



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Members receive capital credit equity refunds

Members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative (RECC) received refunds for the retirement of \$344,027 in capital credit equity earned in 1983. Over 1,000 members still served by the co-op were credited a refund on their electric bills, while select current members received their capital credit equity in the form of a check. Another 2,089 members, who no longer have an active account, were also mailed refund checks.

Co-op directors delivered capital credit checks to several members. Pictured here is RECC director Clayton Bloome presenting the Village of Pawnee's check to Mayor Jeff Clarke. Bloome added his appreciation for the excellent working relationship the cooperative has with the village.

Capital credits represent our members' ownership in the co-op. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we strive for small operating margins



Director Clayton Bloome and Mayor Jeff Clarke, Village of Pawnee

each year to meet our financial obligations and to be prepared for unexpected costs, such as a large storm. When we have that yearly margin, we reinvest the money into our system and eventually pay it back to the members.

Capital credits are a unique part of the cooperative form of business compared to for-profit companies that pay their margins to owners or stockholders who may not be customers. Patronage refunds puts the focus on our members, who are also the owners of the business. The latest capital credit retirement brings the total payments made to RECC members to nearly \$4 million.

For members who purchased electricity from RECC after 1983, it's important to keep an updated address in our files. Estates of deceased members can continue receiving capital credit retirements or choose a discounted capital credit payout to close out a membership account. RECC is committed to returning the equity to the members who have contributed to the cooperative's success.

RECC's Renewable Energy Policies

The maximum size of eligible renewable systems that can be connected under RECC's Net Metering Policy is 10 KW. The total capacity of all wind, solar or other renewable systems that can be connected to the cooperative's lines is 2 percent of our annual peak demand (512 KW).

RECC's Net Metering Policy and Interconnection Policy is available at www.recc.coop. Click on downloadable forms.

Important: Please call RECC before installation

If you're considering a solar system, remember that it is your responsibility to contact RECC while you are still in the design phase. Please contact Chris Bridges, Nick Hays, or Jeff Lancaster if you have any questions. (217) 438-6197 or (800) 245-7322

RECC Directors deliver capital credit equity checks



Cassie Eigenmann and Dennis Ross, Otter Lake



John Beatty and John Megginson



Mel Repscher and Mayor Bruce Barry, City of Taylorville



Panhandle Eastern's Mike Cox and Chris Wilcox



Lou Weitekamp and Tony Herman, Pioneer Hi-Bred



Thom Hart and John Trojack

Rural Electric Youth Day set for April 3, 2019

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.

Students will be sponsored by RECC at the Illinois Youth Day program, 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 more than 1,500 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 will be sent to our local schools, or students can contact our office. We will mail an application packet and background



ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE COOPERATIVES

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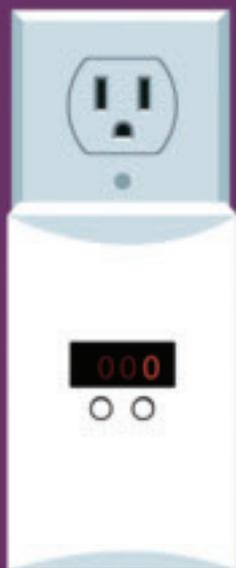
information directly to the student. The application form includes a summary of the student's school and civic activities and accomplishments, and a brief essay question pertaining to the rural electric program.

Applications must be returned to RECC by February 15,, and the students selected for the Illinois Youth Day program will be

notified so 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 call our office at 217-438-6197 to ask for an application packet or email 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!



CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY REMINDERS

- Install CO alarms on every floor of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- Test CO alarms monthly.
- Replace CO alarm batteries at least annually.
- Make sure your family knows the difference between CO and smoke alarm sounds.
- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately go outdoors.

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See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Be ready when Mother Nature strikes

When Mother Nature strikes this winter, make sure you're ready. Hundreds of Americans are injured or killed in the winter months due to car accidents on slippery roads and in-home fires caused by improper use of heaters. In addition, winter storms create a higher risk of hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and heart attacks due to overexertion.

Because winter brings its own set of challenges, Safe Electricity reminds you to prepare for extreme weather and stay home during and after storms whenever possible.

Be ready

Prepare ahead of time for massive snowfall, blizzards or ice storms that could last for days at a time. Tune in to local radio or TV stations for the latest winter storm updates. In addition, use a cell phone to stay informed by signing up for weather alerts. Have a portable charger and extra batteries on hand. Also, have a battery-operated radio available (with extra batteries) to listen for updates.

In preparing for a storm, be sure to:

- Consider special needs or medical issues in your household; have a supply of medications.
- Have a supply of non-perishable food as well as plenty of drinking water and a first-aid kit.
- Prepare for weather events year-round by keeping a checklist of items to have on hand. Have as many of these essentials at the ready and in one place in case a storm event happens without warning.
- As the winter months approach, prepare your home with proper insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

Stay inside

Stay home during snow and ice storms and wait until roads are cleared. This may sound obvious, but some think whatever they had planned is too important to miss. Whatever the commitment, it's not worth getting into an accident or getting stranded.

If you do drive in extreme conditions, do not leave your car to look for help. Your car should also be equipped with several items during cold months, such as a first-aid kit, portable car charger and batteries, blankets, water, snack food, a windshield scraper, extra warm clothing, tire chains, canned and compressed air with sealant for tire repair, booster cables, emergency flares, and road salt and sand for traction.

If you're at home during an outage, please know we will restore power as fast as possible without compromising safety. Do not turn on the stove for heat. It's not safe. Instead, use blankets, sleeping bags and warm coats. You can also use an up-to-code fireplace or portable heaters when used correctly.

When it comes to portable heaters, follow all instructions for use and:

- Don't place clothing on or near a portable heater
- Don't put a portable heater on the counter or other surface
- Don't leave it unattended
- Don't place on rugs, near paper or anything else that could ignite. Make sure there is 3 feet of unobstructed area

When using a portable generator, never use it indoors and make sure it is not close to windows, doorways or air-intake vents. Do not use it in an attached garage, even with the doors up. Never touch it with wet hands or use in areas with rain, snow or standing water.

For additional safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.