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Rural HIGHLIGHTS

A publication of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative • Auburn, Illinois • www.recc.coop

RECC sponsors safety presentations for students

Over 550 Macoupin and Montgomery County 4th grade students learned how to stay safe around electricity at the recent Live Line demonstration presented by Kyle Finley of Live Line Demo. With 10,000 volts of electricity charging the full-size display of wires, switches and transformers, students saw the awesome arcs and sizzling power that can injure or kill when not handled properly.

Through the Live Line Demo, students learned the danger of using mylar balloons, climbing trees and using equipment near power lines. In addition, Finley stressed the importance of staying in the car until help arrives if involved in an accident involving a power pole and wires.

Common 120-volt power was also discussed, and Finley told the groups that more people are killed by electricity at this household voltage than by higher voltages because we work so closely every day with 120 volt equipment. Students learned the importance of having ground fault interrupter (GFI) outlets installed in areas where there is access to water, especially in kitchens, bathrooms and the outdoors.

This two day event was held Jan. 9 at Carlinville Intermediate School and Jan. 10 at Lincoln Land Community College in Litchfield and was sponsored by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Ameren, Lincoln Land Community College and University of Illinois Extension in Macoupin and Montgomery Counties.



Kyle Finley included teachers during his Live Line presentations, sitting in a chair to simulate a vehicle in an accident.



Kyle Finley holds a student's finger in a "shotgun" stick used by linemen to work around high-voltage power lines.

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Dana Smith, *editor*



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Board report

Resume of Minutes Regular Board Meeting December 20, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters on December 20, 2012, at 6 p.m., with all members present. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva and Executive Assistant Sandy Lex. Directors Ayers and Bloome arrived late because of the inclement weather, and Attorney Tice was unable to attend.

* The minutes of the November 27 regular Board meeting and the December 19 special meeting were approved as presented.

* CEO Stuva presented the IMEA Report.

* Chairman Ayers presented the AIEC Report with a review of the AIEC board meeting held that day.

* CEO Stuva reported on developments in a litigation case, with the board authorizing him and Attorney Tice to arrange final settlement.

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 and Cash Disbursements Summary, and Check Listing. The financial and statistical reports for November 2012 were reviewed and accepted for placement in the cooperative's files.

CEO Stuva also:

* Noted that electricity purchases and sales were below budget for November, but operating margins were positive for the month.

* 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 13 persons.

* Set a Nominating Committee meeting for March 7 at 6:30 p.m. to name candidates for Board elections to occur at the RECC Annual Meeting on June 13, 2013.

* Approved Work Order Inventories totaling \$643,588.69 for the months of April through September 2012, and Special Equipment Summaries for January through October 2012 totaling \$347,123.19, to be submitted to RUS for long-term financing.

* Appointed official RECC delegates to the NRECA Annual Meeting and associated organizations' annual meetings in February.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Special Board Meeting December 19, 2012

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters on December 19, 2012, at 6 p.m., with all members present. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Manager of Office Services Dean Fuchs; Manager of Operations and Maintenance Lou DeLaby; Director of Member and Public Relations Dana Smith; and Attorney Tice.

CEO Stuva and Dean Fuchs reviewed the proposed 2013 Operating Budget, comparing sales and revenues over the past three years and projected results for 2012. They pointed out that the proposed budget is expected to meet operating margin requirements with the present rate schedules including the Purchased Cost Adjustment now in effect. Fuchs reviewed line item expenses and sales projections for the coming year. After discussion the board voted to approve the 2013 budget as presented.

CEO Stuva and Dean Fuchs reviewed the 2011 Key Ratio Trend Analysis report, comparing RECC to other co-ops in the state and nation in many statistical categories.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Rural Electric Youth Day set for April 17

High school juniors, now is the time to apply for great trips to Springfield and Washington, D.C.! Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative is sponsoring area students again this year for the popular Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield and a chance to win a free trip to Washington.

Up to 10 students will be sponsored by RECC at the Illinois Youth Day program on Wednesday, April 17, touring the Capitol and other historic sites, and meeting with their state legislators. Two of those students will be selected to attend the Youth To Washington trip, June 14-21, with about 1,000 young people from around the country. RECC sponsors these trips to encourage students to learn more about our government's operation and about electric cooperatives.

Any junior attending a high school in RECC's service area is eligible for these expense-paid programs. Application request forms have been sent to our local schools, or students can contact our office. We will mail a full application kit and background information directly to the student. The application form includes a summary of the student's school and civic activities and accomplishments, and a brief essay question pertaining



to the rural electric program.

Applications must be returned to RECC by March 22, and the ten students selected for the Illinois Youth Day program will be notified by March 29 so that they can arrange their school schedules around the trip. Transportation will be provided from Auburn to Springfield and back.

After the day's activities in Springfield, the students will have individual interviews to select two winners for the trip to Washington, D.C. They will be judged on their written application, personal poise and confidence, and demonstrated understanding of the rural electric

program. The two winners will travel by bus from Springfield to Washington this summer, in one of the best-recognized youth programs in the nation's capital.

Tell your child, grandchild, neighbor or friend about these two super programs sponsored by your electric cooperative, and encourage them to apply. They can send in the request coupon below, call our office at (800) 245-7322 to ask for an application packet, or e-mail a request to recc@recc.coop. Don't let them miss this chance to meet new friends, learn about our government and co-ops, and have fun!

Cut out and return to RECC, or call for an application form. Completed applications are due by March 22.

Request for application – 2013 Rural Electric Youth Day/Youth to Washington Tour

Student's Name _____ Phone No. _____

High School Attended _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Nominating Committee to meet March 7

The Board of Directors has selected nine co-op members to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will meet on March 7 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 13, 2013 at Glenwood High School in Chatham.

Director positions up for election to three-year terms this year are District 1 (incumbent Clayton Bloome of Pawnee), District 2 (incumbent Chris Wilcox of Waverly), and District 3 (incumbent Jimmy Ayers of Rochester).

Members serving on the Nominating Committee are:

District 1

Mike Dozier
P.O. Box 752
Rochester, IL 62563

Carl Spengler
1197 N. 100 East Rd.
Pawnee, IL 62558

Raymond Squires
43 Marianne Drive
Pawnee, IL 62558

District 2

Kevin Duewer
10813 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Waverly, IL 62692

Donald M. Hermes
594 Duewer Rd.
Waverly, IL 62692

Dan Neuman
9800 Mansion Rd.
Loami, IL 62661

District 3

Joe Coffey
7993 New City Rd.
Rochester, IL 62563

Daniel Derenzy
8659 Cardinal Hill Rd.
Rochester, IL 62563

Vince Fisher
6311 Mottar Rd.
Rochester, IL 62563

Mark your calendar for June 13!

RECC's 2013 Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 13 at Glenwood High School in Chatham, so get that date on your calendar! Registration will open at 5 p.m., with a free pork chop dinner. Displays and kids' activities are also open during the dinner and registration time. The business meeting will be at 7:00, and will include elections for three directors on the Board. All members are invited and encouraged to attend ... after all, it's your cooperative!



Guests at the Annual meeting come in all ages and sizes, including CFL Charlie!

What is expected of a director?

Your board of directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected for a three-year term and may be re-elected. Majority vote at the annual meeting decides who is elected. 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 14 (30 days before the Annual Meeting, which is on June 13).

Following is a list of the minimum requirements:

- Directors must receive electric service from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative 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 at the headquarters in Auburn. Directors must attend all regular monthly board meetings, usually beginning at 7 p.m. (or 6:00 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). 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 is expected to read and be familiar with information and financial reports from the Cooperative, or other state and national associations.
- A director represents all members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, not a geographic region.
- A director should work in harmony with the whole board. A director must also have the communication skills to express their opinion or disagreement with other directors.
- Directors are encouraged to join NRECA's political action committee, Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE). Regular membership is \$25 per year and century club membership is \$100 per year.
- 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.
- Additional details are provided in Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's bylaws.

Find out how your local electric cooperative can help you lead by example at TogetherWeSave.com.



**AFTER HER DAD
INSULATED THE
ATTIC, ERICA GOT
AN IDEA.**

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

RECC sponsors weekly “Home Remedies”



Doug Rye's "Home Remedies" radio show provides practical insight into home

construction ideas and energy efficiency measures, every Saturday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on WSMI 1540AM. Doug Rye may be the best-known residential energy consultant in the nation. Since 1990, his weekly radio show has provided practical insight into home construction ideas and energy efficiency measures. Doug is known nationwide for his honest, down-to-earth and friendly style. His show airs live each Saturday morning, sponsored locally by RECC, M.J.M. Electric Cooperative and area heating contractors. Callers with energy efficiency, new construction and remodel questions are always welcome and encouraged to call the show. The call-in number is 1-800-477-1037.

Engine heaters can wreck your electric bill!

Trucks and tractors often have engine block heaters installed to help start the engines in cold weather. These heaters are often a necessity to get your vehicle going in frigid temperatures, but they can also add a wallop to your electric bill. Typical block heaters can use from 600 to 1,000 watts of electricity, and usually don't have any type of thermostat control. So, when you plug in your heater, you're drawing a continuous flow of energy that may equal the light bulbs in your whole house! If used 12 hours a day, a heater can add up to 300 kilowatt hours a month, costing around \$36 on your bill. If the vehicle is plugged in day and night, that cost will double!



If you need an engine heater, install a timer to start warming the engine an hour before you plan to drive it. That will save energy and help keep your electric bill under control.

Contractor workshop March 5 on new energy code

The Illinois Energy Efficient Building Code, based on the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), is now in effect for Illinois residential construction. It will bring many changes to the practices that builders, insulators and heating contractors use in their new home projects, in an effort to save energy over the lifetime of those homes. To help contractors understand the new requirements, RECC is sponsoring an Energy Code Workshop on March 5 at Edgewood Golf Course in Auburn from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Brian Kumer, a respected energy tester and trainer, will be the main speaker. Contractors can register until February 25 for the free workshop by contacting RECC at (217) 438-6197.

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

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

Energy efficiency rebates available



The HomE Lite rebate program for residential energy efficiency improvements is in full swing, with the

Illinois electric co-ops receiving \$600,000 for member projects from the Illinois DCEO State Energy office. The funds must be used by June 2013, and may be gone sooner if response is high.

HomE Lite Rebates Include:

- Geothermal system - \$1,500
- Air-Source Heat Pump (16 SEER or higher) - \$1,000
- Insulation and Weatherization - 50 percent of total project cost, up to \$1,000
- Heat Pump Water Heater - \$250
- Commercial installations - \$500 per ton of capacity, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for geothermal and air source heat pumps
- Energy Audit by BPI certified auditor - \$300

For more information or an audit please call RECC at 438-6197. The HomE rebates are available while funds remain in the state allocation.



Paul and Deanna Figge of Auburn are using HomE Lite rebates to add cellulose insulation in their attic, and will put rigid foam insulation on their crawl space walls. Paul is shown with bags of cellulose insulation and the blower system.

Energy tax credits continued

The federal government offered energy efficiency tax credits for varying amounts from 2006 till 2011. These tax credits expired at the end of 2011. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 retroactively renewed the residential tax credit effective January 1, 2012, expiring again on December 31, 2013. Any qualified equipment installed in 2012 or 2013 is eligible for the tax credit. As in previous years, the cumulative maximum amount of tax credit that can be claimed by a taxpayer in all years combined is \$500. If a taxpayer has already claimed a tax credit of \$500 for purchases made in any previous year, they are ineligible for additional tax credits for any new equipment purchases.

This credit applies to energy efficiency improvements in the building envelope of existing homes and for the purchase of high-efficiency heating, cooling and water-heating equipment. Efficiency improvements or equipment must serve a dwelling that is owned and used by the taxpayer as a primary residence. For more details on the qualifying projects go to www.dsireusa.org.

Tax credits for geothermal systems continue as a renewable energy project, along with small wind or solar systems, through 2016.