



# RuralHILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

## Retirees Recognized

On Sept. 27, Curt Nichelson and Matt Sheerin became the co-op's newest retirees. Employees celebrated their many achievements as family and friends stopped by to wish them well. Both Curt and Matt were very appreciative of the opportunities that the cooperative has given them and admit they will miss their co-workers.

Curt has been with RECC for 39 years. He was a journeyman lineman before being named line foreman in 1995. Matt Sheerin began his 17-year co-op career as a sr. accountant and has been the manager of finance and administration since 2014. Matt also worked at DICKEY-john for several years before joining the cooperative.



## Congratulations Matt and Curt!



Jessica and Matt Sheerin



Curt and Kathy Nichelson



TSE balloon pre-show flight

## Farm Progress Show

The Farm Progress Show was in Decatur for the eighth time since 2005. The annual event rotates yearly between Boone, Iowa and Decatur, and is described as America's largest farm show. The agriculture showcase featured more than 600 exhibitors and welcomed more than 100,000 visitors from around the world.

Once again, Touchstone Energy was on display for all to see. RECC and other Illinois Touchstone Energy

Cooperatives had a booth that featured a Live Line safety presentation. Lineman also performed climbing demonstrations. In between shows, guests were able to view an electric vehicle up close or spin the wheel and answer safety and efficiency questions. Everyone received a prize, but members with Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections cards took home a few extra gifts.



Engineering Technician Nick Hays greets members at the TSE booth.

## Boylen named line foreman

Travis Boylen has been promoted to line foreman. His new duties started after the retirement of Curt Nichelson on Sept. 30. He began his full-time RECC career in 2007 after graduating from LLCC line school. Travis and his wife Kristen have two boys, Brady and Zeiger. They are RECC members and live north of Auburn.



## AMI meter installation update

Our installers have completed the meter exchanges for all members who receive power from the Girard, Glenarm, Sicily, Palmyra and Lowder substations. In November, meter changes are scheduled in the Farmersville and Taylorville areas. Meter replacements in Harvel and Litchfield areas will take place in December. The entire project should be completed by the end of the year.



Manager of Operations and Maintenance Tim Hemberger congratulates Travis Boylen.

## North Mac Homecoming Parade



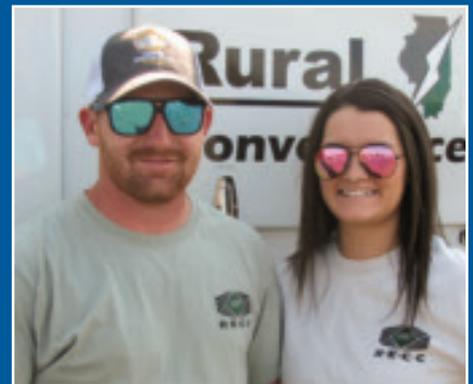
RECC employees greet the crowd along the Virden parade route.



Jenna Miller and Sandy Lex



Youngster received a replica hard hat



Driver Matt Evans and Julia McCready

## Happy Veterans Day

On Nov. 11, we honor all who have served our country in war or peace. The day is for all veterans, but primarily intended to thank living veterans for their contributions and sacrifices. Conversely, Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country. These two, yet distinctively different, holidays have been known to confuse the average American. It is acceptable to say, Happy Veterans Day, because the service itself is being celebrated, unlike Memorial Day when we are exclusively honoring our fallen heroes. Another confusion with Veterans Day is in the

spelling. Notice that the holiday is not apostrophized; "Veteran's Day" or "Veterans' Day" is incorrect.

Veterans Day was once called Armistice Day, commemorating the unofficial end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. In 1926, Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday set aside to honor veterans of World War I. After World War II and the Korean War, congress changed the word "armistice" to "veterans" so the day would honor American veterans of all wars.

For a short time, the date of Veterans Day was changed too. In 1968, Congress moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday of every October to create another long weekend. On Oct. 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under this new bill was held. There was much confusion and many states were unhappy, opting not to make the change. Within a few years, it became apparent that most U.S. citizens wanted to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11. In 1978, the annual observance was returned to its original date of Nov. 11.

Source: [www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

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## Former co-op general manager passes



On Sept. 7, 2019, Roy Goode passed away at age 94. He was the general manager of RECC for 23 years. He retired in 1991 after 42 years with the cooperative. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in World War II. Roy was active in Rotary, Masons, V.F.W. and the American Legion. He was a graduate of Bradley University and was a member of various church committees, governing boards and community organizations. After retirement, Roy moved to Fountain Hills, Arizona where he remained active.



## IEC Memorial Scholarships available

- T**welve \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2020 through the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.
- 6** scholarships awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members.
- 4** scholarships awarded to 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.
- 1** Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director.
- 1** LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship awarded to a student attending lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL.

**Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2019. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2020. For more information, go to <http://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/>**



*Our office will be closed on  
November 11 for Veterans Day  
and November 28 and 29 for the  
Thanksgiving Holiday.*