



Rural HILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Three directors re-elected

Elections were held for three positions on the board of directors with Andy Goleman of Divernon, Lou Weitekamp of Raymond and Cassie Eigenmann of Modesto running unopposed. All three were re-elected to new, three-year terms.



The annual meeting was held at the Route 66 Drive-In on June 10. The event occurred too late for coverage to be included in this issue but will appear in the August newsletter section of the Illinois Country Living magazine.



Andy Goleman
Divernon (District 7)



Lou Weitekamp
Raymond (District 8)



Cassie Eigenmann
Modesto (District 9)

2021 THM IEC Memorial Scholarship winners announced

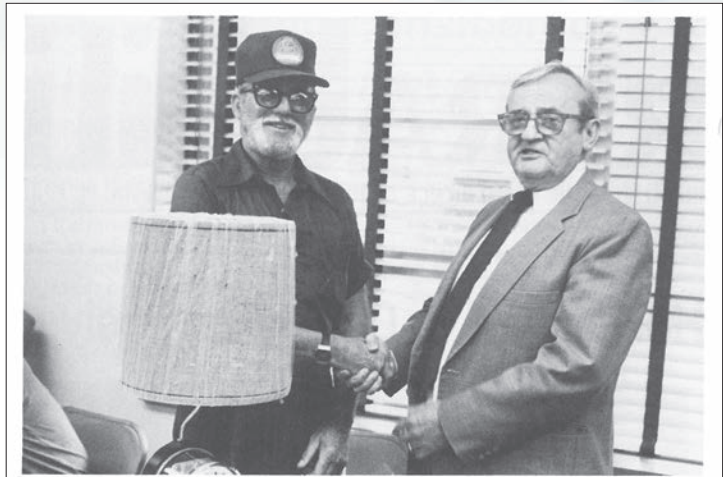


The winners of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship have been selected. There were 252 applications submitted and 11 scholarships were awarded. Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's Dain Richie was one of the winners and received a \$2,000 scholarship in the full-time, two-year community college category. Dain is a graduate of New Berlin High School and plans to attend Parkland College in Champaign.



Retired lineman passes away

Gerald Humke, better known as Shorty, retired in 1987 after serving the cooperative for nearly 37 years. After retirement, he remained close with some of his fellow linemen. Shorty was 93 at the time of his death.



Manager Roy Goode presents Gerald Humke with a meter lamp for his many years of service to the cooperative.

Gerald "Shorty" Humke retires

This photo appeared in the Rural Highlights magazine following his retirement in 1987.



Shorty with his line crew in the mid-1980s. Back row left to right: Roy Goode, Troy Wise, Lou DeLaby, Jim Smith, Delbert Boston, Kenny Williamson, Don Ashby and J.O. Killiam. Front row left to right: Curt Nichelson, Shorty Humke, Buck Psaute, Harry Buck, Walt Wallace and Jim Ketchum.



LED: A rising star in energy savings

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) passed the Energy and Independence Act. The passing of this legislation made the future of incandescent light bulbs quite dim.

While this legislation included a wide range of recommendations for the energy industry, one requirement was that new light bulbs use 25 percent less energy. As a result, there was a push between 2012 and 2014 to replace older incandescent light bulbs with newer, more energy-efficient versions.

Traditional incandescent bulbs produce light by heating a wire filament to a temperature that results in the generation of light. Incandescent bulbs were popular because they

Nowadays, the three most common light bulbs include light-emitting diode (LED), halogen incandescent and compact fluorescent light (CFL). According to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, in the third quarter of 2018, light bulb orders were broken down as follows: LEDs accounted for 65 percent, halogens made up 28 percent and CFLs were 7 percent.

What makes LEDs different? LED light bulbs work when an electrical current pass through a microchip, which illuminates the tiny light sources called LEDs and result in visible light. LED bulbs produce light up to 90 percent more efficiently than traditional incandescent light bulbs. They also include features that keep the bulb cooler to the touch, which avoids potential injuries and fire risks.

LEDs are safer than their competitors. CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, which is dangerous if ingested. This type of bulb should not be thrown in the trash. Halogen bulbs operate at high temperatures, which means they can cause burns to the skin if touched. They can also cause a fire if they contact something flammable.

Moreover, many LEDs are rated with a lifespan of 50,000 hours. If one is used 8 hours a day, it is projected to last 17 years. Residential LEDs, especially those designated with the ENERGY STAR logo, use at least 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting, according to the DOE.

In comparison, halogen light bulbs last about a year and CFL bulbs about 3 years (both based on 8-hour-a-day usage).

LEDs help the environment while reducing energy costs. According to the DOE, their widespread use is on track to save the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants, with a total savings of more than \$30 billion, by the year 2027.

For more information about electrical safety and energy efficiency, visit SafeElectricity.org.

MAKE THE SWITCH

SAVE MONEY and REDUCE ENERGY USE by replacing outdated lightbulbs with newer, more efficient LED lights.



 Safe
Electricity.org

were inexpensive and available in a wide range of colors. However, much of their energy went into heat production and little toward emitting light.

Incandescent light bulbs have a short lifespan, lasting only about a year on average. Although they are no longer available in U.S. stores, the energy costs associated with the once-popular bulb, along with its stunted lifespan, outweigh the initial savings at the cash register.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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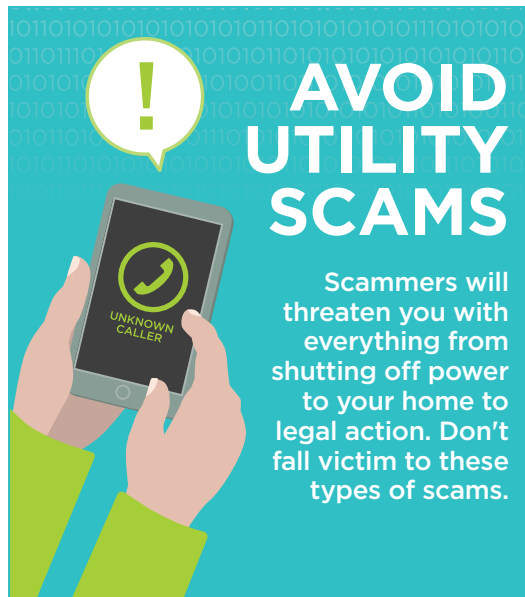
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See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Thunderstorm takes out tree at the co-op's headquarters on May 27.



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

