



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL Highlights

RECC holds 79th Annual Meeting

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative members held their 79th Annual Meeting on June 9 at Glenwood High School in Chatham. Over 500 members, families and guests enjoyed a pork chop dinner, vendor displays, bucket truck rides and a variety of activities for kids.

Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman of the Board, welcomed members and recognized the service anniversaries for several co-op employees and directors. He also congratulated Journeyman Lineman Craig Costello and Equipment Serviceman Clark Bowman on their impending retirements this year.

In the officers' reports, Treasurer Mel Repscher said that revenue for 2015 totaled \$15,166,616 resulting in net margins of \$364,548. He pointed out that capital credit equity earned by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative members in 1982 was retired in December, with \$268,957 returned to present and former members. To date, he said the co-op has paid back over \$3.4 million in capital credit equity to its members.

RECC Chairman of the Board Jimmy Ayers and President/CEO David Stuva provided updates on member programs including SmartHub, which allows members to pay bills or track daily or hourly use. They also discussed the shortened collection period for unpaid bills, and explained a new payment option available to members, Prepaid Electric Service.

Elections were held for three positions on the Board of Directors, with Clayton Bloome of Pawnee



About 500 pork chop meals were served to RECC members and guests at the Glenwood High School cafeteria, with the business meeting following in the school's beautiful auditorium.

(District 1), Chris Wilcox of Waverly (District 2) and Jimmy Ayers of Rochester (District 3) running unopposed for new three-year terms.

Two area students were introduced who were planning to leave on June 10 on the annual Rural Electric Youth to Washington trip. Hannah Gudel of Pawnee and Riley Jennings of Litchfield were at the meeting, and Lucas Motley of Palmyra is also being sponsored on the week-long trip.

The Youth Tour has been a big part of co-op members Harold and Linda Peper's family, with a strong commitment that reached its conclusion this year with grandson Riley Jennings. Harold Peper served on the RECC Board from 1972-1984, so his children weren't eligible to win the sponsored trip to our nation's capital. He and Linda paid for their five children (Bethany, Cindy, Jerry, Lorinda

and Tom) to go on the trip during their high school years.

Harold passed away in 2002, but Linda continued the family tradition by paying the way for all four of their grandchildren on the Youth To Washington trip in recent years. Riley Jennings, son of Lorinda and Mark Jennings of Litchfield, was the last grandchild to attend the trip this year. Linda Peper was recognized at the meeting, and presented with a flower bouquet and a gift card.

After the business meeting, 20 cash door prizes and a Grand Prize of \$300 were given in the electronic Wheel of Convenience drawings. Gary Norville of Taylorville was the lucky winner of the \$300 Grand Prize.

(See more photos from the Annual Meeting on page 16B)

2016 Annual Meeting *(continued from 16A)*



From left to right are re-elected Directors for Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, Jimmy Ayers of Rochester, Chris Wilcox of Waverly and Clayton Bloome of Pawnee.



Gary Norville (right) of Taylorville was the lucky winner of the \$300 Grand Prize, along with 20 other cash door prize winners selected by a spin of the electronic Wheel of Convenience. Gary was congratulated by Dana Smith, Manager of Member and Public Relations.

Balloon twisting, face painting and other activities were popular with youngsters at the co-op's Annual Meeting.



Employees, directors recognized for service anniversaries

Several RECC employees and directors were honored at the Annual Meeting for reaching significant milestones in their work for Rural Electric.

Employee Anniversaries:

30 Years – Dana Smith

(including 10 years at an Iowa co-op)

30 Years - Walter Wallace

25 Years – Jeff Lancaster

Director Anniversaries:

10 Years – Chris Wilcox

5 Years – Thom Hart

Attorney:

20 Years – Jerry Tice

Congratulations to these individuals, and thank you for your dedication to the members of RECC!

What is CO-OPS VOTE all about?

RECC has joined America's electric cooperatives in launching a campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops into the public discussion. Called "Co-ops Vote," this effort will help boost voter turnout in areas served by cooperatives across the country to ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Visit

the Co-ops Vote website, WWW.VOTE.COOP, and take the pledge to BECOME A CO-OP VOTER to support your community and electric cooperative when casting your vote in 2016.

The website will give you information on your elected officials and candidates, the voter registration process, election dates and locations, and background about eight key co-op issues we want our elected leaders to understand.



Illinois co-ops send students to Washington

Illinois electric cooperatives sent 64 students to the 2016 Youth Tour to Washington for a week of education and fun in the nation's capital, June 10-17. Over 1,700 students from 43 states were gathered in Washington for the annual event.

RECC sponsored Hannah Gudgel from Pawnee and Lucas Motley from Palmyra on the Youth Tour trip, and Riley Jennings from Litchfield was a self-sponsored "Willie Wiredhand" attendee. RECC's Executive Assistant Sandy Lex was a chaperone for the trip, along with her husband John.

The Youth Tour, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth. Over 51,000 high school students from across the country have taken part in the Youth Tour since its start in the 1950s.

In addition to the U.S. Capitol, students visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, and a number of other historical sites.

The Illinois group also visited the Saudi Arabian Embassy, and met with Senator Dick Durbin and Representatives Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood during the busy week.

Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives sent 64 high school students, along with eight chaperones, to the nation's capital.



At left and right are RECC chaperones John and Sandy Lex, with local students Lucas Motley, Hannah Gudgel and Riley Jennings at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. Sandy Lex is the Executive Assistant at RECC.



RECC's students were able to meet with Congressmen Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood, along with Senator Dick Durbin at the U.S. Capitol. They are shown here with Representative Davis.





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Convenience Cooperative

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See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

RECC welcomes Sean Koen

RECC's newest employee is Apprentice Lineman Sean Koen, who started work at the co-op in April. Sean has experience at Rural Electric, however, as he worked here part-time in 2011-2014 while going through



lineman training school at Lincoln Land Community College. He has worked at Spoon River Electric Cooperative in Canton for the last two years. Sean says he's glad to be back in the area where he grew up, where he enjoys motorcycle riding and the outdoors. Welcome back, Sean!

Planning for larger electrical loads?

Notify RECC when adding load or facilities!

If you are planning a new home, addition of an electric heating system, a new or expanded outbuilding, or a new grain storage facility, please contact us before you start your project. This allows us to prepare for any needed changes in your electric service, and offer assistance.

When you add buildings or electrical equipment, we may need to make changes and upgrades to your electric service and transformer that provide power to your location. Without sufficient lead-time to accomplish this, you may experience a delay in the completion of your project. You may also find

there are unexpected costs involved in supplying adequate power for your expected load.

RECC also wants to assure that safe clearances will be maintained between overhead lines, or other facilities, and your buildings and equipment. This is especially critical around grain handling facilities, where the National Electrical Code sets minimum clearances to provide for safe movement of grain augers and large equipment. Please give us a call when you are planning a project, so we can work with you and assure a successful completion.



Large service installations can be complex, but even smaller upgrades require planning for new transformers, metering or distribution wiring.