



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

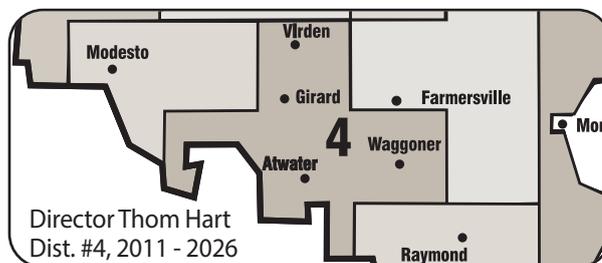
Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Director Hart announces retirement



After serving as a director for 15 years, Thom Hart is retiring from the RECC Board. He intends to complete his 5th term, but chose not to seek reelection in June. Congratulations Thom, and thanks for serving your cooperative.

Hart is from the Atwater area and has been the representative of the 4th district since 2011. He was a CILCO lineman and crew leader for 29 years and worked for Egizii Electric before being elected to the board. Thom and his wife Mary volunteered for several community projects organized through both their church and the cooperative.



Director Thom Hart
Dist. #4, 2011 - 2026

Thom says, he has learned a lot during his time on the board, and described it as a continuous educational experience. He remains proud of the cooperative and its accomplishments. Thom also noted his appreciation for the quality of the employees and their dedication to their jobs.

Notice: The nominating committee is scheduled to meet on March 5, 2026, (6:00 p.m.) at the cooperative headquarters. Directors up for election are *No Incumbent* (District 4), *Garry Niemeyer* (District 5), and *Mel Repscher* (District 6). The committee members will select candidates in these districts for the election on June 8, 2026. Nominations may also be made by petition, from qualified members residing within a district up for election.

What are the minimum requirements and expectations for a cooperative director?

- Directors must receive electric service from RECC 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 conflicting business interests or nepotism issues.
- The board meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the headquarters in Auburn.
- Directors are expected to attend all regular board meetings, usually beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Directors attend all special board meetings, committee meetings, and RECC's annual meeting.
- Directors should also attempt to attend one NRECA meeting or a 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.
- Directors receive a per diem of \$200-\$375, depending on Leadership Credentials.
- They receive mileage allowances for attending meetings and expenses when traveling for 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 basic business policies, similar to the board of directors of any other corporation.
- The board employs a president/CEO who is responsible for all the operational details.

Illinois law set to alter co-op policy in June

Over 1,000 pages were included in the latest omnibus energy bill. Most of the language in the newly signed bill mandates action by electric utilities regulated by the ICC, but some of the requirements will pertain to municipalities and cooperatives governed by a board of directors. The enacted legislation attempts to standardize individually crafted policies across the industry.

To comply, RECC's Net Metering policy will change on June 1, 2026, by increasing the size of eligible



self-generation from 10 kW to 25 kW. The insurance requirement for members installing small generating systems will also be removed if safety standards are met and the contractor is licensed and possesses commercial general liability insurance coverage of at least \$1,000,000

per occurrence/\$2,000,000 in the aggregate per year. These changes do not apply to the grandfathered class, but members may withdraw from legacy status at any time to increase the size of their system from 10 kW up to 25 kW. Look for updates after polices are changed in April or May.



Members Programs Community News & Info About Us Safety



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Outages



Rebates



Our EV



Solar

RECC's membership is already well-informed, but the new law mandates that specific information that members receive by mail, must also be published on recc.coop. Members will continue to receive official election notices by mail and encouraged to attend annual or district meetings. The co-op's primary form of communication is still the monthly newsletters and annual reports, which are delivered by mail as required by the co-op's bylaws. All traditional member communications will continue, but more of that information will be posted online for the public to see in the future.

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

PO Box 19 Auburn, IL 62615 217-438-6197

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Town, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Account #: _____

Check boxes that apply, limited to one each, dryer, range, water heater and heating system

- Electric clothes dryer Rebate\$50
- Electric range and oven Rebate\$50
- Heat Pump with gas or propane furnace..... Rebate\$100
- Heat Pump with electric backup heat Rebate \$250
- Geothermal with electric or gas backup..... Rebate \$250
- Electric water heater Rebate \$250
- Electric Vehicle with Level 2 Charger..... Rebate \$250

Complete this box for water heater rebate. Minimum of 40 gallons / One per household

Brand: _____ Size (gallons): _____
 Model #: _____ Serial #: _____
 Installer: _____ New home or Retrofit: _____

Complete this box for heat pump or geo rebate. Minimum of 2.5 tons/One per household

Brand: _____ Size (tons): _____ Installer: _____
 Model #: _____ Serial #: _____
 Backup heat source: Electric _____ Propane _____ Natural Gas _____ Other _____

Complete this box if you own or lease an EV and install a Level 2 charging station / Limit 1

Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____
 Charger Brand: _____ Model: _____ Amps: _____

Send rebate form and a copy of sales receipt to:

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative
Attention: Jeff Lancaster / Rebates
P. O. Box 19 Auburn, IL 62615

(Office Use:) _____

Rebate approved by: _____

Date processed: _____

Total amount: _____

Rebate checks paid directly to member after installation.

Official Rebate Request Form January 2025

3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19 • Auburn, IL 62615
(217) 438-6197
e-mail: recc@recc.coop
www.recc.coop

Find us on 

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See our web page for monthly
board meeting reports.

Former director passes away



Lou Weitekamp passed away at the age of 82. Lou served 12 years as the cooperative's District 8 director before resigning from the board in September of 2022. The Farmersville native and SIU Carbondale graduate served during a critical time in the cooperative's history, making difficult decisions that would help shape RECC's financial outlook for many years. Lou was happy with the progress that RECC had made in reducing electrical costs and continued to act in the best interest of the members. After leaving the board,

he and his wife Judy remained in the Raymond area and spent some of their winters in Texas.

(RECC District #8 Director from 2010 -2022)

Safety Tip

If you're outside during a tornado, get to a sturdy building if possible. Never stay in a vehicle during a tornado or try to outrun it. If no shelter is nearby, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area away from cars, trees and power lines. Protect your head with your arms.



Safe
Electricity.org

Co-op Community Grants Available in 2026

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 April 1, 2026. 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.