

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 08/18



President's Volunteer Service Award

Co-op linemen Joe Alexander and Ryan Little with their President's Volunteer Service Award.

Co-op linemen Joe Alexander and Ryan Little recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award. Joe and Ryan were two of 12 linemen from Illinois electric cooperatives that traveled to Bolivia in March of last year.

The linemen spent three weeks in the heart of Bolivia constructing a power distribution system to 62 households and two schools, as well as a facility for handicapped individuals.

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"You forget how nice we have it here until you go out and see what other people actually have," Ryan said. "When a little boy told me he was no longer scared at night because he had lights, that really summed everything up for me." Both Joe and Ryan said they were grateful to be able to use their skills to give back to those in need and appreciate receiving the award recognizing their efforts.

The trip was sponsored by AIEC and managed and coordinated by NRECA International. NRECA International, an affiliate of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has been working in developing countries since 1962.

Today more than 300 member electric cooperatives support its work through monetary contributions, material donations, and sending hundreds of electric co-op linemen and employees abroad as volunteers. NRECA International volunteers work with local co-ops and their communities in developing countries to build and upgrade power lines, offer training and mentor local staff on how to successfully run a utility.

Photo: Linemen and their respective cooperatives participating in the project are: Joseph Alexander and Ryan Little from Illinois Electric Cooperative; Timothy Baker and Bret Richards from Corn Belt Energy Corporation; Shannon Davis and Brannon Dasch from Tri-County Electric Cooperative; Eric Dewitt from McDonough Power Cooperative; Matt Eisenmenger from AIEC; William Fields, Jr., from Norris Electric Cooperative; Kurt Krohmer from Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc.; Terry Riggins from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative; and Troy Shafer from Menard Electric Cooperative.

2018 Youth to Washington Tour

71 students from 27 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives joined more than 1,800 of their peers from across the United States at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour. The annual Youth Tour was held on from June 8-15 in Washington, D.C.

The 2018 Youth Tour delegates representing Illinois Electric were: Blake Clayton of Winchester, Geoffery Giles of Pleasant Hill, Lydia Lansaw of Greenfield and Iva Welbourne of Pittsfield.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Congressman Rodney Davis and Congressman Darin LaHood. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, Newseum, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were the Marine Corps Sunset Parade, the Smithsonian Museums and an assembly of Youth Tour participants from across the nation.

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric and telephone utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C. To learn more about the Youth to Washington Tour, go to www.youthtour.coop



Geoffery Giles, Lydia Lansaw, Iva Welbourne, Blake Clayton representing the co-op at this year's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Make Sure Your Phone Number Is Up-to-Date

Over the years, many members have done away with their landline telephones. Due to this, the co-op is sometimes unable to reach members without a current phone number in our system.

We ask that if you have changed your primary phone number, or have a cell phone number that would be better to contact you through, please notify us.

It is important to have a current number in our system so that we are able to reach you in the case of an emergency.

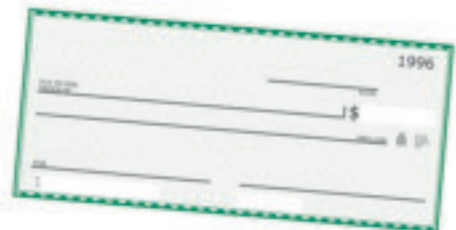
If you believe we may not have a current number to reach you at, please give us a call at 1-800-468-4732 to update your phone number.



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