



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



Holiday Greetings

from the directors and employees of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative!

RECC's office will be closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Directors

Jimmy Ayers
John Beatty
Clayton Bloome
Cassie Eigenmann
Andy Goleman

Thomas Hart
Mel Repscher
Lou Weitekamp
Chris Wilcox

Employees

David Stuva, Pres/CEO
Clark Bowman
Travis Boylen
Chris Bridges
Craig Costello
Shelley Crocks
Lou DeLaby
Daniel Drumeller
Dave Flynn

Becky Grossner
Bill Hart
Tim Hemberger
Martin Hinton
Jeff Lancaster
Sandy Lex
Dave McCarty
Jill Mortimer
Curt Nichelson

Shane Norris
Matt Sheerin
Dana Smith
Stefan Sporrer
Brandon Taylor
Walter Wallace
Ken Williamson

Stay away from downed power lines!

When RECC Crew Foreman Kenny Williamson arrived at a car accident scene near Waverly on October 10, he saw a co-op pole broken off, with wires hanging down and a recloser device dangling on the ground. When he called in to the RECC office he expected to hear about power outage phone calls from the area.

Surprisingly, there were no outage reports, and sure enough, Ken found the line to be still energized at 7,200 volts. The car that had skidded off the wet road and smashed through the pole was almost 200 feet away in the field, so Kenny warned emergency responders to stay away from the low-hanging wires while they tended to the driver and the damaged car.

Kenny says that, even when the bare electric wires are lying on the ground, they don't always trip the fuses on the line and may remain energized. The best plan is to assume any wire is "hot" and stay several feet away, he says. If wires are lying on or near a vehicle, the passengers should stay inside and anyone else should stay away from the vehicle until utility crews can assure that the line is turned off.



Crew Foreman Kenny Williamson places protective coverings around energized lines before replacing the broken pole after an auto accident on October 10. Emergency responders took extra precautions to avoid the low-hanging wires as they tended to the driver and car.

Fortunately, the Waverly accident resulted in no serious injuries. All too often, a survivable accident turns fatal after the crash when someone contacts

a downed electric wire. Remind everyone in your family to be alert to this hazard, whether you're in an accident or witness one!

Be prepared to survive winter storms

Are you ready for winter's snow and ice? Winter storms are inevitable in our area, but being prepared can make a world of difference. RECC recommends having a winter survival kit to help you prepare for wintry blasts and possible extended power outages.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.
- **Medication:** Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.

- **Identification:** Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.

- **Other items:** First Aid Kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

Stay warm and safe

If an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources

should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage. For more information on preparing for winter storms, visit www.ready.gov.



Ten 2015 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

RECC member families are eligible for \$1,500 college scholarships in 2015, under the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Nine academic scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family." A tenth scholarship to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school will also be offered.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or/ employee. Three additional scholarships are reserved for 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.

The tenth annual scholarship, the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship," was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker's scholarship.

"Our goal is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says President/CEO David Stuva. "RECC and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker's scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker."

Scholarship applications are due by December 31, 2014. All necessary paperwork has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative's website at www.recc.coop. Students are encouraged to apply online.

RECC competes in Lineman's Rodeo

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative sent a team to the 17th annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Co-

operatives on October 3. The Lineman's Safety Rodeo, held on the Hot Line Training Grounds at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield, coincided

with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. Each year at the rodeo, teams of linemen from Illinois electric cooperatives participate in competitive events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy.

RECC's crew of Travis Boylen, Bill Hart and Shane Norris was one of 14 teams participating in the competition. They placed third in the Cross Arm Changeout event, and sixth overall.

Line personnel competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included Hurt Man Rescue, Egg Climb (linemen climb a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouth), H Structure Obstacle Course, and two Mystery Events. Scores for each event use a 100-point scale and are based upon completion time and proper execution of the task including safe work practices.



Journeyman Linemen (l-r) Travis Boylen, Bill Hart and Shane Norris, participated in the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's 17th Lineman's Safety Rodeo. They wore pink hard hats during the competition in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



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

RECC rebates still available

RECC's rebates for energy-efficient electric heating systems, water heaters and appliances will continue in 2015. The rebate form is no longer included in this monthly newsletter, but application forms are available from our office or at our website (www.recc.coop) under "Download Forms."

Rebate applications should be submitted with a copy of the receipt for the qualifying equipment after the installation is complete. There are two forms to choose from – Electric Heating Systems, and Appliances. Guidelines and minimum equipment sizes are listed on the application forms.

Rebate checks are written once each month, and mailed by the middle of the month.

Heating Equipment:

Geothermal Systems.....	\$250
Heat Pumps with Electric Backup.....	\$250
Heat Pumps with Gas Backup.....	\$100

Water Heaters:

Standard Electric (<10 Yr. Warranty).....	\$200
Long-Life Electric (10+ Yr. Warranty)	\$250

Appliances:

Electric Range.....	\$ 25
Electric Clothes Dryer	\$ 25

Fireplace **FACTS VS. FICTION**

FICTION: My fireplace will cut down on my winter heating bills.

FACTS: Using a fireplace can increase your home heating costs. Heat from a fire is generally confined to the area near your fireplace, making it an inefficient way to heat your home overall. And warm air inside your home is channeled up the chimney, so incoming cold air must be heated by your central heating system. If you prefer to heat your home with wood, think about a wood-burning stove. Newer models are more energy efficient and burn more cleanly than their predecessors.

If you're mainly looking for a nostalgic mood from your living room fireplace, sealed-combustion gas fireplaces use outside air instead of drawing air from inside the home. Electric fireplaces also offer very realistic effects, and can be operated with or without an electric heater for comfort control.