



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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RECC hosts 89th annual meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting of Members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative was held at Erin's Pavilion. Special guests included: State Senator 54th District Steve McClure, AIEC's Craig Sondgeroth and Kayla Adkins, former RECC Director John Beatty, retiree Dean Fuchs, and Pastor Dave Fox of Grace Church in Springfield, who delivered the invocation.

Chairman Chris Wilcox called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and announced that a quorum was present with 164 members registered in person. He introduced the Board of Directors, Attorney Steve Courtney, Cooperative President/CEO Sean Middleton, before appointing Shelley Barnes as Recording Secretary and Vince Fisher as Sergeant at Arms.

Secretary/Treasurer Jimmy Ayers read the Official Notice of the 2026 Annual Meeting. The minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members were presented and approved. Ayers presented the Treasurer's Report for 2025, noting that the co-op's total power cost was \$10,741,604 or 59% of the \$18,063,179 in total revenue, and concluded that it ended last year with margins of \$593,058.

Chairman Wilcox stated RECC's members have had one of the longest periods of rate stability in recent history, and RECC's rates are among the lowest of all Illinois electric cooperatives. He said that our

residential rates continue to remain competitive and affordable, and we will continue with our long-term power supply contract with NextEra Energy.

President/CEO Middleton spoke about the future of rural communities, opportunities, and continual innovation. Middleton reviewed the rise of artificial intelligence and the demand for electricity created by digital technologies. He emphasized that the cooperative is committed to ensuring a safe, reliable, resilient, and affordable electric grid for our members.

Chairman Wilcox announced that Thom Hart was retiring from the RECC board, and Lydia Megginson and Elizabeth Allen were selected for the Youth to Washington trip, and presented service awards to Andrew Boston and Sean Koen. Nominating Committee Chairman David Moose delivered the Committee Report and Attorney Steve Courtney conducted the election of directors. Scott Landrey of District 4, Garry Niemeyer of District 5, and Melvin Repscher of District 6 were unopposed and elected by unanimous consent. Three proposed Bylaw changes were also presented and adopted unanimously.

Chairman Wilcox called for any unfinished or new business. He thanked the members for attending and adjourned the annual meeting.





More than 400 people attended the cooperative's annual meeting at Erin's Pavilion in Springfield.



Thanks to all our members and their guests for attending RECC's 89th Annual Meeting.



Before adjourning, names were drawn and prizes were awarded. Here are the winners:



\$300 Grand Prize

Jon Hacker

\$100 Cash Prize:

Steven Wright

Richard Ellis

Jessica Sharp

Justin King

\$50 Cash Prize:

David Moose

Scott Landrey

Craig Thorpe

Eric Polley

\$20 Cash Prize:

Cathy Manning

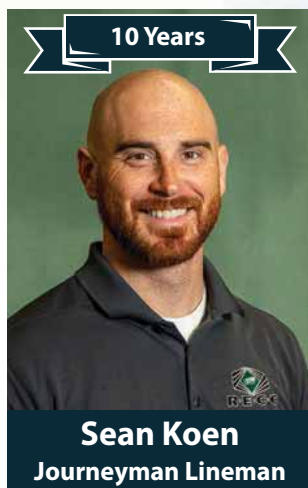
Tommy Bryden

James Ritchey

Mark Wayman

Linda Caruthers





Satisfaction Survey: We need your thoughts

Random members will be receiving a satisfaction survey this summer. Members who complete the survey will be entered in a drawing to win \$250. The survey results will be used to help improve your service.

What should you do when the power goes out?

1. Determine if the outage is widespread or isolated just to your location. Check with neighbors to see if they still have power. Make sure the circuit breakers in your service panels are on and not tripped.
2. Look at your electric meter outside and see if it has power. If you see a digital display on the face of the meter, you should have power feeding your main breaker. If there is no display, call and report an outage.
3. If the meter has power and your meter is on a pole or pedestal, check the main breaker beneath the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings before resetting the breaker to the "ON" position.
4. If you still do not have power in the house, you may have a problem inside the meter socket or in the lines feeding into the house. Call RECC to report a problem. A cooperative employee may return the call and walk you through the troubleshooting process to help determine whether the problem should be handled by RECC or by your electrician.
5. If the outage you are reporting is widespread, you may hear a busy signal or be answered by an automatic system that asks for your account information, but you should still give us your information so that we can be sure your outage is not caused by a different problem other than the large outage.
6. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

How do I report an outage?

If you have not signed up for SmartHub, call **(217) 438-6197** to report your outage. Please give the name on the account or the account number, service address, and phone number. You may receive a busy signal or your call may not be completed if there is an area-wide outage or major storm. Never use email or social media to report an outage. These communications are not monitored regularly, and outages reported by these methods can go unnoticed throughout the evening or entire weekend.

SmartHub is the quickest and most effective way to notify the cooperative when your power is out. With a few swipes or clicks, you can send your outage information directly to the RECC linemen on-call. Their cell phones will register the outage immediately, along with your name, address, and account number. **SmartHub** software will record your outage, log it with other notifications, and use the reported data to predict if other accounts may be affected. Automated Outage Reporting is a new feature that you can take advantage of by signing up for **SmartHub**. Just go to our website at recc.coop and download the app.

Report your outage with smart hub



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
Scott Landrey
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 

Notice - 2025 Capital Credit Equity Allocation

The allocation of 2025 margins to members doing business with Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative has been calculated and assigned. A total of \$593,058 of 2025 margins was allocated as capital credit equity. We have calculated each member's share of the total margins based on the member's use of electricity in 2025. That amount has been credited to your capital credit equity account. See your August billing statement.

This amount is only an accounting equity credit. It cannot be claimed at the present time, nor can it be applied against your current electric bill. Your board of directors reviews the financial condition of the cooperative before determining when and how much capital credit equity can be returned or retired to the members.

Remember, you must be a member and have service in your name to have capital credit equity allocated to you. If you are receiving electric service through someone else's membership or the service is in the name of a deceased person, you will not receive capital credit equity. Any capital credit retirements will be issued in the name of the person on the membership or the estate of a deceased member. If you move off the cooperative lines, always provide us with your current address, so we can send your future capital credit equity retirements.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” — fake text messages designed to look like they’re from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you’re owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



We will be
Closed
on
Labor Day