



Rural HILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

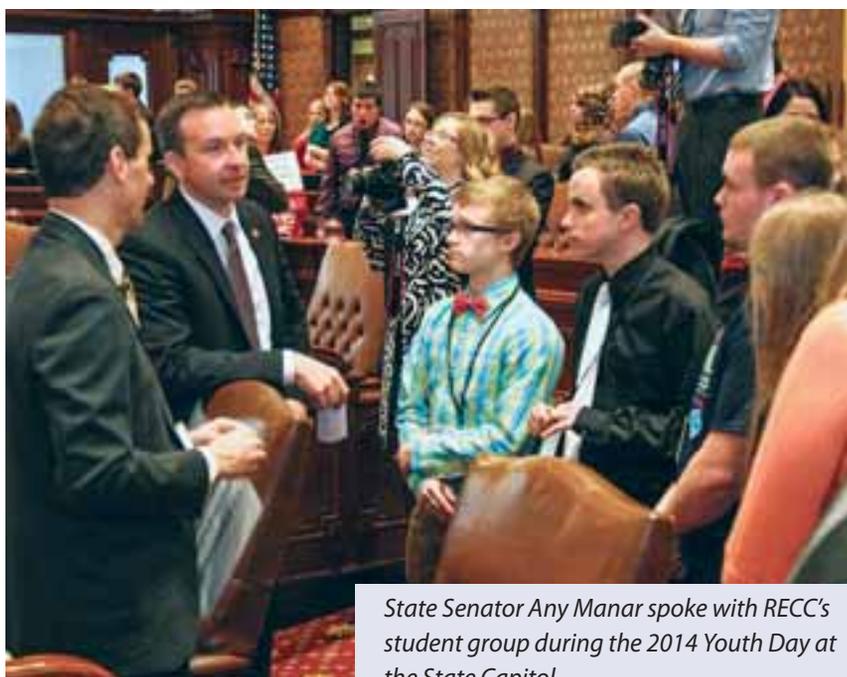
Rural Electric Youth Day set for March 25

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.

Up to 10 students will be sponsored by RECC at the Illinois Youth Day program on Wednesday, March 25, 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 13-20, with about 1,000 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 have been sent to our local schools, or students can contact our office. We will mail an application kit and background 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 March 3, and the ten students selected for the Illinois Youth Day program will be notified by March 7 so that they can arrange their school schedules around the trip. Transportation will be provided from Auburn to Springfield and back.



State Senator Any Manar spoke with RECC's student group during the 2014 Youth Day at the State Capitol.

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 (800) 245-7322 to ask for an application packet, or e-mail 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!

Glenwood Schools receive geothermal rebates

At the Ball-Chatham School Board meeting on November 24, the district received an energy efficiency grant check for \$50,000 for a new geothermal heating and cooling system installed this summer at Glenwood Middle School. The grant was obtained by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, through the GeoAlliance program.

RECC also obtained rebates of \$74,000 earlier this fall, through the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA), for the new geothermal systems at Glenwood Middle and Intermediate Schools. Rural Electric provides electrical service to the two school buildings. The total of \$124,000 in grants and rebates will help offset some of the cost of the super-efficient geo technology, and reduce the payback period for the school district, pointed out David Stuva, President/CEO of RECC.

The new Geothermal Variable Refrigerant Flow systems provide room-by-room control of heating and cooling, and can even provide heat in one room while cooling another when needed. Each classroom has a ceiling mounted ductless fan coil which is connected to tubing carrying a refrigerant gas to and from the central geothermal compressors.

Heating is provided in the winter from water pumped through loops of underground pipe in the yards outside of the school buildings. The heating energy is taken out of the water, concentrated when the refrigerant passes through the compressors, and distributed to the rooms throughout the building. In the warmer months the process is reversed, as heat is removed from the building, transferred to the water loops, and dispersed underground.

Because most of the energy going into and out of the classrooms is tied to the earth's energy storage, it's super-efficient, explains Matt Slager, the engineer at Hanson Professional



Presenting a \$50,000 grant check at the Ball-Chatham School Board meeting, from right are David Stuva, President/CEO of RECC, and Nancy McDonald, Marketing Administrator for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Accepting the grant are Board President Rick Petermeyer, Superintendent Carrie Hruby, and Nate Fretz, Chief School Business Official.

Services in Springfield who designed the geothermal systems at both buildings. "It's much more efficient to move heat energy than to create heat by burning fossil fuels in the winter. In the summer, we're moving excess heat

to the earth at 50 degrees instead of to the outdoor air at 90 degrees or higher. That's much easier for the equipment to do efficiently than with a conventional air conditioner system."

(continued on page 16c)



Dave Murphy (right), Director of Facilities and Grounds for Ball-Chatham School District, shows the geothermal compressors at Glenwood Intermediate Schools to President/CEO David Stuva.

Rural Electric line crew assists accident victims

On Monday morning, Nov. 17, RECC linemen Kenny Williamson, Walt Wallace and Clark Bowman came upon an accident scene just after a head-on crash between a car and a Hummer SUV. The accident took place four miles east of Modesto, at the intersection of Otten Road and 9-Mile Road.

The linemen immediately secured the scene with orange traffic cones and began caring for the victims. The daughter of RECC member Mark Flowers was driving the Hummer. The crew helped her walk to a line truck, to keep her warm until the ambulance arrived. They were concerned she was in shock.

The man driving the car was from Alabama. He suffered a broken hip and was in severe pain. Eventually the linemen had to remove the man from the vehicle because the men feared leaking gas might start a fire. The linemen took off their coats and wrapped them around the man to keep him warm until emergency personnel arrived. EMT's credit the use of a seat belt and side airbags for saving the man's life. Both drivers were taken to the Carlinville Area Hospital.

A big thank-you to Ken, Walt and Clark for getting involved and providing assistance in an accident scene that was not pretty!



RECC's linemen helped the driver get out of his overturned car to avoid a fire hazard after an accident east of Modesto in November.

From left, Walt Wallace, Kenny Williamson, and Clark Bowman, who all said they "absolutely" would step in again if they witnessed an accident and victims in need of help.



Glenwood Schools receive geothermal rebates *(continued from page 16b)*

The GeoAlliance program was developed in 2003 to promote the use of highly energy efficient, clean and safe geothermal technology in commercial applications in electric cooperative service territories. GeoAlliance is a collaboration between the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation in Chicago (ICECF). ICECF provides the funding for the grants and the AIEC is the program administrator.

The funding is passed down from the association to Illinois electric cooperatives that in turn re-grant the funding to their not-for-profit members.

The \$74,000 rebates were through the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency's Electric Efficiency Program, which includes programs for public entities such as schools and government offices. Glenwood Schools received a rebate in 2010 from the same program, for lighting upgrades made at the Middle School.



The fan coils in each room distribute warm or cool air as needed from the geothermal system.



Rural Electric
Convenience Cooperative

3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19 • Auburn, IL 62615
217/438-6197
e-mail: recc@recc.coop
www.recc.coop



Board of Directors

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

President/CEO

David Stuva

Editor

Dana Smith

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 Self-Serve 24 (217-438-3575)

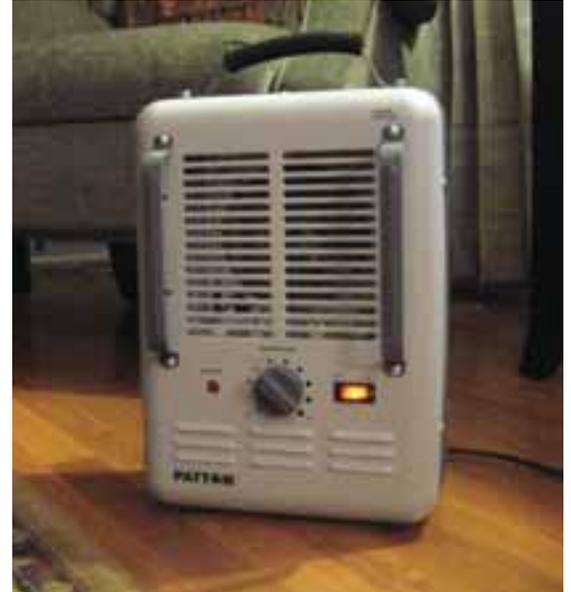
See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Use space heaters safely!

Space heaters are responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Don't become part of the fire statistics – follow these guidelines for safe operation of your portable heaters!

- Place your space heater on a level, non-flammable surface.
- Make sure your space heater has an auto shutoff function.
- Never plug your space heater into an extension cord.
- Never leave a space heater unattended when in use.
- Purchase space heaters that are cool to the touch.



Low Income Energy Assistance available

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible households in paying for winter energy needs. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type and geographic location.

An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required. You do not have to own your home or pay energy bills directly to be eligible for assistance. Emergency assistance may be available if your household is disconnected.

In the five counties served by RECC, monies from the LIHEAP program are administered through four community action agencies. Assistance for reconnection will only be provided to households that have made a good faith effort or can pay a portion of the amount owed for reconnection. When applying for assistance, you need the following information:

- (1) Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to application date;
- (2) A copy of your current heat and electric bills;

(3) Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members;

(4) If a member of your household received TANF or AABD, you must bring their "Medical Eligibility Card";

(5) If you rent your home, proof of your rental agreement, which must state your monthly rent amount, may be necessary.

If you are eligible, the county agency will make the appropriate payments to your energy provider(s) on your behalf. If you think you might be eligible for assistance, you should contact your local agency directly. County representatives can be reached at:

Sangamon County (Sangamon Co. Community Resources) 535-3120

Macoupin County (Illinois Valley Economic Dev. Corp.) 839-4431

Morgan County (MCS Community Services) 243-9404

Christian & Montgomery Counties (CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.) 342-2193