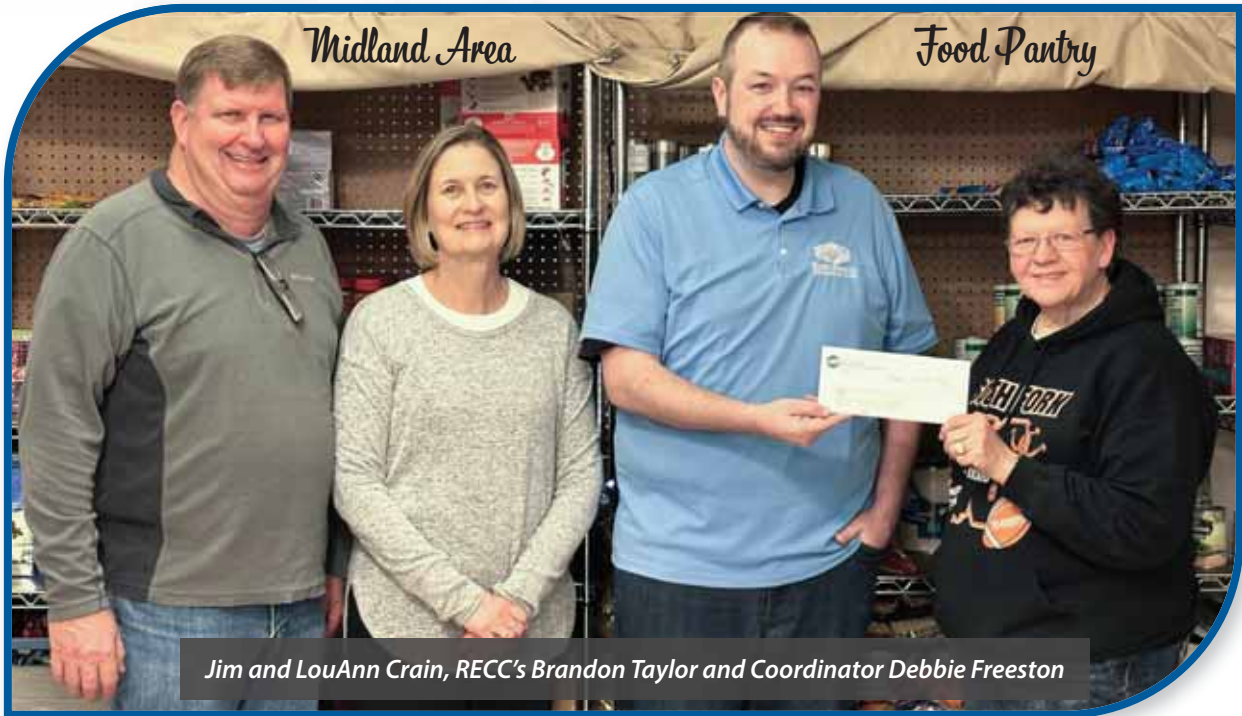




Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative



Jim and LouAnn Crain, RECC's Brandon Taylor and Coordinator Debbie Freeston

Kincaid area selected for 2024 donation

Employees of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative donated \$620 to the Midland Area Food Pantry. Coordinator Debbie Freeston was grateful to receive the donation and said the money will go a long way to serve the communities of Kincaid, Bulpitt, Tovey, and Jerseyville. The co-op and its employees

have made similar donations to food pantries in Franklin, Pawnee, Raymond, Girard, Waverly, Palmyra, Divernon, Morrisonville, and Edinburg. With the continued support and generosity of our employees, we look forward to continuing this tradition.

Thinking about installing a solar system?



Go to your cooperative's website at recc.coop for the latest information. Click the solar link on the homepage to find RECC's interconnection procedures, metering policies, application forms, and pages dedicated to answering common solar questions. Every home is different, so members are advised to call the cooperative office to find out how member-generated electricity will affect their monthly bill.

Edgewood Golf Course



Contractor Dinner

The 29th Annual Contractor Dinner was held at Edgewood Golf Club in Auburn. Once again, local contractors were able to hear what the cooperative is doing for its members and some of the challenges facing rural communities. RECC President/CEO Sean Middleton discussed some of the regulations that could impact the cooperative and grant opportunities that could become available if the RECC Board elects to pursue them. Other topics included the effects of

member-generated solar, the electrification of vehicles (EVs), and the industry's efforts to prepare for a future without fossil fuels. RECC offers a special thanks to the contractors who attended this year. The cooperative appreciates their commitment and the service they provide to our members. The 2024 attendees included: Snell Enterprise Plumbing and Heating, Rettberg's Inc., Ladage Construction, Two Tom Services, Pawnee Lumber, and Jeff Tuxhorn Construction.

RECC Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024

7 p.m.

Erin's Pavilion

4965 S 2nd Street

Springfield, IL



District 9 Meet & Greet and Cooperative Communicators



*Community Center
Modesto, Illinois*

In March, RECC members from District 9 met up with the Cooperative Communicators Committee to discuss co-op-related issues. President/CEO Sean Middleton discussed various topics including system reliability, wholesale power costs, electric rates, EVs, solar, grant opportunities and RECC's commitment to the community. The communicators group meets

regularly, but the District 9 meeting was added exclusively for members in the cooperative's southwestern territory who may not have an opportunity to visit the office in Auburn or attend the annual membership meeting in Springfield. Last year, a similar district meeting was held in District 8, which is in the southern portion of RECC's service territory.

Linemen attend Career Fair at Auburn High School



Auburn, IL



Manager of Operations & Maintenance Tim Hemberger highlighted some of the safety advancements that he has experienced during his 37 years at the co-op. Line Foreman Travis Boylen spoke to students about the training required to work in the electrical industry. Both noted that becoming a journeyman lineman can be a lengthy process. RECC linemen must acquire certification from an accredited line school and be selected for a six-month internship. Once completed, candidates become eligible for full-time employment if positions are available. Those selected will go on to serve a 4-year apprenticeship, receive more training, and elevate to a journeyman lineman once they have achieved proficiency.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Rural HiLights Flashback

REA is gone

As of Oct. 20, 1994, REA no longer exist. A name change was instituted that will reflect the true role of the program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture that administers the fund lending for rural electrification. The program's new name is Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The new program will allow Rural Electric Cooperative's to have access to loan funds for the creation of new programs including rural water and sewers, as well as other programs that will benefit rural America. The roll that RECC will have in this new program will be determined by the membership through your board of directors. At this time we are exploring the possibilities, needs and options that are open to us. The membership will be kept informed as more information becomes available.

December 1994

REA still resonates with rural America

It's been 30 years since the Rural Electrification Administration existed, but some people still refer to our local cooperative as REA. Ironically, RECC was never known as REA but the recognition of the federal program, which affected so many lives, has been resilient. Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative or RECC was just one of the hundreds of cooperatives that benefited from the REA. Its direct-loan program helped finance the infrastructure for electrifying our 5-county territory.

Before the REA program, most cities in the U.S. had some form of electricity, but only 10% of farms were connected to the electrical grid. Two decades later, 90% of the homes and farms were served by cooperatives. The act remained unchanged until 1993, when amended to facilitate other rural services. REA was changed to RUS or Rural Utility Services and authorized to grant loans and provide support for rural development services like water, sewer, natural gas, telecommunications, and eventually broadband internet.