



# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

## \$2,500 Co-op Community Grants available

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (RECC) is offering two schools the chance to receive a \$2,500 **Co-op Community Grant**. The two grants, totaling \$5,000, comprise RECC's contribution of \$2,500 and matching funds provided by CoBank's Sharing Success program. The partnership has allowed RECC to offer larger grant amounts and do more for our local community.

The grants are for the 2018-19 school year and are limited to schools in or around RECC's service territory. Application forms are available on our website [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop). Grant applications are due by Sept. 15, 2018, and winners will be announced by Nov. 1. All winning projects must be completed by May 31, 2019.

The **Co-op Community Grants** will enable teachers to participate in education enhancement projects that are not included in their school budget. All applications will be considered, but those highlighting electricity and energy will be considered more favorably. Entries featuring science, technology, engineering and mathematics will be given a higher priority when judging.

### All applications should include the following details:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish
2. The estimated cost of the project
3. An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to carry out the project
4. When the project will be completed
5. The number of people affected by the project
6. Are items purchased reusable and will they benefit future students

For more information, please contact Sandy Lex, Member Services Liaison, at [sandy.lex@recc.coop](mailto:sandy.lex@recc.coop) or 217-438-6198.

The \$2,500 **Co-op Community Grants** are the largest ever offered from RECC and CoBank. In 2017, Waverly Elementary and Ball Chatham were each awarded \$2,000 for their successful application. Previous winners include: Morrisonville Elementary, Raymond Grade School and Glenwood Intermediate School.



Supporting The Areas We Serve

### Co-op Community Grant

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Member Services Liaison  
Sandy Lex delivered a Co-op  
Community Grant check to  
Ball Elementary kindergarten  
teachers and students in 2017.

# Youth to Washington Tour provides life-long memories

Two local students were selected from a group of applicants to represent Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative at the annual Youth to Washington Tour. The winners enjoyed an all-expense paid trip that provided new friendships and memories that are sure to last a lifetime. The 2018 Youth Tour delegates from RECC included Riley Meredith of Northwestern High School and Hailey Winslow of Glenwood High School.

Hailey and Riley departed from Springfield with 69 other students. Their chartered busses were filled with students from 27 Illinois cooperatives. Once they arrived in the nation's capital, they were joined by 1,800 of their peers for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Congressman Rodney Davis and Congressman Darin LaHood. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, Newseum, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were the Marine Corps Sunset Parade, the Smithsonian Museums and an assembly of Youth Tour participants from across the nation.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," says David Stuva, president/CEO of RECC. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."



2018 Youth Tour group photo at Capitol



Riley & Hailey at Washington National Cathedral



Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric and telephone utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C. To learn more about the Youth to Washington Tour, go to [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop).



Riley & Hailey at Gettysburg

# Understanding Your Bill

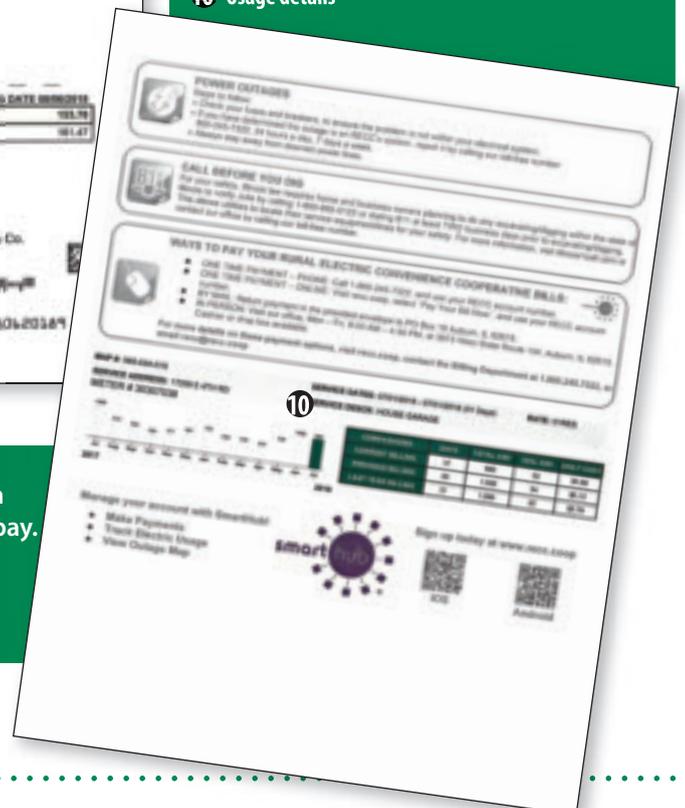
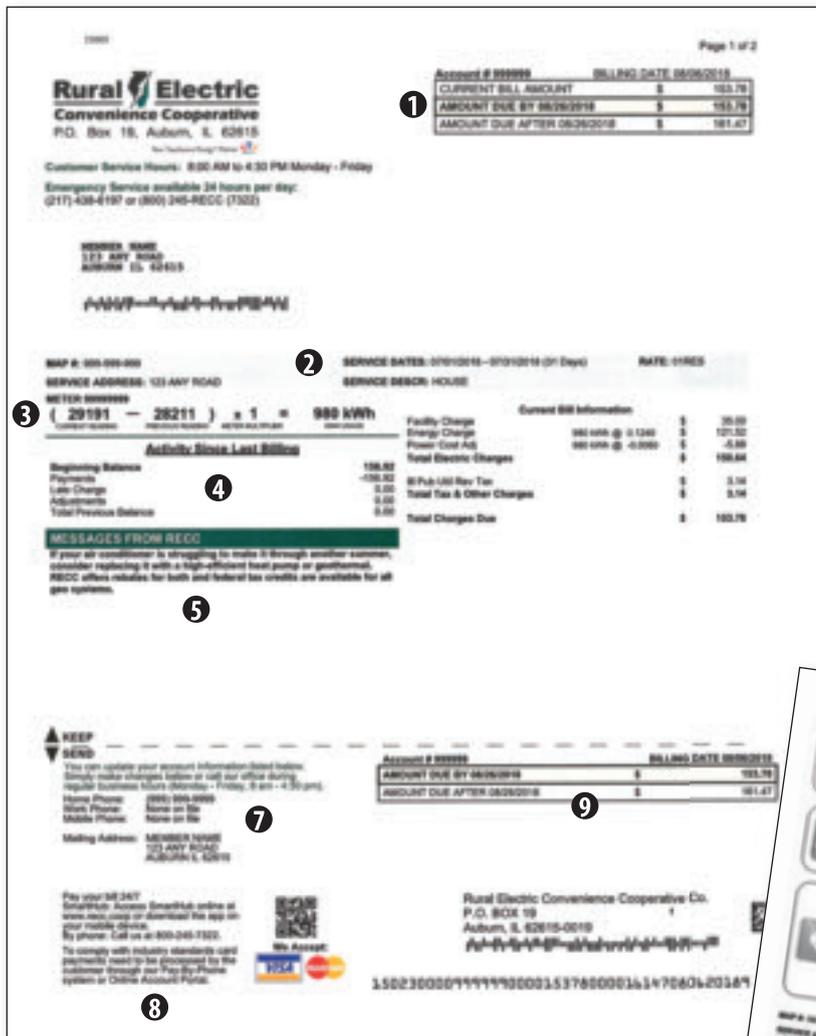
Beginning this month, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative will begin using a new bill format. We have worked diligently to redesign the bill to provide our members with the most information possible.

## FRONT OF BILL

- 1 Your account number, payment amount and due date
- 2 Service information
- 3 Meter reading information
- 4 Previous payments, past due balances and total balance remaining on your account will appear in this section. If you participate in budget billing, you will see balance information in this section
- 5 Important messages from RECC
- 6 Provides a detailed list of charges for the current billing period
- 7 Current contact information on file
- 8 Ways to pay
- 9 Detachable stub for you to easily mail your payment

## BACK OF BILL

- 10 Usage details



Also, on the reverse side of bill, you will find information on reporting power outages, call before you dig, and ways to pay.

Visit us online at [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop)

# Rural Electric

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See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

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## News & Notes

**Tower Heights upgrade** – The electrical service at the Virden subdivision was mostly underground, but seven houses on the east side were excluded. This summer, our line crews buried the high voltage lines and converted all the remaining overhead services to underground. Electrician Kyle McNeeley assisted our line crews when work needed performed inside the member's home.

**Budget Billing enrollment** – If you are interested in getting on budget billing, this is the time. Contact Shelley Crocks, and she can help get the process started. It is recommended that members have one year of billing history to establish an accurate monthly amount.

**Popcorn bags available** – If your school or sports charity operates a concession stand, contact your co-op today to reserve free popcorn bags. We currently have 2,000, but they will go fast. Another 10,000 are due to arrive mid-September. Our popcorn bag program has been popular, and we have furnished more than 100,000 bags over the past few years.

**Water heaters for sale** – RECC is out of the water heater business, but we just received some new Marathons as compensation for warranty replacements. We currently have one 50-gallon and four 75-gallon Marathon water heaters that must be sold. We are offering them at our cost, and they will be sold to the first that pays. They are approximately \$400 less than retail, and members will still receive a \$250 rebate if the water heater is installed in a member's home or business. All are new in the box and retain the full manufacturer's warranty: lifetime on tank and five years on parts and labor through Rheem.

**New drone license** – RECC's Brandon Taylor has acquired his FAA license for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The license allows the cooperative to use the drone for line inspections, emergency response, mapping, vegetation management and marketing. The FAA license is required for any commercial use and a necessity to satisfy our insurance provider. Without the (s)UAS documentation, the use of a drone is limited to recreational only.

**Air Evac Lifeteam discount offer** – AirMedCare Network offers our members the opportunity to join at a discounted rate of \$5 per month. The monthly fee may be added to your RECC bill and covers the entire household. We support their ongoing effort to maintain dependable services offered to our local community and rural areas. Additional information will be included in an upcoming bill insert. Membership Sales Manager Curt Rogers can be reached by phone (217-371-5703) or email ([Curtis.Rogers@AirMedCareNetwork.com](mailto:Curtis.Rogers@AirMedCareNetwork.com)). Their website is [www.airmedcarenetwork.com/msm/curtis-rogers](http://www.airmedcarenetwork.com/msm/curtis-rogers)

