



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



Annual Meeting held in Chatham

On June 6, more than 500 members, families and guests of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative gathered at Glenwood High School in Chatham for their 82nd Annual Meeting.

Country Girl Catering served hundreds of pork chops and visitors spoke with local vendors. Each registered member received a \$15 bill credit, a deck of Touchstone Energy playing cards and a wireless phone charger provided by NextEra Energy. Outside there were bucket truck rides and free cups of Carl's Ice Cream. Members also got to check out our new photobooth, which provides a realistic lineman's background and bucket. Youngsters enjoyed face painting, balloon animals and a chance to win prizes playing mini-basketball and bean bag toss.

Minister Larry Brandon, Boston Chapel Church, delivered the invocation to a quorum of registered members and their families. Special guests included Representative Avery Bourne and Mike Murphy, along with former Director of Natural Resources and former State Representative Wayne Rosenthal. Also in attendance was NextEra Energy's Kristi Johnson,

who spoke briefly to the audience.

Board Chairman Mel Repscher updated RECC members on the state of our cooperative. He said, "The cooperative began purchasing electricity from NextEra Energy Marketing on Jan. 1, 2018. NextEra is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from wind and solar and the new wholesale power contract substantially lowered power costs, allowing RECC to pass on the savings to members. RECC members have enjoyed one of the longest periods of rate stability in recent history. In fact, our rates are now lower than they were in 2009." He then noted that Facility Charges were reduced for most members in January 2019.

Secretary-Treasurer John Beatty explained that only 19 percent of the yearly budget is contributed to operating expenses and stated that the co-op ended last year with margins of \$814,912.

RECC President/CEO David Stuva reported that members received capital credit refunds last year of \$344,027 representing their equity membership in the

co-op. The latest capital credit retirement brings the total returned equity to almost \$4 million.

Repscher reported, "We received an American Customer Satisfaction Index score of 87, which is our highest score ever. This score places us among the best cooperatives in the nation."

The cooperative also participated in a survey to gauge members satisfaction regarding topics such as member programs, employee professionalism, rates and reliability. "Our overall survey results were excellent," said Repscher.



Three directors were elected to new three-year terms. Shown left to right are President/CEO David Stuva; Clayton Bloome, Pawnee, District 1; Chris Wilcox, Waverly, District 2; Jimmy Ayers, Rochester, District 3; and Board Chairman Mel Repscher, Taylorville.

Vice Chairman Chris Wilcox highlighted RECC's commitment to its local communities, citing Co-op Community Grants awarded to Franklin, Kincaid, Auburn, Morrisonville, Raymond/Lincolnwood schools and Virden's Prairieland Ambulance. RECC employees also demonstrated their community spirit

by collecting money for the Palmyra Food Pantry.

CEO Stuva emphasized additional community involvement with the co-op's participation in safety demonstrations for schools and local fire departments, contributions to state and local park projects and participation in a variety of local parades. He encouraged members to contact the cooperative if they are interested in having RECC participate in a local event.

He also stated that the cooperative began retrofitting the nine substations to accommodate the new Automatic Meter Infrastructure and all 7,443 meters will need to be replaced for the conversion. He explained that the advanced AMI system will improve our Outage Management System and replaces our 16-year-old metering equipment.

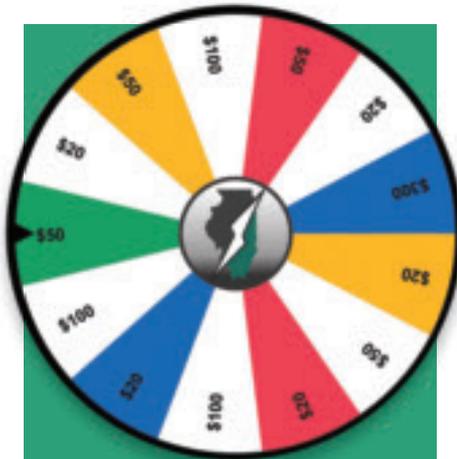
Additionally, it was announced that Manager of Finance & Administration Matt Sheerin will be retiring later this year and Senior Accountant Aubrie Megginson will take over his responsibilities. This is

the last year of Line Foreman Curt Nicholson's 39-year career, as he will be retiring in the fall. 2019 also marks the 10-year anniversary of our 900-kW turbine, which continues to feed power to about 380 members' homes and farms. Finally, William Ryan of Rochester and Jocelyn Nester of Chatham were selected for the 2019 Washington Youth Tour.

Repscher closed the meeting with a reminder that next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2020 in Chatham.



Journeyman Lineman Shane Norris, wife Holly and son Emmett take a bucket truck ride at the annual meeting.



Wheel of Convenience Winners

\$300

Sue Dowson

\$100

Gunn Acres, R. Gunn
Randy Jackson
Don Stein

\$50

Pauline VanHuss
Nancy Busby
Evelyn Lyons
Joann VanHuss

\$20

Wm Jess Ayers
John Norris
Dennis Rockwell
Sean Hart
Donald Miller



Avery and the Bourne family have been RECC members for many years.

State Representative Avery Bourne, 95th District



Kids' Zone



New meter installations to begin in August

The Automatic Meter Infrastructure (AMI) upgrade remains on schedule. RECC has contracted Allegiant Utility Services to replace all 7,443 kWh meters. Look for these contractors to begin changing meters in August. Allegiant vehicles will be clearly marked with RECC decals for easy identification. They will be working six days per week, so you may see them on Saturdays. The technicians will require brief access to all RECC meters and there may be a brief interruption in power as the meter is being replaced. Please call the office at (217) 438-6197 if you have any questions.

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Board meeting reports.

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2018 Capital Credit Allocation Notification

The allocation of 2018 margins to members doing business with Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative have been calculated and assigned. The total of \$731,520 of 2018 margins were allocated as capital credits. We have calculated each member's share of the total margins based on members use of electricity in 2018. That amount has been credited to your capital credit account.

The allocations will be on your July bill, which will be mailed on or about Aug. 7. You will see a message on the left-hand side of the bill indicating the amount that was allocated to your capital credit account for the electricity you purchased in 2018. This message only appears on your master account and only appears if you were a customer in 2018. This amount is only an accounting credit. **It cannot be claimed at the present time nor can it be applied against your current electric bill.** Your board of directors reviews the financial condition of the cooperative before

determining when and how much capital credits can be returned or retired to the members.

Remember, you must be a member and have service in your name to have capital credits allocated to you. If you are receiving electric service in someone else's membership or the service is in the name of a deceased person, you will not receive capital credits. Any capital credit retirements will be issued in the name of the person on the membership or the estate of a deceased member.

If you move off the cooperative lines, always provide us with your current address so we can send your future capital credit retirements.

