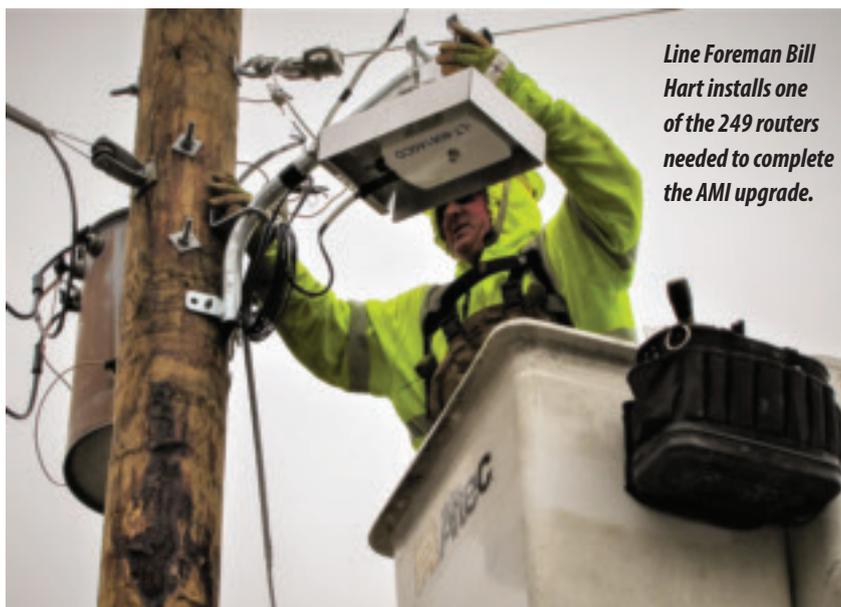




Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



Line Foreman Bill Hart installs one of the 249 routers needed to complete the AMI upgrade.



AMI and meter upgrades begin

In early spring, RECC began retrofitting its nine substations to accommodate the new Automatic Meter Infrastructure (AMI). The original equipment has been in place for the past 16 years and most of the components were becoming too expensive to maintain. Technical support was also being phased out for the aging system. To complete the transition, all 7,400

meters will need to be replaced. The entire project should be completed by the end of the year.

The advanced AMI has several features that improve our Outage Management System (OMS). The new meters will report their current status and help employees determine if an outage is individual, line, phase or system-wide. The newly installed routers will

also facilitate future substation monitoring. These capabilities were impossible with the existing power line technology. Since all AMI meters and routers will work together as a group, no individual component can disrupt the entire system. With the old platform, one faulty piece of equipment would affect communication with several meters.

Cooperative Communicator Meeting

RECC hosted the Cooperative Communicators Committee (CCC) meeting on March 20 at the cooperative headquarters in Auburn. Member Services Liaison Sandy Lex and Manager of Member Services Jeff Lancaster updated the group on RECC's contract extension with NextEra and highlighted the cooperative's rate stability. Other topics included the Members Satisfaction survey results, solar marketing in Illinois, rebates, geothermal tax incentives and community involvement. The CCC consists of two couples from each of the nine districts in our service territory. The meetings are part of RECC's effort to keep the membership informed of cooperative activities. The group meets three times a year at various locations.



Sr. accountant gets new certification

Aubrie Megginson received her Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association program includes studies in financial leadership, money management, trend analysis, budgeting and rate design. Aubrie has been RECC's Sr. Accountant since January 2017.



**RECC office will be closed
May 27 in honor of
Memorial Day.**



Rural Electric is looking for past members

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative may have some money for "lost" members. Margins earned in past years were allocated to member-owners who used electricity from RECC, as a share of the co-op's equity. The margins were re-invested in RECC's distribution system and are eventually paid out to members as capital equity retirements.

Rural Electric most recently paid equity retirements for the year 1983, with nearly \$344,027 sent to present and former members. Unfortunately, many past members have not provided up-to-date addresses, so their capital credit checks were undeliverable.

"Those folks contributed a share of the co-op's equity in that year, and we want them to receive this retirement,"

says President/CEO David Stuva.

"They may also have equity payments coming up for later years, so we need their current addresses."

To help locate these members, Rural Electric has put a list of unclaimed capital credits accounts on its website at www.recc.coop. The names and last known towns are listed for each account, and the amount of capital credits to be paid for 1983. If viewers recognize a name, they can let that former member know that they have unclaimed funds, or they can pass along a new address or contact information for that person.

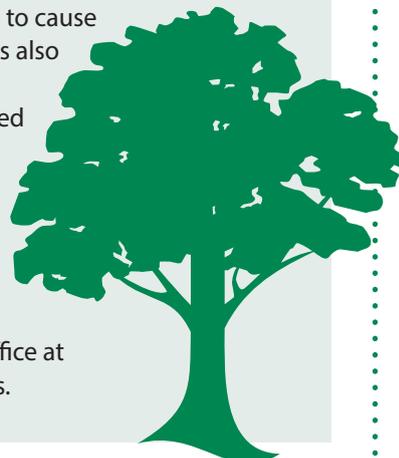
"We've rotated nearly \$4 million in equity retirements to our members, and we want to continue this legacy of cooperative ownership," says Stuva.

Tree trimming started in April

RECC has contractors clearing right-of-way around our lines this spring. Funk Tree Service will begin working north of Farmersville in the Divernon and Pawnee areas. They will also clear Gordon Drive, north toward Glenwood Intermediate School. Foiles Tree Service will operate mostly south of New City. Gound Tree Service will trim trees west of Lowder and south of Waverly.

Just one small tree limb can trip a breaker, causing outages for hundreds of members. Even branches that normally aren't close to our lines can be pulled down by snow, ice or wind to cause blinking lights or power outages. Tree contacts also increase a percentage of line loss.

In the past, our tree contractors have worked well with our members. They deliver notices to homes and let them know when work is planned in their area. When tree limbs are cut, they are chipped and removed. Our contractors also accumulate many loads of wood chips. If anyone is interested in receiving a load of free wood chips, call our office at 217-438-6197 to set up delivery arrangements.





Annual Meeting Official Notice

RECC's Annual meeting will be held

Thursday, June 6 at Glenwood High School in Chatham, Illinois

Registration: 5:00 p.m. • Meeting: 6:50 p.m.

What is expected of a co-op director?

Your board of directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected by majority vote for a three-year term. Terms are staggered; three directors are elected one year, three directors the next year and three the third year.

Before each annual meeting of members, a nine-member nominating committee is appointed. The committee consists of three members from each district where a vacancy on the board of directors is to be filled. This committee meets and prepares a list of nominees before the annual meeting. Nominations for a district candidate may also be made by petition, signed by 15 or more members in that district. Petition forms are available from the co-op office and must be returned by May 7, 30 days before the June 6 annual meeting.

Following is a list of the minimum requirements:

- Directors must receive electric service from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative at their primary residence. They pay the same rates for electric service and follow the same policies as all other members. They are not eligible to serve on the board if they have any conflicting business interest.
- Your board of directors meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the headquarters in Auburn. Directors are expected to attend all regular monthly board meetings, usually beginning at 7 p.m. (or 6 p.m. during winter months).
- Directors attend all special board meetings, committee meetings and Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's annual meeting. Directors should also attempt to attend one National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) meeting or director's conference every year.
- Other meetings directors attend includes one- and two-day educational seminars. Directors are encouraged to complete their NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certificate during their first term (three years).
- Directors receive a \$150 per diem (\$250 if director has completed Credentialed Cooperative Director training or \$300 with Board Leadership Credential). They receive the IRS mileage allowance for attendance of cooperative meetings and expenses when traveling on co-op business.
- Directors spend 23–35 days each year representing Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative.
- A director represents all members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, not a geographic region.
- This board establishes the basic business policies, the same as the board of directors of any other corporation. The board employs a president/CEO, who is who is responsible for all the operational details.

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Board of Directors

Mel Repscher, Chairman
Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman
John A. Beatty, Sec.-Treasurer
Cassie L. Eigenmann, Asst. Sec.-Treasurer
Jimmy L. Ayers
Clayton Bloome
Andy Goleman
Thomas Hart
Lou Weitekamp

President/CEO

David Stuva

Editor

Jeff Lancaster

Choose your payment option!

- At our office front desk or outside drop-box
- Mail to: PO Box 19, Auburn IL 62615
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Online, with Pay Now from our website
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone to our office, using credit card or checking account
- By phone using automated payment (217) 438-6197

See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Questions from Member Satisfaction Survey

How much does your contribution to Network Knowledge TV cost each member? We have no record of any donation or sponsorship to this organization.

Can we sign up for power outage text messages to be alerted when there is a power outage? Yes, just call our office at 217-438-6197 and tell them your name, address, phone number and phone company.

We have concerns of tree limbs in our yard that the line runs through. RECC has an ongoing tree-trimming program and cycle around the entire service area every 5-7 years. We also offer a trade-a-tree program where members can receive up to \$50 to replace a tree in our right-a-way. Please call our office if you have a problem that may affect your electrical service.

Why don't you offer a rebate on a washing machine? We offer appliance rebates as an incentive to choose electric over natural gas or propane. This is not the case with washing machines and similar appliances, such as air conditioners.

Would like to see a serious effort toward reducing our debt. Debt is used as working capital and is depreciated over a period of 20 or 30 years.

Why does electricity go out for a short period of time? The most likely reason is an OCR breaker attempting to reclose after a fault or temporarily switching substation feeders to quickly restore power during repairs.

Explore alternative energy options. RECC installed a 900-kWh wind turbine in 2008. A few years ago, we looked at installing solar panels on our warehouse, and more recently, at our substation. Unfortunately, the

numbers didn't work out. RECC would consider any proposal that benefits our members. RECC's wholesale power comes from NextEra Energy and they generate more renewable energy from wind and solar than any other company in the world. www.nexteraenergy.com/sustainability/environment/renewable-energy

Like the new LED lights, but why were the old ones left behind?

Twenty years ago, we did a similar lighting exchange and sold the old lights for \$5. They went quickly. This time, we chose to leave the light for the members (excluding sub-divisions) free of charge. We also included a tag with our name and number. On a few occasions, members declined our offer.

What happened to low rates promised because of Clinton power plant? That was a long time ago, during the Soyland era. Nuclear power was never quite accepted in the U.S. like it was in many other countries. We are far beyond those days and the future looks bright. We have had 10 years of stable rates and looking forward to 15 more years of the same. We have reduced all rates through PCA credits and lowered facility charges for most of our members.

Would like more high-speed internet options. We agree, but at what cost to our members? That is a question the board of directors will have to answer as they investigate options. It is an expensive proposition and would have a substantial financial effect on the co-op.

