



# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

RURAL HIGHLIGHTS



*Michael Lavin and Shane Norris spent a week in southern Kentucky assisting Farmers RECC and Tri-County EMC restore power after Winter Storm Fern. Both cooperatives experienced severe damage, causing thousands of members to be out of power. They endured hazardous conditions, freezing temperatures, and difficult terrain.*

## Girard Food Pantry selected

Employees of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative donated \$450 to the Girard Food Pantry. Nancy Bitner, food pantry president, was grateful for the cooperative's donation and said it would help them serve the community. The cooperative has made similar donations to food pantries in Auburn, Franklin, Pawnee, Raymond, Waverly, Palmyra, Divernon, and Morrisonville. RECC and its employees have continued this tradition for more than 20 years.



*RECC's Nick Hays and Shelley Barnes present check to Food Pantry President Nancy Bitner and Kevin Ball.*



Our office will be closed on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate Easter.

## RECC receives another safety award



Dalton Brown

Sean Koen

Drayton Davis

Matt Evans

Bill Hart

RECC line crews were recognized with the 2025 award for Best Lost Time Rate. The AIEC certificate recognizes safety awareness and rewards cooperatives that demonstrate safety leadership, promote safety culture, and go above and beyond normal safety expectations. Congratulations!



# Nominating committee selects three candidates



## 2026 Nominating Committee

### District 4 — Thom Hart

Mark Prose  
Girard, IL

James J. Riba  
Virden, IL

Kenneth Tate  
Girard, IL

### District 5 — Garry Niemeyer

John Megginson  
Auburn, IL

David Moose  
Auburn, IL

Blake Ladage  
Auburn, IL

### District 6 — Mel Repscher

Tom Vail  
Taylorville, IL

Ted Chapman  
Taylorville, IL

Gary Suomela  
Taylorville, IL 62568

*Note: James Riba  
attended virtually using  
video-communications.*

*Nominating Committee left to right: John Megginson, Mark Prose, Blake Ladage, Gary Suomela, Kenneth Tate, David Moose, Ted Chapman, and Thomas Vail*

The Nominating Committee met on March 5, 2026, to select candidates for the Board of Directors to stand for election at this year's annual meeting. The committee nominated two incumbents and a new candidate in District #4, where the incumbent director chose not to seek re-election. The nominees are listed below:

#### District 4

Scott Landrey  
Virden, IL

#### District 5

Garry Niemeyer  
Auburn, IL

#### District 6

Melvin L. Repscher  
Taylorville, IL

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 residing in that district.

Petition forms are available from the co-op office in Auburn and must be returned by **April 24, 2026** at 4 p.m. to appear on the ballot for the June 8 annual meeting. Any persons nominated by petition will be included in the 2026 Annual Report, which will be printed in the June edition of Illinois Country Living magazine. Biographical information and a statement from each candidate will also be included in the report.

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 benefit of all RECC member-owners!

Dated at Auburn, Illinois this 5th day of March, 2026.

*Res. Scott Landrey*  
*Garry Niemeyer*  
*Blake Ladage*  
*Ted S. Prose*  
*Thomas Vail*  
*John Megginson*  
*Ted Chapman*  
*David Moose* Chairman

## Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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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 residing 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 or have nepotism conflicts.
- 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 per diem of \$200 or \$375 with Board Leadership Credentials. They get IRS mileage allowance for attendance of co-op meetings and expenses when traveling on cooperative 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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