



# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



## Rural Electric trucks get a new look

**Question:** What's white with a small sign on the side?

**Old Answer:** An RECC line truck (And just about every other utility vehicle on the road!)

**New Answer:** NOT an RECC line truck!

You won't have to squint any longer to recognize your cooperative's vehicles on the road or in your driveway. The big trucks, pickups and vans are now sporting a new look that's recognizable at any speed.

Starting with a bold "RECC" and a new logo design on the doors, and a broad stripe pattern on the rear bodies, the vehicles will remind everyone of our presence in the rural communities. With 25 employees and over 1,300 miles of line in five counties, Rural Electric plays an

important role in the economic vitality of central Illinois.

"After various color schemes were used in the co-op's early years, RECC went with the standard white trucks in the 1990s, like many other electric utilities, but it was hard to tell one company's vehicle from another," observed President/CEO David Stuva.

The effort to come up with a unique look started last fall, with a study of the many designs used across the country. Member Service Electrician Jeff Lancaster worked on different elements, shapes and colors, and developed a plan that would fit the various sizes and shapes of our truck fleet.

The new decals were printed by Lilly Signs in Taylorville, a member of RECC. Jeff Lancaster and other employees applied the decals, with all 13 vehicles completed in April.

"Our employees have always been proud of our work vehicles, and taken great care of them to make sure they're ready for the job of building and maintaining our distribution lines. The new decals are just a reminder to our members and the public that we're out there working for them, every day!" says David Stuva.



**Rural Electric's office will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.**

# RECC is working for electrical safety

## Take the time to plug into safety

We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used. During Electrical Safety Month, we are working even harder to raise awareness about the dangers of electricity.

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, RECC is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices.

Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

RECC's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you think about using electricity safely. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we offer informative programs and demonstrations to schools and community groups. We frequently provide electrical safety content in this Rural Highlights newsletter,

and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as

your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

For tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe, visit the Electrical Safety Foundation International website at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

## May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety



Steve Hancock from Corn Belt Energy Cooperative (Bloomington) presented Live Line Demo programs on March 21 and 22 in Litchfield and Carlinville, respectively, for local 4th grade classes from Montgomery and Macoupin counties. The programs included safety information for 120-volt household power as well as high-voltage utility power lines at 7,200 volts. The presentations were organized by the University of Illinois Extension, and sponsored by RECC, M.J.M. Electric, Ameren, and Lincoln Land Community College.

# Youth Day offers insights to state government

This year's Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day introduced 240 high school students to several of our state's elected leaders, along with some insights about electric and telephone cooperatives.

Youth Day was sponsored on March 29 by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, with 25 co-ops from

across the state participating. Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative sponsored six students from area schools at the day-long event. The group included Payton Allen and Savannah Norris from Auburn; Sophia Sanguedolce and Hailey Winslow from Glenwood High School, Jacob Harris

from Pawnee, and Emily Huxtable from North Mac.

At the State Capitol, the RECC group met with Representatives Avery Bourne and Sara Wojcicki Jimenez, along with Senator Sam McCann. During lunch, Comptroller Susana Mendoza addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest in the political process and encouraged them to use their voice and reach out to their representatives and senators. Sophia Marcolla, the 2016-17 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Adams Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experience on the Youth to Washington tour and the importance of leadership. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

At the end of the day the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour to be held June 9-16. Winners of the week-long trip were Jacob Harris and Savannah Norris. Watch for news on the Washington trip in this summer's issues of *Rural Highlights*!



RECC students met local legislators during Rural Electric Youth Day at the Capitol. Pictured from left are Sophia Sanguedolce (Glenwood High School), Dana Smith (RECC Manager of Member and Public Relations), Emily Huxtable (North Mac HS), Representative Sara Wojcicki Jimenez, Jacob Harris (Pawnee HS), Savannah Norris (Auburn HS), Peyton Allen (Auburn HS), Representative Avery Bourne, Sandy Lex (RECC Executive Assistant), and Hailey Winslow (Glenwood High School).



## New business offer for Co-op Connections cards

We have another new offer to announce for RECC members showing their Co-op Connections cards at local businesses! All Rural Electric members should have the free cards, which can be used for local as well as national savings. If you need a replacement card, please contact us.

To see all of our local offers, go to Co-op Deals at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop), and enter your ZIP code to find Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's participating businesses. You can also find more information on pharmacy discounts and other benefits of the card program at this site.

Thanks to the businesses joining the Co-op Connections program!



**Toni's Café, Route 104, Divernon – Free soft drink with a meal**



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



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## Nominating Committee meets

### Board elections at Annual Meeting June 8

The RECC Nominating Committee met on March 9, and has named candidates for the Board of Directors in Districts 4, 5 and 6 in elections to be held at this year's Annual Meeting. The committee nominated the three incumbent directors who are seeking re-election in their districts for three-year terms. They are:

#### District 4

Thomas W. Hart  
22790 Sulphur Springs Rd.  
Atwater, IL 62572

#### District 5

John A. Beatty  
P.O. Box 62  
Auburn, IL

#### District 6

Melvin L. Repscher  
928 E. 1090 North Rd.  
Taylorville, IL

The nominations have been posted at the Auburn office, as stipulated in the co-op's bylaws. Other candidates may be named by petition for a district, signed by 15 or more members in that

district. Petition forms are available from the co-op office in Auburn, and must be returned by May 9 (30 days before the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for June 8). Any persons nominated by petition will be included in the 2017 Annual Meeting Notice, to be printed in the June edition of the Illinois Country Living magazine. Biographical information and a statement from each candidate will also be printed in the notice.

Serving on this year's Nominating Committee were: District 4 – Stacey Hart (Waggoner), and Susan Fuchs-Holt and Brett Slightom (both from Farmersville); District 5 – Galen Bailey and Ted Megginson (both from Auburn), and Herschel Caruthers (Waverly); District 6 – Brian Abshire (Pawnee), Norman Moses (Palmer), and Gary Norville (Taylorville – unable to attend). Stacey Hart was elected as chairman of the nominating committee.

Thank-you to these members for their time and interest in the cooperative's election process, and to the candidates who are willing to work for the benefit of all RECC member-owners!



Members of the 2017 Nominating Committee who met on March 9 are (from left), Ted Megginson, Norman Moses, Galen Bailey, Brian Abshire, Stacey Hart, Brett Slightom, Susan Fuchs Holt, and Herschel Caruthers.