



# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



## Cooperative prepares for COVID-19

Like most Americans, RECC has had our share of recent challenges. When a regional virus in China became an epidemic, and later a pandemic known as COVID-19, measures were enacted to assure the cooperative would remain open and provide continuous service. Outage calls will need answered and line crews must be available for repairs. Long before Illinois' stay-at-home order was issued, plans were implemented to keep employees safe, healthy and isolated. As a service provider, we have a commitment to provide our membership with reliable electricity. That includes protecting the employees who make that happen.

### RECC steps taken to minimize the effect of COVID-19

- All travel suspended
- Meetings canceled
- Training postponed

- Office and warehouse closed to public
- Restricted access of deliveries and parcels
- Qualified employees assigned to work at home
- Office building isolated from warehouse
- Inside employees remain in office with doors closed
- Communicate by email, phone or video application
- Report individual or family exposure of COVID-19
- Clean and disinfect common areas twice daily
- Social distancing encouraged after work

### Line Crew Procedures

- Assigning duties remotely
- Limited time inside building
- Avoid warehouse except for restocking truck
- One lineman per vehicle
- Disinfecting their assigned truck
- Self-policing and encouraging sick to stay home



# Rural Electric is looking for past members



Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative may have some money for “lost” members. Margins earned in past years were allocated to member-owners who used electricity from RECC, as a share of the co-op’s equity. The margins were re-invested in RECC’s distribution system and are eventually paid out to members as capital equity retirements.

Rural Electric most recently paid equity retirements for the year 1984, with nearly \$387,846 sent to present and former members. Unfortunately, many

past members have not provided up-to-date addresses, so their capital credit checks were undeliverable. “Those folks earned a share of the co-op’s equity in that year, and we want them to receive this retirement,” says President/CEO David Stuva. “They may also have equity payments coming up for later years, so we need their current addresses.”

To help locate these members, Rural Electric has put a list of unclaimed capital credits accounts on its website at [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop). The names and

last known towns are listed for each account, and the amount of capital credits to be paid for 1984. If viewers recognize a name, they can let that former member know that they have unclaimed funds, or they can pass along a new address or contact information for that person.

“We’ve returned more than \$4 million in equity retirements to our members, and we want to continue this legacy of cooperative ownership,” says Stuva.

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## Home office can affect your energy use

Working from home, even on a temporary basis, may increase your electric bill. It means that you're spending more time using a computer, lights and other appliances at home instead of in your workplace. You can improve energy efficiency of your home office equipment and save on energy costs without hampering your productivity. Follow these tips to make your home is as efficient as possible.

- Make sure computers and other office equipment are turned off when they're not in use for an extended period.
- Many electronic devices continue to use standby power even after they're turned off. Connect your office equipment to an advanced power strip, which will automatically shut off power to unused devices.
- Set office equipment, such as printers and scanners, to automatically switch to sleep mode when not in use. In addition to



saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help to extend its useful life.

- Use a laptop computer instead of a desktop. Laptops use less than one-third the energy of a typical desktop computer.
- Adjust the thermostat to the unoccupied setting. This avoids wasting energy by conditioning the entire house while you're


occupying only a small portion of it. Consider using a ceiling fan to maintain comfort.

- Use task lighting with energy-efficient lamps. A desk lamp uses less energy than whole-room lighting.
- ENERGY STAR-certified products use less energy than standard models.



## Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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See our web page for monthly  
Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## What is expected of a co-op director?

Your board of directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected by majority vote for a three-year term. Terms are staggered; three directors are elected one year, three directors the next year and three the third year.

Before each annual meeting of members, a nine-member nominating committee is appointed. The committee consists of three members from each district where a vacancy on the board of directors is to be filled. This committee meets and prepares a list of nominees before the annual meeting. Nominations for a district candidate may also be made by petition, signed by 15 or more members in that district. Petition forms are available from the co-op office and must be returned by May 12, 30 days before the June 11th Annual Meeting.

### Following is a list of the minimum requirements:

- Directors must receive electric service from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative at their primary residence. They pay the same rates for electric service and follow the same policies as all other members. They are not eligible to serve on the board if they have any conflicting business interest.
- Your board of directors meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the headquarters in Auburn. Directors are expected to attend all regular monthly board meetings, usually beginning at 7 p.m. (or 6 p.m. during winter months).
- Directors attend all special board meetings, committee meetings and Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's annual meeting. Directors should also attempt to attend one National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) meeting or director's conference every year.
- Other meetings directors attend includes one- and two-day educational seminars. Directors are encouraged to complete their NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certificate during their first term (3 years).
- Directors receive a \$150 per diem (\$250 if director has completed Credentialed Cooperative Director training, or \$300 with Board Leadership Credential). They receive the IRS mileage allowance for attendance of cooperative meetings and expenses when traveling on co-op business.
- Directors spend 23–35 days each year representing Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative.
- A director represents all members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, not a geographic region.
- This board establishes the basic business policies, the same as the board of directors of any other corporation. The board employs a president/CEO, who is who is responsible for all the operational details.