



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Co-op Community Grant winners

RECC awarded \$2,500 grants to South Fork Elementary and Franklin East Grade School. The Co-op Community Grants are made possible by RECC's donation, along with matching funds by CoBank's Sharing Success program. CoBank designed their matching grant program with the flexibility to allow RECC to support the causes and organizations we care about most. Our shared goal is to fulfill our mission to serve rural America. CoBank has been a great partner for RECC and Central Illinois.

Nicole Perkins of South Fork Elementary School was awarded 2018's first \$2,500 grant. The second-grade teacher submitted a compelling application explaining her school's financial situation and the need for modern technology. The grant money will enable most of her students to acquire Chromebook computers. Delivering the winning grant was rewarding for RECC staff as well. The students were in the middle of a painting project when we surprised them with the announcement.

The other \$2,500 grant was awarded to Danielle Evans, second grade teacher at Franklin East Grade School. Their school has been reorganizing, closing and opening buildings. This has resulted in materials being split and used by multiple classes in various locations. Their grant will be used to purchase guided reading books. Now, K- second grade will have access to the entire set of new material. We made Franklin's check presentation while students and faculty were attending their morning meeting. They were surprised and very appreciative of the gift from our cooperative.

Congratulations to this year's winners, and thanks to all who submitted grant applications. We would like to encourage all teachers to reapply for a Co-op Community Grant in 2019. During the presentation of both awards, the teachers emphasized to their students the importance of finding time and putting forth effort to complete the application process. In other words, one must participate to win, a lasting message for all students.



Board Chairman Mel Repscher presents a \$2,500 check to Nicole Perkins and Principal Michelle Rogers



Principal Christy Willman and Danielle Evans accepts a Co-op Community Grant from Vice Chairman Chris Wilcox



Bill Hart and Shelley Crocks at the North Mac Homecoming parade.



Virden

Later, Bill's family joined him in the truck.

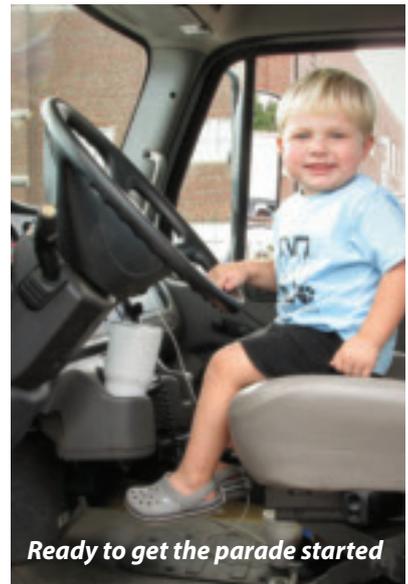


Another happy face



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Parades



Ready to get the parade started



Becky Grossner and sons, Coy & Finn, hand out candy, footballs and hats as Dalton Brown navigates traffic.



Auburn

RECC Linemen help restore power after Hurricane Michael



Journeyman linemen Walt Wallace and Bill Hart, apprentice Matt Evans, and journeyman lineman Travis Boylen

Four RECC linemen departed for North Carolina to once again assist in restoring power to those affected by hurricane damage. They were first sent to South River EMC in Dunn, N.C. After Hurricane Michael passed through and the areas with the most severe damage were identified, the line crews were rerouted to Randolph EMC. Shortly after, they were assigned to West Florida Electric Cooperative in Sneads, Fla.

where they worked for two weeks. As you may expect, it was somewhat chaotic in those areas. In addition to communication problems, setting up required tent cities also proved difficult. Our linemen endured high temperatures and worked extended hours in hazardous conditions. Their mission concluded with a 12-hour drive back to Illinois. We are thankful that our crews were able help and arrive home safe.

The gifts we take for granted

Sometimes gifts we give aren't wrapped in paper and bows. Because of help from Illinois Touchstone Energy cooperative line personnel, co-op members in the southern states have received light and hope in the aftermath of recent hurricanes.

This holiday season, give thanks for the things we take for granted – family, friends and those who keep the lights on.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

A CORD IS NOT A CHEW TOY

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See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.

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Capital Credit checks and bill credits

RECC Directors approved the rotation/retirement of \$344,027.26 in capital credit equity. All current and former member-owners who received electric service and contributed to margins in 1983 will be repaid. Inactive members who no longer receive service from RECC will receive a check for their share of this equity retirement.

Capital credit equity comes from the cooperative's margins, which amounts to the difference between the money we collect during the year, minus our operating expenses. Until it's repaid to members, the equity is used to finance new construction and system improvements. RECC has returned

almost \$4 million in member equity since 1978.

A key difference between electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities is capital credits. An investor-owned utility returns a portion of their profits to shareholders, but RECC allocates 100 percent of margins to the members who purchase electricity during the year.

If you purchased electricity from RECC after 1983, it's important to keep an updated address on file with the cooperative. Estates of deceased members can continue receiving capital credit retirements or choose a discounted capital credit equity payout to close out a membership account.

Remembering Dale Wilcox

Dale Wilcox passed away at the age of 91. Dale served as a Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative director from 1981-1990. His son, Chris, currently serves as vice chairman. Dale was a life-long farmer in the Waverly area and loved the farming lifestyle. He was a Naval Veteran and contributed to many boards and committees throughout the years.



*Our office will be closed
December 25, 2018 and January 1, 2019
for Christmas and New Year's Day.*

