with Thom Hart of Atwater (District 4), John Beatty of Waverly (District 5) and Mel Repscher of Taylorville (District 6) running unopposed for new three-year terms.

In the officers' reports, Treasurer Lou Weitekamp said that revenue for 2016 totaled \$15,118,580 resulting in net margins of \$233,075 compared to margins in 2015 of \$364,548.

RECC Board Chairman Mel Repscher and President/CEO David Stuva provided updates on co-op projects and accomplishments. Stuva reported that a member

(continued on 18b)



From left, Mel Repscher of Taylorville (District 6), John Beatty of Waverly (District 5) and Thom Hart of Atwater (District 4) were re-elected to the RECC Board of Directors and congratulated by President/CEO David Stuva.



Nearly half of the attending members brought their Illinois Country Living magazines with their coded address labels for fast registration to the Annual Meeting. Working the registration table, from left, are Shelley Crocks, Tim Hemberger and Becky Grossner.



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Convenience Cooperative

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See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

80th Annual Meeting

(continued from 18a)



Four employees received service milestone awards at the Annual Meeting. From left are Journeyman Lineman Travis Boylen (10 years), Journeyman Lineman Tim Hemberger (30 years), CIS/AMI Administrator Becky Grossner (15 years), and Manager of Finance and Administration Matt Sheerin (15 years).



Bucket truck rides weren't just for the kids, as several adult members including Shirley Emerson of Chatham also took a vertical ride with 1st-Year Apprentice Lineman Andrew Boston.



Fourth Year Apprentice Lineman Sean Koen discusses safety around electric power lines with visitors before the business meeting.



Senior Accountant Aubrie Megginson and Manager of Operations and Maintenance Lou DeLaby handed out free LED light bulbs to members when they showed their Co-op Connections cards or picked up free replacement cards.

satisfaction survey in 2016 showed high results for RECC in prompt outage response, knowledgeable employees and reliable electric service. Ratings improved from a 2013 survey in satisfaction with rates and keeping costs down.

Stuva and Repscher noted that rates are expected to decrease in 2018, when a new power supply contract with NextEra Energy Power Marketing LLC goes into effect. The 10-year plus 5-month contract satisfied the Board's concerns with potential price volatility and capacity limitations in the Midwest markets, Repscher said. He noted the new contract will provide the Board

options to retain higher margins and build higher equity for a stronger future, while reducing the current Power Cost Adjustment on members' bills.

All members attending the meeting received a \$10 bill credit on their July billing statement as an attendance gift. At the end of the meeting, \$1,000 in cash door prizes were awarded, including a \$300 Grand Prize that was won by Steve and Jean Russum of Girard.

Board Chairman Repscher closed the meeting with a reminder that next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2018 in Chatham.

Youth Tour students visit Washington

Two area students were among 69 rural Illinois youths in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, held June 9-16. Jacob Harris of Pawnee and Savannah Norris of Auburn represented Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative on the educational trip.

This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth. The students met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, but had meetings canceled with other legislators due to the shooting incident in nearby Alexandria, Va. on June 14.

The Illinois group joined more than 1,730 young leaders from across the country, a record high for the "Youth to Washington" Tour. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington

National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum, and several other historical sites.

As part of the introduction to the cooperative business model, students on the trip set up a "Pop-and-Chip" cooperative to provide snacks for the group. The students start the cooperative from the ground up electing a board of directors, hiring a manager and employees along with setting prices for their "services." Jacob and Savannah were both elected to the co-op's board of directors, and were integral in setting prices and planning supplies for the week.

Juniors in local high schools are



Jacob Harris from Pawnee and Savannah Norris from Auburn enjoyed the Washington National Cathedral and many other sites during the Youth To Washington Tour in June.

eligible to participate in the annual program, which begins with the Illinois Youth Day event held in the spring. To learn more about the "Youth to Washington" Tour go to www.youthtour.coop or www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington.

PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

2016 capital credit allocation notification

The allocation of 2016 margins to members doing business with Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative have been calculated and assigned. The total of \$233,073 of 2016 margins were allocated as capital credits. We have calculated each member's share of the total margins based on members use of electricity in 2016. That amount has been credited to your capital credit account.

The allocations will be on your July bill, which will be mailed on or about August 7. You will see a message on the left-hand side of the bill indicating

the amount that was allocated to your capital credit equity account for the electricity you purchased in 2016. This message only appears on your master account and only appears if you had an active account in 2016. This amount is only an accounting credit. **It cannot be claimed at the present time nor can it be applied against your current electric bill.** Your board of directors reviews the financial condition of the Cooperative before determining when and how much capital credit equity can be returned or retired to the members.

Remember, you must be a member

and have service in your name to have capital credits allocated to you. If you are receiving electric service in someone else's membership or the service is in the name of a deceased person, you will not receive capital credits. Any capital credit retirements will be issued in the name of the person on the membership or the estate of a deceased member.

If you move off the Cooperative lines, always provide us with your current address so we can send your future capital credit retirements.

New business offers for Co-op Connections® cards

We have more new offers to announce for RECC members showing their Co-op Connections cards at local businesses! All Rural Electric members should have the free cards, which can be used for local as well as national savings. If you need a replacement card, please contact us.

To see all of our local offers, go to Co-op Deals at www.connections.coop, and enter your ZIP code to find Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's participating businesses. You can also find more information on pharmacy discounts and other benefits of the card program at this site.

Thanks to these new businesses for joining the Co-op Connections program!



Burtle Motors, Auburn – \$5 off oil change, limit one per customer each month



Powerworks Fitness, Chatham – Half off enrollment fee, plus \$5 off monthly



Chatham Chiropractic – One free consultation



Nickorbo's Home & Gifts, Divernon – 10 percent off total purchase