



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL Highlights

RECC holds 2018 Annual Meeting in Chatham

On June 7, more than 500 members and guests gathered at Glenwood High School for RECC's 81st Annual Meeting.

Country Girl Catering served hundreds of pork dinners while visitors conversed with local vendors. NextEra provided a phone charging cord for those who presented a Co-op Connections Card. Outside there were bucket truck rides and free cups of Carl's Ice Cream. The weather was warm, but the air-conditioned auditorium made for a perfect venue.

During the meeting, Board Chairman Mel Repscher updated members on the state of the co-op. Speakers emphasized RECC's advances in technology and highlighted their use. The co-op's community commitment was also complimented.

Treasurer John Beatty provided the financial report and stated that 81 percent of revenue collected went to pay for power costs and related utility plant expenses. He also noted the board and management have made strides in managing operating costs and improved the overall efficiency of the co-op.

Thanks to a 10-year, five-month wholesale power supply contract with NextEra Energy, costs have been reduced and **member rates are now lower than in 2009**. This will enable the co-op to build equity and retire capital credits more rapidly.

Repscher acknowledged that renewable energy is growing and reassured members that RECC has interconnection and net metering policies in place for safe operation.

He noted that the maximum size is 10-kilowatt and all systems must be pre-approved by the co-op. A safety inspection is required before any connection is made to the electric grid.

Repscher explained the importance of RECC leadership to be engaged in the political process. Directors met with elected officials in D.C. and Springfield to discuss energy issues affecting co-op members. The co-op will continue to monitor issues that affect rural residents and businesses. Repscher said, "It's part of our long-term commitment to maintain the quality of life in our local communities."

President/CEO David Stuva discussed SmartHub, which helps improve communication with members. Through SmartHub, members can visit RECC's website to access their account 24 hours a day, pay bills online, view energy use, report service issues and access outage maps without calling our office. The co-op can send customized messages to alert members of planned outages and the cause of outages.

Stuva explained, "By embracing technology, RECC has implemented numerous services well ahead of many larger investor-owned utilities and municipals. We've proven that even though we may be small in comparison, technology enables us to compete with anyone."

Vice Chairman Chris Wilcox highlighted RECC's commitment to its local communities. Some examples were two-\$2,000



From left, President/CEO David Stuva congratulates Cassie Eigenmann of Modesto (District 9), Lou Weitekamp of Raymond (District 8) and Andy Goleman of Divernon (District 7) after they were re-elected to the RECC Board of Directors.

educational grants awarded to Waverly and Ball Chatham elementary schools. RECC employees also demonstrated community spirit by collecting money for the Pawnee Food Pantry.

Elections were held for three positions on the board of directors with Andy Goleman of Divernon (District 7), Lou Weitekamp of Raymond (District 8) and Cassie Eigenmann of Modesto (District 9) re-elected for new three-year terms.

Chairman Repscher closed the meeting with a reminder that next year's annual meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2019 in Chatham.

All attending members received a \$10 bill credit as a registration gift. At the end of the meeting, \$1,000 in cash prizes were awarded, including a \$300 Grand Prize that was won by Bruce Douglas of Sunset Lake.



New for 2018



New signs and logos led to a grand entrance beneath the waving American flag. From there, our members hopped onto golf carts, where they were dropped off at the school's door. Others opted for the shorter ride that led directly to Carl's Ice Cream stand for a complimentary cup or cone.



Members enjoyed ice cream as employees Shelley Crooks, Aubrie Megginson and Becky Grossner prepared for registration.



State Representative and new RECC member Avery Bourne spoke as Chairman Mel Repscher, Vice Chairman Chris Wilcox, and Attorney Jerry Tice looked onward. At the meeting's conclusion, Chairman Repscher prepared the crowd for the Wheel of Convenience that awarded \$1,000 in cash prizes.



Balloon artist Tim the Twister and Sunshyne the Clown have become a crowd favorite for our young members.

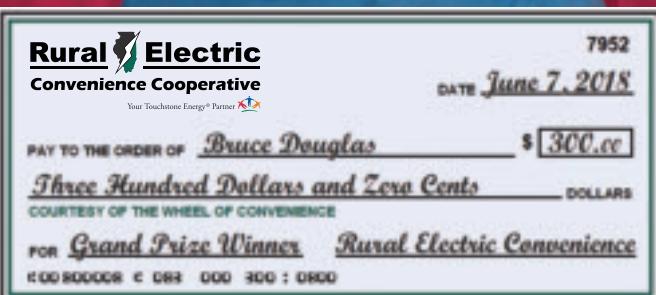
\$10 Cash:

Thomas Walker
Pamela Harmon
Mary Gilreath
John Farquhar

\$20 Cash:

Boston Chapel Church
Patricia Boarman
Loren Benning
Malinda Paine
Margie Seiz
Jennifer Henderson
Michael Best
Joann Ayers-Yeaman

2018 PRIZE WINNERS



\$50 Cash:

John Maxwell
John Norris
Jack Harden
George VanHuss

\$100 Cash:

Verne Mundhenke
Judith Moses
Darrel Hutson

Grand Prize:

Bruce Douglas

Director and Employee Anniversaries



Mel Repscher
Board Chairman



John Beatty
Secretary-Treasurer



David Stuva
President/CEO



Kenny Williamson
Line Foreman



Shelley Crots
Senior Member
Accounts Representative



Sandy Lex
Member Services Liaison



Shane Norris
Journeyman Lineman

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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Board of Directors

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Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman
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Clayton Bloome
Andy Goleman
Thomas Hart
Lou Weitekamp

President/CEO

David Stuva

Editor

Jeff Lancaster

**See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.**

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News and Notes

Members will randomly receive Satisfaction Survey in August

Members who complete the survey via mail, online link or phone will be entered in a drawing to win a bill credit. The survey results are anonymous and will be used to help improve your service. Please complete questionnaires if you are selected.

Pole inspections started in July, will continue into fall

Distribution poles will be inspected first. Transmission poles will be checked later when it is easier to get into fields with equipment.

No capital credit allocations for 2017

The cooperative had negative margins due to higher wholesale power costs and lower sales.

Changes coming to RECC billing statement

Soon, the statement you receive in the mail will look different. The new format will help members identify the important information, and color is used to highlight meaningful messages. In the past year, RECC has upgraded to a clean and modern logo, sleek new letterhead and a corresponding envelope design.

Don't be a victim of phone scams

Members have received phone calls stating they must pay their electric bill immediately, over the phone, or they will be disconnected. The caller ID shows an unknown caller. Others have been told to do wire transfers within an hour to avoid disconnection. If RECC calls about a pending disconnect, we will not demand payment over the phone. We only encourage members to pay before a certain date to avoid disconnection. Our members have a variety of secure payment options, and RECC's caller ID will never appear as unknown. If you question the validity of a call, hang up and call our office at 217-438-6197.