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Rock Energy Cooperative

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Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer

More Power to You MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY FILLED WITH FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Member Appreciation Day is one of the best parts of my job and the one I find most enjoyable. While delivering popcorn and ice cream to members after they finished their pancake breakfast, I was overwhelmed by the sense of community as people of all ages gathered to have some fun and fellowship.

The weather on Sept. 15 was as close to perfect as possible, and smiles were seen on faces everywhere.

Workers from Chris Cakes flipped pancakes right onto members' plates. Members took turns spinning the prize wheel and collecting a small token of our appreciation. The health fair, sponsored by Mercy Health System, offered free blood pressure screening and other health advice.

Members stopped at our information tables to learn about

the new meters being installed throughout our service territory, the importance of calling 811 before every digging project, and all the ways Rock Energy supports our youth.

Throughout our Janesville warehouse, members were catching up with old friends and making new ones. Outside, bucket truck rides provided a spectacular view of the city, and the little ones enjoyed the bounce house.

Everyone was having a good time. That was especially true in the corner of our warehouse devoted to children's activities, where the atmosphere was (pardon the pun) electrifying. Balloon artists from Funny Faces Family Entertainment transformed ordinary balloons into everything from pirates to frogs to rainbows. Other artists decorated faces with dolphins, baseballs, cats, and more. Parents and grandparents looked on as children were beaming. I hope you had the opportunity to see some of their handiwork.

Also in the kids' corner were talented performers from the Oregon Juggling Club. They patiently taught kids how to juggle, ride a unicycle, and use other props. Next to the jugglers was our Picture Place area, where kids—and adults—could don plastic hats that looked like the hardhats our workers wear and pose for photos. They also tried on reflective safety vests and rubber gloves that lineworkers use for protection. You can see some of those photos on page 20C.

Across town, we sponsored our annual electronics recycling and document shredding event. This was the second year we moved the services to a different site to improve traffic flow and provide a safer environment for everyone. Members brought more than 17 tons of electronics and 3 tons of documents. Since the program started in 2012, more than 89 tons of electronics and 19 tons of paper have been recycled and kept out of our landfills. Thanks to the Janesville Craig High School boys' soccer team for doing the heavy lifting by helping members unload their vehicles.

Member Appreciation Day gives co-op workers and direc-

(Continued on page 20D)



LED Lucy is always a hit with the young ones, who had loads of fun with balloon creatures, painted faces, and energy props. More photos are on page 20C.





Energy Assistance Available for Low-Income Households

For many Illinois households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family's budget. In some cases, families will be forced to make painful decisions about which bills to pay and which necessities to cut.

The federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households pay for winter energy services. Fortunately, Rock Energy Cooperative works with LIHEAP, which benefits about 300,000 Illinois households each year.

LIHEAP Details

LIHEAP heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season that is intended to help pay a portion of a household's heat and electric costs. The benefit amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs.

In most cases, the benefit is applied as a credit directly to the household's Rock Energy account. You do not need to duplicate your efforts by applying for assistance with both your local agency and Rock Energy.

You are eligible for heating assistance if your household's combined income is at or below the levels shown on this chart:

Illinois LIHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2018–2019 Heating Season

Household Size	30-Day Household Income	Annual Household Income
1	\$1,518	\$18,210
2	\$2,058	\$24,690
3	\$2,598	\$31,170
4	\$3,138	\$37,650
5	\$3,678	\$44,130
6	\$4,218	\$50,610
7	\$4,578	\$57,090
8	\$5,298	\$63,570

Where to Apply

To apply for assistance, you'll need to complete a Home Energy Plus application and provide information on each household member and their income as well as records of your heating costs.

For more information and application details, please call your local office:

- Winnebago County (South Beloit, Rockton, and Roscoe residents only): 815-389-0914 or 815-624-7788, Rockton Township, 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton.
- Boone County: 815-544-3144, United Way of Boone County, 220 W. Locust St., Belvidere.
- Stephenson County: 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111, Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency, 27 S. State Ave., Freeport.
- McHenry County: 815-338-7752, McHenry County Housing Authority, 1108 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock.

Weatherization Services

When you apply for energy assistance, the local agency also will see if you qualify for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps fund energy-efficiency, home improvement projects. If you are eligible for weatherization services, an energy auditor will look at your home to see what can be done to make it more energy efficient. Weatherization services differ with each home, depending on how it was built and its condition.

For general information, call toll-free 877-411-9276 or visit www.illinoisliheap.com.



Member Appreciation Day Brings Lots of Smiles

These photos show some of the happy faces at this year's Member Appreciation Day. More photos are available at <https://rockenergy.smugmug.com>.



MY CO-OP



FORMER CO-OP DIRECTOR DIES

Jo Miller, the first woman elected to the Rock Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, died Sept. 12 after a yearlong illness.

Miller served as District 9 director from 1992–2016. She received her Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association after participating in many educational offerings over the years.

“Jo was a strong supporter of the cooperative,” said Shane Larson, chief executive officer. “She loved to share our Rock Co-op message, especially at Member Appreciation Days. She will be greatly missed.”

Miller received a real estate broker’s license in 1977 and established Jo Miller Realty in 1982. She and her husband, Ray, farmed about 800 acres in Center, Magnolia, and Porter townships for many years. She also served on the Rock County Board of Adjustment and chaired the Center Township Plan Commission.

She was active in Magnolia and Rock County 4-H, FFA Alumni, and the Rock County Pork Producers. She also was a life member of the Friends of the Evansville, Orfordville, and Janesville Hedberg Public Libraries.

Her daughter, Barbara Miller, currently serves on the board, representing District 1.



Jo Miller served as a director of the co-op from 1992 to 2016.

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO SENIORS

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$500 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our independent scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$102,000 in financial aid to deserving students.

Online applications are available at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 9. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Uebelacker, communications director, at 866-752-4550 or barbu@rock.coop.

In addition, scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. These scholarships are available to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op. Applications must be completed online at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline is Dec. 31.

More Power to You (Continued from page 20A)

tors an opportunity to offer thanks for allowing us to be your energy provider. We all appreciate that members took time out of their busy schedules to spend a few hours of fun and fellowship with us.

You may have noticed that employees and directors were wearing yellow ribbon pins. They were to honor former director Jo Miller, who passed away three days before the event after battling health issues.

Jo was a strong advocate for the cooperative way. While she may have been short in stature, she was mighty big in the way she represented the members of the co-op. Always willing to have a healthy discussion regarding what was best for members, Jo left no doubt that she cared deeply for the cooperative.

Personally, I will miss Jo for her unwavering support, her quick laugh, and thoughtful heart. Numerous times, Jo and I would have a conversation on a subject and then the next time we were together, she’d hand me a book on that subject. Listening is caring. My deepest sympathies go to Jo’s husband, Ray, and her entire family.

Please let us know if there’s anything we can do to improve our service to you. We truly are grateful to be your energy provider.

Have a Safe, Happy Thanksgiving!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23, in observance of Thanksgiving. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 26. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power

outage, please call 866-752-4550.



Shane Larson, CEO

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Barbara Uebelacker, Editor



ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Empowering Members Since 1936