



# RuralHIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL HIGHLIGHTS



Shane Norris

Andrew Boston

Bill Hart

Hayden Jacobs

Travis Boylen

Tim Hemberger



**RECC line crews were recognized with the 2024 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.**



## Auburn Food Pantry selected for 2025 donation

Employees of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative donated \$650 to the Auburn Food Pantry. Ron Waterkotte and the volunteers were grateful for the generous donation and thanked the cooperative for thinking of them this year. The co-op and its employees have made similar donations to food pantries in Franklin, Pawnee, Raymond, Girard, Waverly, Palmyra, Divernon, Morrisonville, Edinburg, and Kincaid. With the continued support of our employees, we look forward to continuing this tradition.



*RECC Manager of Operations Tim Hemberger, Betty Ludek, Ron Waterkotte, Kathryn Baldwin, Journeyman Lineman Shane Norris.*

## Contractor Dinner



The 30th 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 potential grant opportunities that may become available and updated the progress of the cooperative's BEAD application, a grant program that would provide funding for broadband internet service for rural members. 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 2025 attendees included: Snell Enterprise Plumbing and Heating, Rettberg's Inc., Ladage Construction, Two Tom Services, Pawnee Lumber, and Pense Construction of Litchfield.

## Nominating committee selects three candidates



### 2025 Nominating Committee

#### District 1 — Clayton Bloome

Jeff Fjestul  
1524 Horse Creek Trail  
Pawnee, IL 62558

Rodney Bourne  
35243 Black Diamond Trail  
Pawnee, IL 62558

Miranda Langen  
141 E 900 North Rd  
Morrisonville, IL 62546

#### District 2 — Chris Wilcox

Wanda Burnett  
684 Duewer Rd  
Waverly, IL 62692

Tracy Ashbaugh  
769 Duewer Rd  
Waverly, IL 62692

Kevin Duewer  
10813 Pleasant Valley Rd  
Waverly, IL 62692

#### District 3 — Jimmy Ayers

Vince Fisher  
6311 Mottar Rd  
Rochester, IL 62563

Joe Coffey  
7993 New City Rd  
Rochester, IL 62563

Dale Fesser  
6101 New City Rd  
Rochester, IL 62563

*Pictured left to right: Dale Fesser, Vince Fisher, Wanda Burnett, Miranda Langen, Tracy Ashbaugh, Jeff Fjestul.*

The RECC nominating committee met on March 6, 2025, 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 reelection in districts 1, 2 and 3.

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. Petition forms are available

**(District 1)**  
Clayton Bloome  
4395 E Divernon Rd  
Pawnee, IL 62558

**(District 2)**  
Chris Wilcox  
744 Duewer Rd  
Waverly, IL 62692

**(District 3)**  
Jimmy Ayers  
8640 Cardinal Hill Rd  
Rochester, IL 62563

from the co-op office in Auburn and must be returned by April 28, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. Any persons nominated by petition will be included in the 2025 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 co-operative. The election to the board of directors will take place at the annual meeting of members on June 12, 2025, to serve until the third subsequent annual meeting of members thereafter:

Dated at Auburn, Illinois this 6th day of March, 2025.

*[Signatures: Dale Fesser, Vince Fisher, Wanda Burnett, Tracy Ashbaugh, Miranda Langen, Jeff Fjestul]*

*[Signature: Rodney Bourne]* Chairman



## Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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[www.recc.coop](http://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.

**Our office will be closed  
on Friday, April 18th for  
Easter observance.**



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 coop 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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