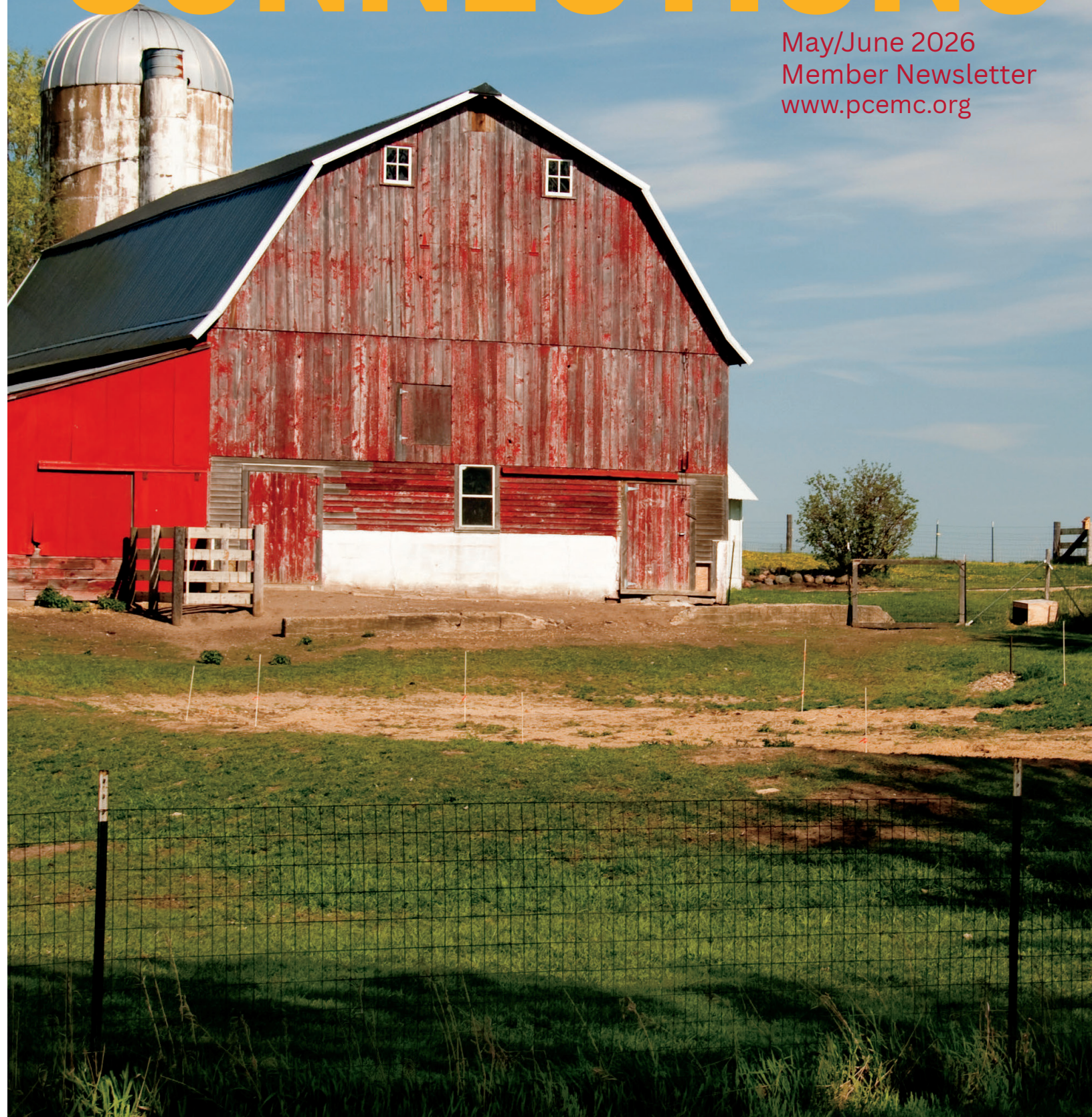




PC Electric

# CONNECTIONS

May/June 2026  
Member Newsletter  
[www.pcemc.org](http://www.pcemc.org)



**May/June 2026**

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**Congratulations to our incredible students selected for the NRECA Youth Tour Trip!**

**West Baton Rouge: Curteiz McClain attending Port Allen High School**

**Iberville: Abigail Martin attending St. John High School**

**Pointe Coupee Parish: Dynasty White attending STEM Magnet Academy**

We are so proud to have you represent our community on this once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C. 🇺🇸 During this unforgettable experience, students will explore our nation's capital, visit historic landmarks and monuments, meet with elected officials, and learn firsthand about how government and electric cooperatives work together to serve communities. Along the way, they'll build friendships with other students from across the country, grow their leadership skills, and gain a deeper understanding of civic engagement and the cooperative difference. Your hard work, leadership, and dedication truly set you apart—we can't wait to see all the amazing experiences and memories you'll bring back home!



**HAPPY  
MEMORIAL DAY**

Our office will be closed  
**Monday, May 25, 2026**  
for the Memorial Day Holiday.

A dispatcher will be on duty for  
outage or emergency reporting.  
225-638-3751 or www.pcemc.org

 **PC Electric**



A man wearing a blue baseball cap, a denim shirt, and dark overalls is working in a cornfield. He is looking down at the corn plants. The background is a bright, sunny field of corn.

# USDA HELP FOR FARMS, HOMES, AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Life in Pointe Coupee, Iberville, and West Baton Rouge Parishes depends on strong farms, small businesses, and close-knit communities. Many people in rural areas are facing higher input costs, aging equipment, and tight budgets. The USDA Rural Development office offers programs meant to help rural families, farmers, ranchers, and business owners keep going and plan for the future.

## **Update on the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**

The Rural Energy for America Program, also known as REAP, has helped many farmers and rural small businesses in the past pay for energy improvements. These projects often included things like solar panels, better lighting, upgraded heating and cooling systems, insulation, and more (1610305) efficient irrigation equipment. The goal of the program has always been to help lower energy bills and make operations more reliable over time.

There has been an important change to this program. As of March 31, 2026, the USDA has stopped all REAP grant applications and awards nationwide. This means that no new REAP grants are being approved, and USDA has also stopped working on grant applications that were already (1933901) submitted. Anyone who applied before will have to apply again later when the program reopens. At this time, USDA has not given a date for when REAP grants will start again.

## **REAP Loans Are Still Available**

Even though REAP grants are on hold, the program has not shut down completely. USDA is still accepting applications for REAP loan guarantees. These loans can still be used to pay for energy upgrades and renewable energy projects. With a loan guarantee, USDA helps reduce risk for lenders, which can make it easier for farmers and rural businesses to get financing. For some operations, this may still be an option worth (2077100) considering while grants are paused. Local USDA Rural Development offices can explain how these loans work and whether they may be a good fit.

## **Other USDA Programs That Can Help Right Now**

USDA Rural Development offers several other programs that continue to support rural communities. The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program works through local electric cooperatives and utility providers to offer zero-interest loans and grants for projects that create or keep jobs in rural towns. These funds go to local businesses and community projects that support long-term economic stability.

Farmers who want to do more with what they produce may be interested in Value-Added Producer Grants. This program helps producers explore processing, marketing, or packaging their products so they can earn more rather than only selling raw commodities.

Rural small businesses can also look to the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program. This program helps business (2272202) owners get financing to buy equipment, expand their operations, or keep workers on the job when traditional financing is difficult to secure.

## **Supporting Rural Communities and Facilities**

Strong rural communities also need solid local infrastructure. Community Facilities Loans and Grants help fund important buildings such as health clinics, fire stations, public safety buildings, libraries, and community centers. These facilities serve families across rural parishes and help communities stay safe and connected.

## **Housing Help for Rural Families**

USDA Rural Development also provides support for rural housing. The Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program offers affordable home loans, with additional help for lower-income households. The Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program helps homeowners fix serious problems in their homes, and it provides grants for elderly homeowners to remove health (2492000) and safety hazards so they can continue living safely in their homes.

## **Looking Ahead**

Federal programs change from time to time, and the pause on REAP grants is disappointing news for many rural families and businesses. Even so, USDA Rural Development continues to offer support through many other programs, and planning now can help people be ready when REAP grants eventually return.

For the most current information, residents are encouraged to contact their local USDA Rural Development office. Staff can explain available programs, talk through loan options, and keep people informed about future funding opportunities. Rural communities are built on hard work and helping one another, and these programs are meant to support that way of life.



# PC Electric

## HOLDS THEIR 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PC Electric Cooperative proudly hosted its Annual Meeting of Members on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, bringing together members, community leaders, and employees for connection, updates, and celebration.

The event served as an opportunity to reflect on the cooperative's accomplishments over the past year, share future plans, and reaffirm PC Electric's commitment to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to its members.

General Manager Craig Magruder (195400) welcomed attendees and delivered an overview of the cooperative's performance in 2025, highlighting system improvements, ongoing infrastructure investments, and continued efforts to enhance reliability across the service area.

Board President Ralph Chustz addressed the membership, emphasizing the importance of cooperative values and member engagement.

Election results were announced and George LaCour, Jr. of District 3 and Brenda Hurst of District 5 were elected without opposition to serve on the PC Electric Board of Directors. They began their new three-year terms at a meeting of the board immediately following the Annual Meeting.

A special highlight of the meeting was the recognition of the 2026 Youth Tour Essay Contest winners. These outstanding students were honored for their achievements and will represent PC Electric (1221300) on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. this summer. Their participation reflects the cooperative's ongoing commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders. We would like to once again congratulate the winners:

**Iberville Parish:** Abigail Martin who attends St. John High School

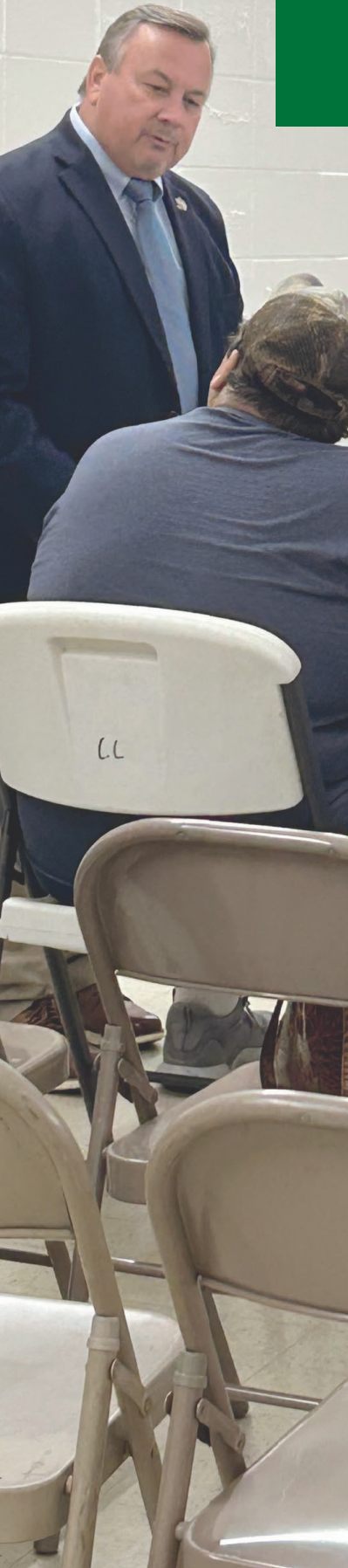
**Pointe Coupee Parish:** Dynasty White who attends STEM Magnet Academy

**West Baton Rouge Parish:** Curteiz McClain who attends Port Allen High School

In addition, attendees enjoyed fellowship, refreshments, and the opportunity to engage with PC Electric staff to learn more about programs and services available to members.

"We are grateful to everyone who attended and helped make this year's Annual Meeting a success," said Craig Magruder. "Our members (1496902) are at the heart of everything we do, and we remain dedicated to serving our community with excellence."

PC Electric appreciates the continued support and involvement of its members and looks forward to another year of growth and service.




## FEELING LUCKY?

LOOK FOR YOUR ACCOUNT  
NUMBER TO WIN A BILL CREDIT

If you see your account number published inside this issue, call PC Electric by June 30, 2026, to receive a \$25.00 credit on your bill. Your account number can be found on your billing statement.

**GOOD LUCK!**



As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use. Source: energy.gov