



RuralHIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Welcome to the new RECC RuralHIGHLIGHTS!

This is the first edition of the Rural Highlights newsletter for RECC members to be printed as a center section of Illinois Country Living! As you've probably already noticed, we're able to use full color for our articles and photos, which will make them look better and easier to read. With our local news on these center pages and the great coverage of state and national issues on other pages, the magazine is an even more valuable information source that we hope you will enjoy each month.

A couple of other changes that our members may notice, the Board report and rebate application pages are not included. You'll still have access to these items, by going to our website. We've created a new section on our site to print the summary of each month's Board of Directors meeting, for those who are interested. Just look under the menu item "About Us," and click on "Directors."

You can also download and print rebate application forms for new electric heating systems, and appliances including water heat-



ers, ranges and clothes dryers under the "Downloadable Forms" link on the home page. If you don't have access to a computer, just call our office and we'll mail you the forms.

We'll continue to also put RECC information on page 9 of this magazine, to add even more local flavor every month.

This opportunity to redesign our

newsletter means we'll be adjusting to the new format just like you. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to let us know! This magazine and newsletter are meant to help you better understand your cooperative and your energy use.

Thank you for checking out our new Rural Highlights section!

OFFICE Closings

**Veterans Day
Tuesday,
November 11**



**Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday,
November 27 & 28**



Don't be an energy zombie!

Energy Star videos shine light on LEDs

What do fortune tellers, couch potatoes, and amateur make-up artists have in common? They're all hopelessly in the dark about the life-changing benefits of LED bulbs – until they learn to look for the ENERGY STAR. That's the premise of three quirky, irreverent new spots promoting LED lighting from EPA's ENERGY STAR program this fall. ENERGY STAR has put this new series of video vignettes that highlight the benefits of ENERGY STAR certified LED bulbs on YouTube for your entertainment and enlightenment. You can search under "Gallery of Dim Bulbs," or go to RECC's website to find the link.



Find the entertaining Energy Star videos on YouTube under "Gallery of Dim Bulbs."

Is your standby generator ready to go?

You've made the investment for a stand-by generator for your home, so if a winter storm knocks out your power, you'll be able to stay safe and comfortable... IF your generator runs properly!

Whether your generator is wired to run the whole house or just a few circuits, and whether it starts automatically or requires manual connection and starting, it needs proper maintenance to be ready for the critical moment of an outage. Every generator has an engine, which has its own maintenance schedule. Oil, spark plugs and air filters should be changed at regular intervals or more often if the generator runs for an extended length of time.

For gasoline or diesel-fueled engines, add a fuel treatment to the tank. Check the battery charge level and trickle charger.

Most automatic systems do a self-test every week, starting and running the engine for a short period. The system should be operated under load at least twice a year, to check the transfer

switch and the generator windings.

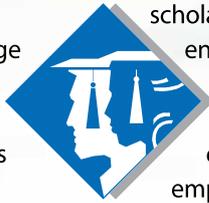
Make sure your generator is ready for any power interruption, for safe and reliable operation!



Ten 2015 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

RECC member families are eligible for \$1,500 college scholarships in 2015, under the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Nine academic scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family." A tenth scholarship to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school will also be offered.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or/ employee. Three additional



scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual scholarship, the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship," was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible

for the lineworker's scholarship.

"Our goal is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says President/CEO David Stuva. "RECC and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker's scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker."

Scholarship applications are due by December 31, 2014. All necessary paperwork has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative's website at www.recc.coop. Students are encouraged to apply online.

Tim Hemberger earns Supervisory Certificate

Tim Hemberger has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) supervisory certificate program. Tim is a Journeyman Lineman for RECC, and has worked at the cooperative since 1986. The NRECA program recognizes the educational development of electric cooperative professionals who are working toward a supervisory role. Courses cover a range of issues faced by supervisors – time management, conflict negotiation, and effective communication – and helps them build the skills necessary to address those issues effectively.



Tim Hemberger (right) was presented with his Supervisory Certificate on September 19 by RECC President/CEO David Stuva.



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Convenience Cooperative

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See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

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RECC Outage Map shows problem areas



Winter is sure to bring some rough weather, with wind and ice that will knock down power lines somewhere in our service area. If that happens, you can go to RECC's online Outage Map to find out whether it's a widespread outage, or maybe just your neighborhood.

The outage map shows RECC's service area by ZIP code or by substation area, and uses color coding to show how many accounts are known to be out of power. For privacy protection, individual outages or addresses are not

shown. The maps are updated every five minutes by the co-op's Outage Management System.

When outages affect a large area, we usually post updates on RECC's Facebook page, with details on the outage cause and the repairs in progress. This can help members understand what's going on and make needed accommodations for the anticipated outage time.

Find the Outage Map at our website at www.recc.coop and on the SmartHub mobile app!

HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WILL REALLY WAKE YOU UP.

ELECTRICITY
 1000 _____ \$4
 2013 _____ \$7.91
 INCREASE _____ \$3.91
Price is based on the current rate.

POUND OF COFFEE
 1000 _____ \$4.34
 2013 _____ \$7.91
 INCREASE _____ \$3.57

Be sure how you use your electricity... after dark. And for the past 25 years, we've helped to keep it that way. Learn more about the power of your local membership at TogetherWeSave.com

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