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Rural HIGHLIGHTS

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

Youth Day offers insights to state government

A chance to meet state senators and representatives, the Illinois Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State. That's what this year's Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day offered to high school students, including six from our local schools. Not to mention plenty of information on Abraham Lincoln at Springfield's historic sites.

The day was sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 24 co-ops from across the state represented by over 200 students.

During breakfast, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon challenged students to take an interest in the political process and encouraged them to talk to their state senators and representatives about issues that interest them.

A visit to the Capitol was next, where the RECC group was able to meet Senators Sam McCann and Andy Manar and Representatives Wayne Rosenthal and C.D. Davidsmeyer. State budgets and school funding issues seemed to come up repeatedly in the discussions. Later in the morning the entire group was invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White, who stood on his desk to talk about his department's many responsibilities.

After lunch the group visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, taking in



Pictured at the State Senate chambers, front row from left are: Rep. Wayne Rosenthal; Aliana Minder, Loami; Catherine Ward, Chatham; Mackenzie Beck, Auburn; Will Brown, Girard; Alex Cooper, Pawnee; and Arlen Magelitz, Virden. Second row: Sen. Sam McCann, Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer and Dana Smith, Director of Member and Public Relations at RECC..

more history of our state government and its leaders.

RECC's group included Aliana Minder from Loami (SHG High School); Catherine Ward from Chatham; Mackenzie Beck from Auburn; Will Brown from Girard (North Mac

High School), Arlen Magelitz from Virden (North Mac), and Alex Cooper from Pawnee. Dana Smith, Director of Member and Public Relations, was their RECC chaperone for the day.

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Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19
Auburn, IL 62615
217/438-6197
Fax: 217/438-3212
e-mail: recc@recc.coop

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Dana Smith, *editor*



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Board report

Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the cooperative headquarters on March 25, 2014, at 7 p.m., with all members present. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Manager of Finance & Office Services Dean Fuchs; Manager of Operations & Maintenance Lou Delaby; Accountant Matt Sheerin; Executive Assistant Sandy Lex; and Attorney Jerry Tice. Guests present were Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives; Michael Henry, Comptroller for AIEC; and Tom Hogan, Regional Director of NRECA.

* The minutes of the February 25 regular Board meeting were approved as presented.

* CEO Stuva and Tom Hogan reviewed the NRECA employee benefit program and the history of RECC's benefit incentives for employees. The Board entered an Executive Session to discuss the program, then returned to open session.

* CEO Stuva gave the IMEA report with a review of the Feb. 27 IMEA Board meeting.

* Chairman Ayers reviewed the Executive Summary of the March 20 AIEC Board Meeting.

* 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 February 2014 were reviewed and accepted for placement in the cooperative's files.

CEO Stuva also:

* Reviewed minutes of the RECC Nominating Committee meeting held March 12.

* Noted that electricity purchases and sales for February were higher than budgeted and year-to-date sales were higher than the first two months of 2013 due to the extremely cold weather. Line losses were also lower for the first two months of the year.

* 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 eight persons.

* Approved a Resolution amending the co-op's benefit pension plan for any employees hired after May 1, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Youth Day *(Continued from page 1)*

At the end of the tours, each of the six high school juniors had a short interview to compete for one of two free Youth To Washington trips in June to see the nation's capital. Winners of the week-long trip were Mackenzie Beck and Arlen Magelitz, with Alex Cooper named as the alternate.

Watch for news on the Washington trip in this summer's issues of *Rural Highlights!*

Secretary of State Jesse White stood on his desk to address the large Youth Day group.



Director candidates to run for re-election

The RECC Nominating Committee has named candidates for director positions in Districts 4, 5 and 6 that are up for election at this year's Annual Meeting. The committee met on March 3 at the RECC office. All three incumbent directors are seeking re-election for three-year terms. They are:

District 4

Thomas W. Hart
22790 Sulphur Springs Rd.
Atwater, IL 62572

District 5

John A. Beatty
P.O. Box 62
Auburn, IL

District 6

Melvin L. Repscher
928 E. 1090 North Rd.
Taylorville, IL

The nominations have been posted at the Auburn office, as stipulated in the co-op's bylaws. Other candidates may be named by petition for a district, signed by 15 or more members in that district. Petition forms are available from the co-op office in Auburn, and must be returned by



Nominating Committee members who met on March 2 were, front row from left, Thomas Vail, Gary Norville and Fred Reichert; back row David Ray, Susan Fuchs-Holt, Steve Elam, Brett Slightom and John Megginson.

May 13 (30 days before the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for June 12). Any persons nominated by petition will be included in the 2014 Annual Meeting Notice booklet to be mailed to the membership on June 2. Biographical information and a statement from each candidate will also be printed in the booklet.

Serving on this year's Nominating Committee were: District 4 –

Susan Fuchs-Holt and Brett Slightom (both from Farmersville), Curt Hays (Girard – unable to attend meeting); District 5 – Fred Reichert, David Ray, John Megginson (all from Auburn); District 6 – Gary Norville and Thomas Vail (Taylorville), Steve Elam (Palmer). David Ray was elected as chairman of the nominating committee, and John Megginson as secretary.

Annual Meeting planned for June 12 Returning to new Glenwood Elementary School

RECC's 77th Annual meeting will be held Thursday, June 12 at the Glenwood Elementary School in Chatham. That's the same location as last year's meeting, just west of Glenwood High School. A pork chop dinner will begin in the cafeteria at 5 p.m., with the business meeting at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Local vendor displays and kids' activities will still be offered, with a special display of the newest LED lighting equipment and other energy efficiency tools from your cooperative. We hope to see you there!



Matt Sheerin printed registration slips for door prize drawings at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Powerful apps from your co-op!

Rural Electric Convenience Co-operative offers several “apps” for your phone or tablet device that give you easy access to information on your electric use, energy savings, and even shopping savings! Plus, some will allow us to send important updates to you quickly and conveniently.

An “app” is a software application that is downloaded onto mobile devices to perform specific tasks. From navigation directions to restaurant reviews, they put useful information at your fingertips almost anywhere you go.

The most direct tie to RECC is through our SmartHub app, which offers online bill viewing and payment along with several other useful features like the energy use graphs with monthly, daily and hourly details. There are also links to our website and the Outage Map which shows what areas are experiencing an outage and how many consumers are affected.

You can also sign up for text alerts in SmartHub, to let you know when bills are available online and when they’re due. We’ll also send notices of any major power problems and repair progress.

Search for “SmartHub” in your app store, and then find Rural Electric Convenience when you set up the app.

Saving energy

TogetherWeSave.com is a great website for exploring energy-saving steps in your home, and the mobile version is appropriately entitled “Save Energy, Save Money.” It includes savings calculators for light bulbs, appliances, refrigerators, water heaters and space heaters.

“Tip of the Day” reminders are another great way to think about and use helpful ideas to save energy in many ways.

While the TogetherWeSave app allows you to receive updates and alerts from RECC, we are focusing mainly on the SmartHub tool to send pertinent information to our members.

Co-op Connections® Card

The Co-op Connections card program offers savings on prescriptions, restaurants, hotels and services from national and local retailers. By downloading the Co-op Connections app you’ll have a list of discount offers at your fingertips along with a digital card from RECC.

The mobile app even uses GPS technology to help you locate nearby stores offering discounts, and you can save a list of your own favorite deals.

Search for the app under “connections.coop,” and be sure to register Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative as your co-op.

Facebook

Of course, Facebook isn’t our own app, but we use Facebook postings to get the word out on co-op news and events! Just “like” us on Facebook to see energy updates and information on local power outages that may occur.

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

TOGETHER WE SAVE

SAVE ENERGY
SAVE MONEY

CALCULATORS TIPS ALERTS

SITE ABOUT SETTINGS

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Plan for safe clearances around grain bins

While farmers may not be finished planting corn and soybeans, some are already thinking about changing or adding to their on-farm grain storage systems for this fall. Electric power is a very important detail to remember, for more than one reason.

Not only will electricity be needed to run fans, grain leg motors, augers and spreaders, but the delivery power lines may present a hazard to workers and machinery around the grain bins.

Large machinery, dump trucks and portable augers can snag overhead wires on the farm, becoming lethal hazards to workers who are in contact with them. The best way to avoid problems is to put bins a safe distance away from any overhead power lines. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) includes regulations concerning electric lines near grain bins.

The NESC sets minimum vertical clearances, depending on the height of the bin and the distance from the side of the bin. Any high-

voltage lines above the bin must be at least 18 feet over the highest filling or probing port. Horizontal clearances are also based on the height of the bin, as shown below. An area where portable augers will not be present can be considered a Non-Loading Side, and may require less clearance distance. More detailed drawings can be found on our website, www.recc.coop, under the Your Energy Use - Safety tab.

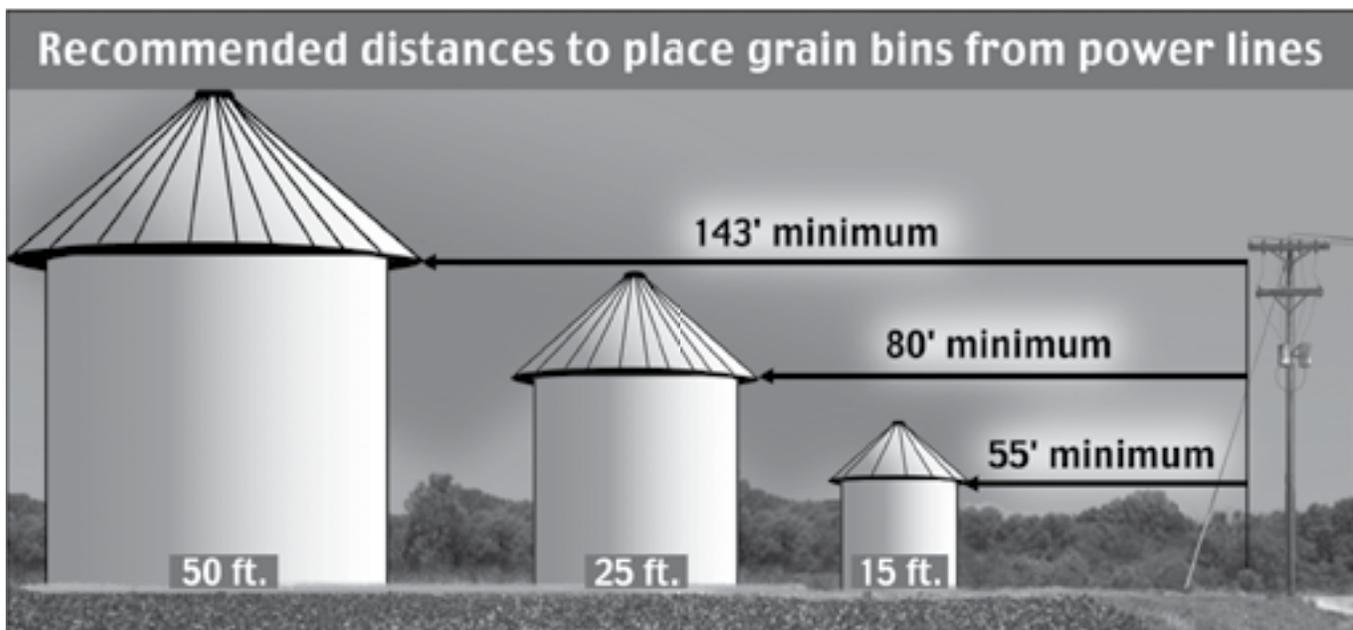
The cooperative cannot provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing line that does not meet the clearance requirements. To avoid extra costs to you and the co-op, call us before you start any construction to have the safety clearances approved.

Remember that the distances specified in the NESC are minimums. You should also consider the routes of trucks and equipment to be used around your grain bins. What is the highest implement or dump truck that may be moved under the overhead lines? Are your own 240-volt wires at a safe distance as well?

Plan for capacity

The other reason to talk to RECC during your planning stages is to determine the capacity of electric power you'll need for your grain handling system. We will work with you to install the correct transformer and service size for now and the foreseeable future. You may share an expense in any service and metering upgrade, which should also be part of your project budget.

Depending on equipment availability, workloads and weather, it may take some time to lay out, approve, schedule and build the electrical facilities needed for your farm operation. You don't want to be caught in a pinch in the fall, so start planning early!



News & Notes



Shane Norris joins RECC

RECC welcomed Shane Norris as a new Journeyman Lineman on April 28. Shane and his wife, Holly, are Auburn natives, and Shane worked part-time at RECC in 2006 and 2007 while he earned his Electrical Distribution Lineman Maintenance Certificate from Lincoln Land Community College. He was hired by Shelby Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman in June 2008, where he worked his way up to Journeyman Lineman. Pictured at the RECC office are Lou Delaby, Manager of Operations and Maintenance; Holly and Shane Norris; and President/CEO David Stuva.

Completing survey pays off for RECC member

When Gregg Daniels completed and returned the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Member Survey contest registration card he received in the mail last fall, he never expected that his name would be drawn for one of five \$100 electric bill credits awarded to cooperative members across the state. Imagine his surprise when Dana Smith from Rural Electric called to give him the good news that he was a winner. "I just think it's good to share your opinion when you have the opportunity," said Gregg.

Every other year the AIEC distributes the surveys to random electric cooperative members across the state. The information that is gathered helps cooperatives better understand our mem-



Gregg Daniels of Chatham (left) was presented with a \$100 check by Dana Smith, Director of Member and Public Relations, as one of the five statewide survey drawing winners.

bers and their needs, and we use it as a base for developing or enhancing products and services for members.



Air Evac offers savings to RECC members

Air Evac Lifeteam, part of the largest air ambulance membership alliance in the country, offers convenient monthly membership plans to members of RECC, with \$5 monthly payments included on the electric bill for a household membership. An Air Evac application form was mailed with this month's billing statements for your convenience. When you are a member of Air Evac Lifeteam, you will have no out-of-pocket flight expenses if you're flown by one of their participating providers. This may include flights from an incident scene to a hospital, or air transport from one medical facility to another.

The alliance of air ambulance providers maintains over 200 bases in 28 states with crews standing-by 24 hours a day. Annual and multi-year contracts are also offered with discounted prices. For more information call local membership coordinator Curtis Rogers at (217) 371-5703.

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 Heating Systems Rebate form must be completed. Please request a rebate form or download a form at www.recc.coop.

- 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 appliance or water heater, purchased within the past 12 months.
Limit one rebate for each appliance type.

Clothes Dryer, Electric Replacement – \$25 Water Heater, Standard Warranty – \$200
 Clothes Dryer, New Home or Gas Conversion – \$25 (less than 10-yr warranty)
 Electric Range, Electric Replacement – \$25 Water Heater, Life-long Warranty – \$250
 Electric Range, New Home or Gas Conversion – \$25 (10-yr or longer warranty)

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.

PULL the PLUG

Pull the plug on outdated appliances to use less and save more.

Refrigerator:

Typical wattage: 725

New vs. old: Save \$100/year

Way to save: Adjust the temperature settings (40° F in fridge, 5° F in freezer)



Dishwasher:

Typical wattage: 1,800

New vs. old: Save \$40/year

Way to save: Set water heater temp to 120 degrees; use unheated drying setting



Clothes Washer:

Typical wattage: 425

New vs. old: Save \$100/year
(Through water reduction, hot water savings)

Way to save: Use cold water whenever possible

