## Co-op Month is just the beginning!

October is Co-op Month 2011 and the start of the year-long, global celebration of cooperatives that is the International Year of Cooperatives!

The slogan for Co-op Month 2011 is the same as that for the International Year: "Cooperative enterprises build a better world." That's a great summary of the value of co-ops in our daily lives, and it could have been written just for RECC. And what better time to point out our accomplishments than during RECC's 75-year celebration?

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative has grown from a few dedicated leaders who signed papers of incorporation in 1936, and borrowed money from the government to start building electric lines through the countryside, to a modern utility serving the needs of over 4,500 members today. A group of nine Directors maps out the direction for the co-op's management and staff to follow, but individuals and families from across our system still provide the grassroots support that helps make us successful.

That was evident at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House held at the co-op headquarters in Auburn on September 6. Today's directors and employees were joined by past directors, retirees, and many members who remember the early days of electricity in the country. Several pioneering families are still represented at co-op functions, often serving on committees or helping RECC's work in their communities.

RECC today has 24 full-time employees, with electricity sales of over \$10 million each year. We also provide services in energy efficiency, safety and education, along with products such as lifetime-warranty Marathon water heaters, whole-house surge suppressors, security lighting, and electric room heaters.

Each service and product is offered for the benefit of our members, who are also the owners of the cooperative. That's what sets us apart from the big utility companies, and why we still play an important part in our community.

It's all summed up in the motto we've used over the years: Owned By Those We Serve!



About 200 members, retirees and guests visited RECC's 75-Year Anniversary Open House on Sept. 6, to see the newly remodeled lobby and front offices, historical displays and demonstrations of new technology. Information systems supervisor Tom Jones (left) and journey—man lineman Dave Flynn provided visitors with some free gifts and a history booklet about RECC.



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