

## Statewide scholarship awarded to local student

Matthew Held of Chatham has been selected to receive a \$2,500 scholarship provided by Illinois electric cooperatives. Matthew is the son of RECC member Dean Held, making him eligible to participate and receive the award. RECC is honored to have a scholarship recipient winner this year and excited for him to represent our community.

Matthew attends Glenwood High School and is one of 16 winners of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships. He competed with 293 other students from across the state. These scholarships are exclusively for members, employees or directors of electric cooperatives. An additional scholarship is also reserved for a student interested in lineworker's college, and that winner will be announced at a later date. Matthew will be recognized during the AIEC Annual Meeting on July 31, 2025, in Springfield, Ill.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college



*President/CEO Sean Middleton presents scholarship to Matthew Held*

entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives. This scholarship fund has grown from

two \$1,000 scholarships awarded in 1996 to now providing sixteen \$2,500 scholarships throughout the state. Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners.



### Co-op leaders lobby

Electric Cooperative Lobby Day took place April 10 in Springfield, where 80 cooperative leaders representing 29 Illinois distribution and generation cooperatives gathered with transmission cooperatives to speak with state senators and representatives at the State Capitol regarding proposed legislation that impacts rural Illinois residents.

## Electric co-op leaders lobby for the rights of their members



*Illinois State Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer meets with RECC's directors and staff*

"Electric cooperative leaders must engage with elected officials to advocate for co-op priorities, explain legislative impacts, and share our story," said Nick Reitz, vice president of government relations at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), which coordinates the annual event. "Electric Cooperative Lobby Day is a key opportunity for co-op leaders to discuss the proposed legislation that threatens to eliminate local control of cooperative operations and raise rates, as well as force co-ops to implement unfair solar net-metering policies."

For example, House Bill 3779 and Senate Bill 2473 would take local control away from cooperatives, instead giving oversight authority of power generation resources to the Illinois Power Agency and rate-setting authority for distributed generation to the Illinois Commerce Commission. These bills would deny cooperatives the flexibility to plan for sustainability in the long-term future and ultimately increase consumer-members' rates.

"Illinois electric co-ops serve more than 600,000 residents in the state," said Reitz. "As not-for-profit electric cooperatives, it's our duty to ensure fairness and maintain financial strength for co-op members across the state."

## Norris promoted to line foreman

Congratulations to Shane Norris. He was promoted to line foreman on May 5, 2025, and will have the responsibility of leading daily operations for one of RECC's two line crews. Shane is from Auburn and began his career in 2006 as an intern at RECC. He was hired as a lineman apprentice at Shelby Electric Cooperative, where he was employed for six years. In 2014, Shane returned to the Auburn area and rejoined RECC as a journeyman lineman.



*Line Foreman Shane Norris and Manager of Operations Bill Hart*

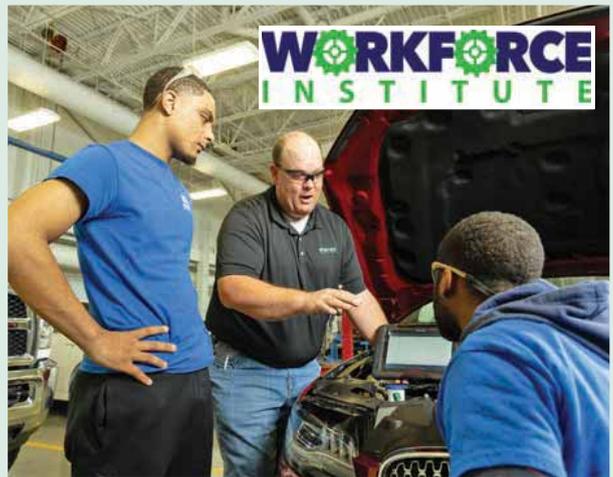
# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Co-op's EV returns to Lincoln Land campus



Manager of Member Services Jeff Lancaster gave an EV presentation at Lincoln Land Community College for 30 students enrolled in automotive and electronic fields, focusing on EVs' potential effects on electric distribution systems.

About the program: LLCC auto tech offers a 1-year automotive technology certificate geared towards entry-level skills and work. This class will help students get into independent repair shops or dealerships to start a career in the automotive repair industry. The 2-year degree offers more in-depth auto tech classes and general education courses to better prepare students for entry-level positions. Technicians with 2-year degrees can also transfer to a 4-year institution if they are seeking a manufacturing-level position.



## District 6 Meet & Greet and Cooperative Communicators



*President/CEO Middleton greets co-op members & guests*

In March, RECC members from District 6 met up with the Cooperative Communicators Committee to discuss co-op-related issues. The joint meeting was held in Taylorville at Angelo's Pizza. The restaurant provided a banquet room where 70 guests were served a buffet dinner. 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 6 meeting was added exclusively for members in the cooperative's eastern territory who may not have an opportunity to visit the office in Auburn or attend the annual membership meeting in Springfield. In the last two years, similar district meetings have been held in Districts 7 and 8, which are in the southern and eastern portions of RECC's service territory.



*District 6 Director Mel Repscher*

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Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.

## Happy Birthday, America!



Our office will be closed on  
Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>  
in observance of  
Independence Day.

## RECC's 88th Annual Meeting



Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's Annual Meeting was held at Erin's Pavilion on June 12th. The event occurred too late for coverage to be included in this issue, but will appear in the August center section of the Illinois Country Living magazine. Voting results and photos can be found on [www.recc.coop](http://www.recc.coop) or any of the cooperative's social media sites.