



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Underground vs. overhead: equally unique challenges



These pictures show an **underground** repair that was made this summer. An elbow burnt off inside a cabinet located near the Lowder substation on John's Creek Road. Line Foreman Travis Boylen and Journeyman Lineman Andrew Boston had to pump out enough oil in the switch cabinet to replace a faulty elbow assembly.



This is an example of a complex **overhead** repair, a rare C-7/B-8 combination or a pole configuration where three-phase and two-phase lines share the same structure. As you can see, it took several linemen to replace the aging pole located near Sunset Lake. To maintain power during the lengthy process, line crews set a temporary pole in the field so power could be diverted away from their work site. About six hours later, the pole structure was set in place and power was transferred back to the new pole. The temporary service allowed work to be performed safely and members to receive power during the process. Most would only notice a couple of blinks.

Weitekamp resigns from RECC Board after 12 years



Lou Weitekamp has resigned from the RECC Board of Directors. His resignation was official on Sept. 1, 2022, citing personal reasons for the decision. The Farmersville native and SIU Carbondale graduate served during a critical time in the cooperative's history, making difficult decisions that would help shape RECC's financial outlook for many years. Lou stated that he was pleased with the progress that RECC has made to lower electrical costs, and he would continue to act in the best interest of the members. He and his wife Judy will remain in the Raymond area but plan on spending future winters in Texas.

Director candidates needed to fill District 8 vacancy

The resignation of Lou Weitekamp has left a vacant director position on the RECC Board. Co-op bylaws state that the remaining directors are to select a person to fill such a vacancy and that person will serve until the next election for that district. In this case, it is District 8 and not up for election until 2024. The recruitment to fill this position has already begun. On Sept. 26, a letter was mailed out to all members in District 8 informing them of the recruitment process being followed and the procedures in place to fill the vacancy.

Potential candidates must be members of RECC and reside in District 8, which generally includes the areas around Litchfield and Raymond. Director candidates interested in applying must send a letter or e-mail to President/CEO David Stuva by Oct. 21, 2022. Include the candidate's name, address and phone number, as well as stated qualifications and reasons for wanting to be a director on the RECC Board.

David Stuva
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Election cycle for directors:

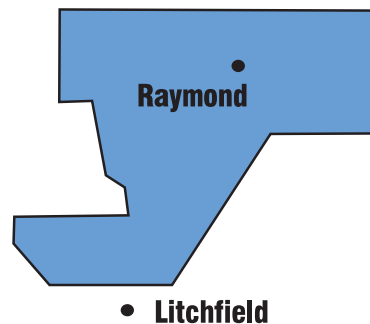
Traditionally, directors are chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected by majority vote for a three-year term. Their terms are

staggered, allowing three directors to be elected one year, three directors the next year, and the final three in the third year.

What are the minimum requirements and expectations for a cooperative director?

- 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 interests.
- 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 board meetings, usually beginning at 7 p.m. or 6 p.m. in the winter.
- 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 meeting or director's conference every year.
- Other meetings directors attend include one- and two-day educational seminars.
- Directors are encouraged to complete their NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certificate during their first 3-year terms.
- Directors receive a per diem of \$150-\$350, depending on Leadership Credentials.
- They receive the IRS mileage allowance for attending 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 responsible for all the operational details.

District #8



Capital credit refunds paid as bill credit!

Your board approved the rotation/retirement of \$350,000 in capital credit equity. All current and former member-owners who received electric service and contributed to margins in 1989, 1990 or 1993 will be repaid. Active members will receive their capital credit refund on the September bill, which will be mailed out in early October.

Capital credit equity comes from the cooperative's margins, which amounts to the difference between the money we collect during the year minus our operating expenses. Until it's repaid to members, the equity is used to finance new construction and system improvements. RECC has returned more than \$4 million in member equity since 1978.

A key difference between electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities is capital credits.

An investor-owned utility returns a portion of its profits to shareholders. But RECC allocates 100 percent of our margins to the members who purchase electricity during the year.

Estates of deceased members can continue receiving capital credit retirements or choose a discounted capital credit equity payout to close out a membership account. Please let us know if you have any questions about your capital credit account. Thank you for your past purchases from RECC!

What is "capital credit equity?"

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Thank you for being part of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative!



Safe
Electricity.org®

Dress up with care for HALLOWEEN

When dressing your little ones (or yourself), keep these safety tips in mind:

-  Always wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
-  Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape to improve visibility.
-  Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eyecare professional.
-  Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision.
-  Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy.

In addition, inspect any plug-in decorations for signs of wear and tear (fraying or bare wires or broken plugs) and replace them if damaged.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Geothermal tax credits extended

H.R. 5376 was passed into law on Aug. 12, 2022. A portion of the law provides long-term stability for the geothermal heat pump industry by extending federal tax credits through 2034. Thanks to the efforts of GeoExchange and our partners, the bill includes geothermal heat pumps as a central technology in the mission of building a clean economy. There are billions of dollars available to Americans to decarbonize their homes and businesses.

The Geothermal Exchange Organization sought to ensure that the current Congress understood the importance of including geothermal heat pumps as a core component in any clean energy legislation. The law contains strong support for our industry. Below is a summary of the provisions affecting geothermal heat pumps.



Section 25D residential tax credit –

- Under current law, the credit is at 26% in 2022, 22% in 2023, and expires at the end of 2023.
- The bill extends the credit for all Section 25D technologies at the following rates:
 - 26% (2021)
 - 30% (2022-32)
 - 26% (2033)
 - 22% (2034)
 - 0% (2035)



From July 2022 IGSHPA News
Updated on August 17, 2022,
after bill was signed into law

RECC employees are 4-H judges for a day



Engineering Technician Nick Hays

RECC's Engineering Technician Nick Hays and Manager of Member Services Jeff Lancaster spent a day judging 4-H electric projects at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

There were more than 20 projects submitted from children and young adults throughout the state. Submissions were divided into three divisions, and projects were judged on the individual's knowledge of electricity, skill level and the project's overall construction.

