



# Rural HILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL HILIGHTS

## Record number of ballots cast in director election

Following the cancellation of the 2020 RECC Annual Meeting, the board chose to conduct this year's election using mail-in ballots. In total, 4,709 ballots were sent out. The response was tremendous. More than 30 percent of RECC members voted by mail.

Traditionally, contested elections have been decided by less than 10 percent by those who vote in person or by proxy. Survey Ballot Systems (SBS), who conducted the 2020 RECC Director Election, was impressed with our members' participation, noting they typically see lower numbers in most of their vote-by-mail elections.

The three-week campaign concluded with 1,408 members electing Thom Hart of Atwater (District 4), Garry Niemeyer of Auburn (District 5) and Mel Repscher of Taylorville (District 6). Hart and Repscher were re-elected and ran unopposed, while Niemeyer was one of four contending to fill an open seat. All three were elected to three-year terms. Congratulations!



*President/CEO David Stuva reviews ballot procedures with the election inspectors*




*Monitoring vote tabulation*



*Certifying election results*



*District 5 candidates gather to hear Chairman Mel Repscher announce the results of the 2020 election*

SUMMARY			
			
<b>RURAL ELECTRIC CONVENIENCE COOPERATIVE 2020 DIRECTOR ELECTION</b>			
Eligible Voters:			4,709
Total Returns:			1,448
Percent Returned:			30.75%
RESULTS			
<b>District 4</b>			
Vote for: 1	Votes	Percent	
Thomas Hart	1,225	100.0%	DECISION
<b>District 5</b>			
Vote for: 1	Votes	Percent	
Garry Niemeyer	815	57.6%	DECISION
Curt Diemer	345	24.4%	
Denver Eytchison	186	13.1%	
Mark Schmid	70	4.9%	
<b>District 6</b>			
Vote for: 1	Votes	Percent	
MelRepscher	1,226	100.0%	DECISION



**Thomas Hart – Re-elected**



**Garry Niemeyer – Elected**



**Mel Repscher – Re-elected**

## Prize winners

Once the election was certified, SBS provided us with a list of those who cast mail-in ballots. We inserted the names into the RECC Wheel of Convenience and the winners were randomly selected. Here is a list of the winners and thanks to all who voted in the 2020 Director Election.

### \$500 Grand Prize

Bruce Fairfull: 24420

### \$100 Winners

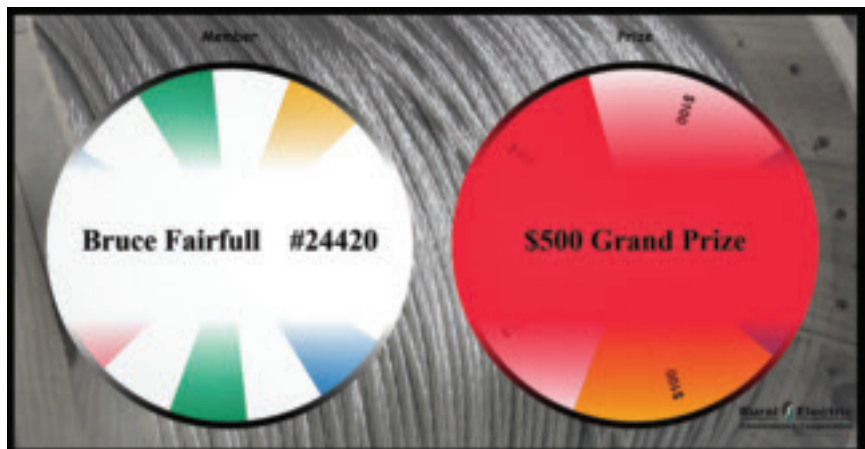
Thomas Booker: 13479

John Bartolozzi: 17856

Dan Godiksen: 25677

Cathy Carr: 13752

D.J. Baggerly: 20444



## Billing with demand charges for rates 8, 11,12 and 17

If your electrical service requires a large amount of power, your bill will include a demand charge. Demand is determined by how much stress your system puts on the electrical grid at any given time. This charge is in addition to the electricity consumed each month and can account for a large portion of the total electric bill. In some cases, the demand charge could exceed the cost of the kilowatts consumed. To better understand your bill, you must know the difference between your electrical usage and your total demand. This will allow you to make smarter energy decisions.

### Difference between consumption and demand

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the measurement of consumption or the amount of energy a building/farm uses during a typical billing cycle. The demand (kW) registers the highest amount of energy consumed at a single point in time. Both consumption and demand are recorded simultaneously and displayed on the electric meter.

As an example, picture the odometer and speedometer in your car. The consumption (kWh) is similar to the total distance in miles that is registered on the odometer. The rate in which you are using electricity (kW) is comparable to the speed or mph displayed on the speedometer.

### Comparisons

Imagine renting a commercial truck. Since this is an expensive piece of equipment, the rental company tries to protect its investment. To keep the truck's stress to a minimum, they assess a \$2 charge to be multiplied by the highest mph recorded during the rental period. This charge is in addition to their standard rate of 50 cents per mile. The mph charge is fictional and used only as an example.



Meter displaying kWh consumption

Sample 1: Truck was rented and drove 800 miles. The driver was cautious and never went above 55 mph. The driver was billed \$400 for mileage (usage) + \$110 for speed (demand) = \$510 total. In this scenario, the demand accounted for only 20 percent of the total bill.

Sample 2: The truck was rented and drove 200 miles. The driver hurried and recorded a max speed of 75 mph. The driver was billed \$100 for mileage (usage) + \$150 for speed (demand) = \$250 total. In this scenario, the demand accounted for 66 percent or two-thirds of the total bill. As you can see, a premium is paid for the additional stress on the equipment.

### Importance of load factor

A commercial pump, running continuously and steady throughout the year, would have a great load factor. Conversely, a grain leg motor usually has a poor load factor, especially if it spikes the demand and only runs occasionally. Accounts with poor load factors usually get the member's attention because the demand is disproportionately more expensive than the energy charge. Those with good load factors will have the benefit of a declining step rate and their demand charges will account for a minimal portion of the bill.

### Paying for capacity

Demand charges are necessary to ensure that everyone pays their share of capacity. All rate classes pay for demand, but smaller accounts are assessed and billed collectively. For all accounts on Rate 1, the demand is incorporated into the monthly facility charge. This is possible because Rate 1 has thousands of accounts and they are all similar in size and capacity. That is not the case for large services that vary greatly.



Meter displaying kW demand

## Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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### PCA Credit Increased

The board approved an additional 2 mil PCA credit on all kilowatt-hours purchased in the remainder of 2020. You will see the .005 credit on your billing statement.

See our web page for monthly  
Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## I hit a power pole. Now what?

We all think it will never happen to us, but it can in an instant. Drivers veer off the road and run into power poles. Farmers sometimes contact a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers raise or lower the bed and snag a power line.

**Knowing what to do in that situation can save your life.** If you hit a power pole, pad-mounted transformer or any green box that contains electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of the vehicle. Instead, **call 9-1-1** and **wait for utility crews to come** and de-energize power.

### Call 9-1-1 in all these instances:

- Your tractor or car **strikes a supportive guy wire**. Under normal conditions, the guy wire is neutral, but could become energized if damaged.
- You are in a car accident and **one of the vehicles strikes a power pole**. Stay in the vehicle unless the car is on fire. If you must evacuate, make a clean jump without touching the vehicle. Keep your feet together and hop away until you are beyond 30 feet. Another option after jumping out would be the shuffle method, keeping both feet on the ground and shuffling at least 30 feet to safety. Remember that the downed line is sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect and the voltage is still present several feet away from the accident. You can be electrocuted just by walking away if you take normal steps.
- You see an accident that involves a **downed power line**. **DO NOT** approach the scene.
- You hit a **pad-mounted transformer** or other **electrical box**.
- Your vehicle hits a **substation**.
- You hit a pole in the dark, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.

### Other Potential Dangers:

- You get drone or kite stuck in power lines: Do not try to retrieve it.
- You see kids climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers: Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- You are carrying a tall ladder or pole: Look up, if power lines are present, always keep at least 10 feet of clearance.
- You see kids climb trees that have power lines above: Warn them not to climb trees near power lines.
- You are using a portable generator: Never plug it into a wall outlet. Current can back-feed into the line and injure or kill a lineman.

Please visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) for more information.



**Our office will be  
closed September 7  
for Labor Day.**