



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Tim Hemberger Travis Boylen Michael Lavin Sean Koen Matt Evans Dalton Brown Drayton Davis



RECC line crews were recognized with the 2023 award for Best Lost Time Rate. The AIEC Cooperative Safety Leadership Awards recognize safety awareness and reward cooperatives that demonstrate safety leadership, promote safety culture, and go above and beyond normal safety expectations.

Culture of Safety

Safety is of utmost importance, especially in the electric industry. To further safety education, lineworkers, supervisors, and warehouse personnel from electric co-ops across

Illinois gathered in Springfield to attend the annual Safety and Energy Conference Jan. 31-Feb. 1, hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives or the AIEC.

The conference focused on safety and leadership in the energy industry, and attendees received relevant training to keep them informed and safe while on the job. They learned about mental health and dealing with trauma, explored the use of drones for infrastructure inspection, learned about strategies for success in a multigenerational workplace, and much more. During the conference, safety leadership awards were presented to recognize individual and

cooperative-wide commitment to a safe work culture.

In addition to the cooperative's 2023 award for Best Time Rate, RECC line foreman Travis Boylen received the 2023 Individual Safety Leadership Award, which recognizes the safety awareness of individuals who demonstrate safe leadership, promote a safe culture, and contribute to the safety of a project. Recipients must demonstrate safety leadership above and beyond the normal safety performance expectations. Individuals were nominated by their peers. Each nomination provided specific details explaining why the person deserved the award.

"Travis is open-minded and listens to his crew for ideas to ensure the work is completed safely and efficiently," his nomination letter stated. "He understands the importance of family. Therefore, he always enforces safety because he wants his co-workers to return home safe each night and enjoy their families. Being a leader/teacher who takes pride in his work, demonstrates a safe work ethic and leads by example are what makes Travis a great safety leader."



Co-op Community Grants Available in 2024

Schools and eligible nonprofit organizations can contact Julie Waghorn at 217-438-6198 or email her at julie.waghorn@recc.coop for more information. An application can also be found on our website at recc.coop. The grants are available with the assistance of CoBank and its Sharing Success program, which provides RECC with matching funds. Applicants must apply before May 3, 2024. Up to \$20,000 will be available to be distributed among four grants.



CoBank's Sharing Success program doubles the contributions of its customers to the charitable organizations and causes they care about most.

Nominating committee selects three candidates



2024 Nominating Committee

District 7—Andy Goleman

Kelly Burtle
493 Dickey Road
Glenarm, IL 62536

Lisa LaRue
11180 Catholic Cemetery
Glenarm, IL 62536

Denise Kink
11880 Goneaway Lane
Glenarm, IL 62536

District 8—Neil Bryan

Ron Davis
102 Shady Lane
Litchfield, IL 62056

Lee (Shirley) Davis
17249 E 4th Road
Litchfield, IL 62056

Brett Holliday
18098 Painter Trail
Litchfield, IL 62056

District 9—Cassie Eigenmann

Denise Kerhliker
32795 Otten Road
Modesto, IL 62667

Shawn Cox
1841 Hurricane Timber Lane
Modesto, IL 62667

Christina Burgess
13461 Stamper Road
Girard, IL 62640

Lisa LaRue, Christina Burgess, Kelly Burtle, Shawn Cox, Denise Kerhliker, Denise Kink, Ron Davis, Lee Davis, and Brett Holliday

The RECC nominating committee met on February 29, 2024 and has chosen candidates for the board of directors for elections to be held at this year's annual meeting. The committee nominated three incumbent directors who are seeking re-election in districts 7, 8 and 9.

The nominations have been posted at the Auburn office, as stipulated in the co-op's bylaws. Other candidates may be named by petition for a district, signed by 15 or more members in that district.

(District 7)
Andy Goleman
1248 E. Divernon Road
Divernon, IL 62530

(District 8)
Neil Bryan
17259 E. 4th Road
Litchfield, IL 62056

(District 9)
Cassie Eigenmann
11767 Hurricane Timber Ln
Modesto, IL 62667

Petition forms are available from the co-op office in Auburn and must be returned by April 22, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Any persons nominated by petition will be included in the 2024 Annual Meeting Notice, to be printed in the June edition of the Illinois Country Living magazine. Biographical information and a statement from each candidate will also be printed in the notice.

Thank you to these members for their time and interest in the cooperative's election process and to the candidates who are willing to work for the cooperative. The election to the board of directors will take place at the annual meeting of members on June 6, 2024, to serve until the third subsequent annual meeting of members thereafter:

Dated at Auburn, Illinois this 29th day of February, 2024.

Kelly Burtle
Denise Kink
Brett Holliday
Lee Davis
Ron Davis
Denise Kerhliker
Christina Burgess
Shawn M. Cox
Lisa LaRue, Chairman

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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www.recc.coop

Find us on 

Board of Directors

Chris Wilcox, Chairman
Clayton Bloome, Vice Chairman
Jimmy L. Ayers, Secretary/Treasurer
Garry Niemeyer, Asst. Sec./Treasurer
Neil Bryan
Cassie L. Eigenmann
Andy Goleman
Thomas Hart
Mel Repscher

President/CEO

Sean Middleton

Editor

Jeff Lancaster

See our web page for monthly
board meeting reports.

Payment Options

- At our office front desk or outside drop-box
- Mail to: PO Box 19, Auburn IL 62615
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Online, with Pay Now from our website
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone to our office, using credit card or checking account
- By phone using automated payment (217) 438-6197

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 the 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 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

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 interests.
- Your board of directors meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Directors are expected to attend these monthly board meetings held at the headquarters in Auburn, Ill.
- 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 include 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 \$200 per diem (\$275 if a director has completed Credentialed Cooperative Director training or \$375 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 responsible for all the operational details.



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