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Rural HIGHLIGHTS

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

Service and accomplishments featured at RECC Annual Meeting

Two long-time employees were recognized for their milestones of service at RECC's Annual Meeting on June 13, along with other employees and directors earning service awards.

Lou DeLaby, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, and Dean Fuchs, Manager of Finance and Office Services, have both been with RECC for 40 years. Lou started out as a ground man on the line crew in October 1972, after working as a summer part-time helper while in high school. He worked his way up as a journeyman lineman, line foreman, and was named as department head in 1997.

Dean Fuchs joined the co-op as bookkeeper in June 1973, after graduating from Illinois State University. He took over the office manager job in 1977.

Board Vice Chairman Chris Wilcox commended the two for not only staying in the same industry for their entire careers, but at the same company. Wilcox also congratulated RECC President/CEO David Stuva for receiving his 30-year service award for his combined career at Adams Electric Cooperative and RECC, along with Board members John Beatty and Mel Repscher for



Almost 500 pork chop dinners were served at the Glenwood Elementary School cafeteria for RECC's 76th Annual meeting, held June 13.

20 years of service and Executive Assistant Sandy Lex receiving her 5-year award.

There were 220 registered members at the meeting, held at the Glenwood Elementary School in Chatham. The Mid-Illinois Pork Producers served a pork chop supper to nearly 500 members, employees and their families before the business meeting, while local vendors talked with visitors and kids enjoyed face painting and other activities.

During the meeting, Clayton Bloome

of Pawnee (District 1), Chris Wilcox of Waverly (District 2), and Jimmy Ayers of Rochester (District 3) were re-elected to new three-year terms on the board of directors.

Treasurer Mel Repscher reported that revenue for 2012 totaled \$14,507,303, with a decrease in electricity sold of more than five percent from 2011, due mainly to mild weather. Net margins of \$524,529 were an improvement over 2011; however, Repscher

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Dana Smith, *editor*



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Board report

Regular Board Meeting May 28, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters on May 28, 2013, at 7 p.m., with all members present. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva, Manager of Finance and Office Services Dean Fuchs, Manager of Operation and Maintenance Lou DeLaby, Field Engineer & Purchasing Agent Martin Hinton, AIEC Manager of Engineering Brian Adams, and Attorney Jerry Tice.

* The minutes of the April 23 regular Board meeting were approved as corrected.

* CEO Stuva introduced Brian Adams from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, who presented the Cooperative's Cost of Service Study for the test year 2012. Mr. Adams reviewed the methodology used to conduct the Cost of Service Study, comparing customer related costs, power supply demand related costs, and the total power costs for each rate class. He concluded that RECC's rates have a balanced rate of return for the various rate groups.

* President/CEO Stuva introduced Lou DeLaby, who reviewed the equipment purchased under the 2013 Capital Budget. He also reported that the co-op would be serving the new Hathaway Homes Subdivision being developed at Taylorville.

* CEO Stuva presented the IMEA Report, and said he was able to tour the new Prairie State Generating Station on May 1.

* Chairman Ayers presented the AIEC Report. He reviewed the Executive Summary

of the AIEC Board meeting held May 16.

* There was no Attorney's Report.

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, Cash Disbursements Summary, and Check Listing. The financial and statistical reports for April 2013 were reviewed and accepted for placement in the cooperative's files.

CEO Stuva also:

* Reviewed plans for the RECC Annual Meeting on June 13.

* 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 23 persons.

* Approved Work Order Inspection 219's numbers 917 through 922, totaling \$524,827.64, for the period October 2012 through March 2013.

* Set the date of the 2014 Annual Membership Meeting to be held June 12, 2014.

* The Board entered executive session, then returned to regular session.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Annual Meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

pointed out the co-op has made great strides in managing its operating costs and has used technology to improve productivity and overall efficiency of the cooperative.

Chairman of the Board Jimmy Ayers provided updates on programs including the Home Lite rebates that helped 34 members make energy efficient upgrades to their homes totaling \$29,607.

President/CEO Stuva discussed how members could receive co-op updates via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and with "My Energy Tracker" on the RECC website, they can monitor and analyze their energy usage on a daily basis.

Stuva and Ayers also reported on the completed work which was done to improve the

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Annual Meeting (Continued from page 2)

reliability of our members' service, including upgrades at the Harvel and Farmersville substations.

Over 40 door prizes were awarded to those in attendance, including the \$300 Grand Prize that was won by Charles and Jessica Sharp of Chatham.

"This was our first meeting at the new Glenwood Elementary School, and we weren't sure how all the details would work out," said David Stuva. "Overall, we were very pleased with the facilities and the member involvement, and with the additional parking area that's already been started at the school, we anticipate returning next year for an even better Annual Meeting!"



Three directors were re-elected at the Annual Meeting for three-year terms. Pictured from left with President/CEO David Stuva are Clayton Bloome of Pawnee, Chris Wilcox of Waverly, and Jimmy Ayers of Rochester.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative 2013 PRIZE WINNERS

Early Bird Drawings:

Kenneth Nation	James Park
Norman Wade	Juanita Rule
Beverly Hemberger	Gary Anderson

Grand Prize:

Charles Sharp

Door Prizes:

Milton Miner	Donald Shaffer	Weldon Ladage
Ed Burg	William Murray	Malinda Paine
Jobe Howard	Murl Tryon	Robert McKnight
Richard Stayton	Alvin Dennis	Daniel Johnson
Maurice Shallow	Oliver Miller	Brett Slightom
Joann Ayers- Yeaman	Don Stein	Edith Luddeke
Leroy Nolle	Della Fuchs	Henry Nail
William Gibson	John Musgrove	Joan Moye
Doug Louderback	Joseph Bloome	Kenneth Spengler
Donald Enrietta	Galen Bailey	William Broderick
Marshall Land	Wilburn Chapman	John Thoron
Dorlean Zumwalt	Daniel Derenzy	Nelvin Sloman
Barry Smith	Gary Dunkirk	CA Williams
	Frank Fleming	Mike Sharp



Journeyman Lineman Walt Wallace takes a youngster for a bucket truck ride 40 feet over the parking lot.



Registrations went very quickly for the 220 members and their families at the Annual Meeting, with electronic entries by Senior Member Accounts Representative Shelley Cocks (left) and other office staff.

May ends with two bad storms

Most damage in small pockets, but spread across area

Freakish winds hit parts of the RECC area on the evening of Thursday, May 30, and just when it appeared the action was over for the month, another round of storms and wind ripped through after dark on May 31.

Damage was localized for the most part, but when the winds hit they were fierce. RECC had multiple poles go down in two locations near Lowder in the May 29 storm, along with scattered damage across Macoupin and Morgan counties on the west side of our service territory. Ameren had 17 transmission poles knocked down along Highway 104 near Lowder, and the CHS grain loading facility at Lowder had 82 rail cars tipped over by winds over 70 mph.

RECC's crews and support staff worked through the night on Thursday and on Friday to back feed service to the Lowder and Palmyra substations that are fed by Ameren's transmission lines, and repair damage to our own system. About 1,600 members were out of power Thursday evening, but over half of those had service restored by Friday morning.

Others had to wait on extensive repairs on Friday, with assistance from Croft Electrical Contractors to replace 14 poles on Auburn Road. This three-phase feeder line serves members going toward Waverly and Loami, and was the last major outage restored late Friday.

Before crews could catch their breath, another storm blew through from Litchfield to Edinburg around 9:00 Friday night, with tornado warning sirens going off in several towns. Barns and grain bins took the brunt of the damage, but RECC also experienced some serious problems. Fifteen three-phase poles near Raymond were snapped off, and more poles were damaged along Interstate 55 at Thomasville.



Ameren's transmission line was knocked down on May 30 along Highway 104, knocking out power to RECC's Lowder and Palmyra substations as well as the towns of Auburn and Waverly. This view is looking south across Hwy 104, along Johns Creek Rd.

With 1,600 members out of power, assistance was requested from surrounding electric cooperatives, and on Saturday morning crews arrived from Adams Electric, Illinois Rural Electric, Spoon River, McDonough Power, M.J.M Electric and Western Illinois Electrical Coop. The construction crew from Croft Electrical Contractors was also still on hand to rebuild lines.

About 800 members remained out of service at noon on Saturday, mostly in the Waggoner and Thomasville areas. Progress continued through the afternoon, and the last line outage was repaired by Friday night. Just a few small pockets of damage remained for cleanup on Sunday, as some crews returned to their home areas and the last lines were repaired.

"The extra help we got on Saturday was fantastic. We were worried that the outage would last even longer, with the reports of widespread damage we were hearing on Friday night," said President/CEO David



Ameren lost 17 transmission poles along Highway 104, and the high-voltage switches shown in the foreground.

Stuva. "All the crews and employees did a great job to keep the outage time to a minimum and bring our system back up to near-normal strength very quickly. The two-day effort was outstanding, and we got a lot of good comments from appreciative members."



The May 30 storm dumped a lot of rain along with high winds, making repairs a little more difficult.



The CHS grain loading facility at Lowder had 82 empty rail cars tipped over by straight-line winds on May 30, and The Scouler Company grain facility nearby had damage to its grain conveyor systems.



A crew from Adams Electric Cooperative worked on Saturday, June 1, to replace poles damaged along Goby Avenue west of Interstate 55.



Fierce winds snapped about 70 of RECC's poles, but the wires were often unbroken.

Several barns and grain bins were damaged by storms on May 30 and 31.



Several poles were knocked down on May 31 north of Farmersville, and the Thomasville Elevator sustained some damage to its steel grain bins.



Fifteen three-phase poles were knocked down on Goby Avenue, just north of the Raymond exit on I-55.

Crews from six Illinois electric co-ops arrived on June 1 to help repair damage across RECC's service area. They were loaded up with poles before leaving the Auburn headquarters.



News & Notes

Ted Dowson resigns from Board of Directors

Director Ted Dowson has resigned from the RECC Board of Directors, after representing cooperative members in District 7 for 19½ years. The directors accepted his resignation at the June 20, 2013 Board Meeting. Dowson cited health reasons for leaving the Board.

Ted Dowson has been a co-op member for over 50 years and served on the co-op Board since November 1993.

Ted and his two brothers, Larry and Ron, are third generation farmers in the Auburn-

Divernon area. For many years, they ran a successful grain, dairy and hog operation under the name Tri-D Farms. The brothers recently reorganized and now Ted and his grandson, Tony Dobson, operate TT Farms.

“Ted Dowson has been a reliable and dedicated Board member and we appreciate his contribution,” said Board Chairman Jimmy Ayers.



“The Board plans to fill this vacancy, since director elections for District 7 are not until 2015,” added Board Chairman Jimmy Ayers. “In the next few months, the Board will begin searching for qualified director candidates in District 7 and hopefully will appoint a replacement by the end of the year.”

Newsletter wins awards

RECC's *Rural Highlights* newsletter recently received recognition in the 2013 “Spotlight on Excellence” national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. RECC received two Awards of Merit, in the Best Newsletter and Best Feature Story categories. The winning feature story was an interview with former RECC manager Roy Goode as part of last year's 75-year anniversary celebration. Dana Smith, Director of Member and Public Relations, is the editor/writer for *Rural Highlights*.



The annual Spotlight awards competition recognizes the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Participants in the awards competition competed with electric cooperatives of similar sizes in 19 categories. Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia, University of South Carolina and Ohio University Scripps-Howard School of Journalism judged the entries.

Scholarship winners announced

The winners of the 2013 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarships were announced this spring, in four categories. The students will receive their awards to help pay for tuition this fall.

In the “son or daughter of an electric cooperative member” category, the four winners are: Sydney Tefft of Salem (Tri-County Electric Cooperative); Summer Robbins of Coffeen (M.J.M. Electric); Katlyn Gealow of Oglesby (Corn Belt Energy); and Alex Ourth of Carthage (Western Illinois Electrical Coop.).

In the “son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director” category, the winner of the “Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship” is Sarah Bradbury of Mattoon. Sarah is the daughter of Coles-Moultrie Service Representative Carla Bradbury.

The two winners of the scholarships reserved for use at an Illinois Community College are Jonathan Finegan (Eastern Illini Electric) and Stephanie Dearwester (Adams Electric).

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 _____

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Dean Fuchs recognized for 40 years at RECC

When Dean Fuchs replaced the retiring Manford White as Office Manager of RECC in 1977, Manford had spent his entire 40-year career at the co-op. Now Dean has reached that milestone, and is still going strong as Manager of Finance and Office Services.

Dean first joined the co-op as bookkeeper in June 1973, after graduating from Illinois State University with a degree in accounting. He never got far from home, living near Farmersville with his wife Mary Jane, and farming part-time with a brother-in-law.

Known for his quiet confidence and easy-going nature, Dean has seen a lot of energy issues come and go over the years. He's also seen a lot of instructions and bulletins from RUS, the government lending agency that started out as the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). He can recite accounting and Work Order numbers as easily as most of us give out our phone numbers.

Dean's knack for numbers has also helped in his duties in human resources, remembering birthdays and service anniversaries and help-



Dean Fuchs hasn't aged much since his 1994 picture, and he's still active as demonstrated in this recent shot at the RECC Annual Meeting!

ing employees navigate the murky details of insurance and retirement coverage. He's become the unofficial historian of the co-op as well, often recalling useful pieces of information on past building projects, business contracts and member issues.

Congratulations to Dean on reaching four decades with RECC!

