

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • MARCH 2025

## Who powers you?

Sometimes a big idea is so good, and the person with the idea so passionate about it, that it overcomes the normal obstacles of time and budget constraints and becomes its own thing.

The Somerset Frisch's owner had one of those big ideas just a week away from Thanksgiving in 2023. No obstacle was too big to stop him.

South Kentucky RECC's Billy Hayes is the 2024 Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Who Powers You contest winner. For his efforts, he'll receive a \$1,000 check, which he says will be used to sustain a program that started from an inspiring woman he met at a local fundraiser.

"I had somebody call me and ask if we would allow a family to come in and eat for free, they would pay for it, and then we would sponsor another meal," Hayes said. That was around eight days before Thanksgiving in 2023. He had happily agreed to feed that needy family. And then something unexpected happened while Hayes was attending a fundraiser in another county.

"This lady at the fundraiser had won a \$300 prize. And she was going to use that money to feed the community that was around her in her trailer park," Hayes said. "I was moved that we needed to do something a little bigger than having people come in and eat."

What happened next was improbable, at best.

Hayes began soliciting names of needy families that he might be able to bring meals to on Thanksgiving, without a plan for how it would be done, without any food purchased and without a budget—five days before Thanksgiving.

The first domino that fell toward making the plan work was an offer from the Hillbilly Jeep Crew, a local Jeep club, to make deliveries. The plan spread by word of mouth, and the names of families in need came in droves.

The food—ham, turkey, sides and desserts—was purchased. Forty volunteers showed up to help make it, including Hayes' own employees, who refused to take payment for the food prep. And a Thanksgiving miracle ensued.

More than 800 people were fed. More than 130 families across several counties who wouldn't otherwise have had a holiday meal had it delivered to them, thanks to Hayes' big idea at the wrong time.

"If anyone ever has a need, he is always coming up with ideas and executing them to help," says Bobbie Coggins, who nominated Hayes for the award.

After the Thanksgiving miracle, the idea of feeding needy people on a holiday didn't just go away.

It grew. This time, though, the meals would be for Christmas, and kids want



more than to just be full on Christmas. Hayes knew they'd want toys, too.

"We had numerous companies and businesses throughout Pulaski County who wanted to provide toys for the people we were providing the meal for," Hayes says. Toy donations came in. Food was purchased. Volunteers came, and the meals and toys were all delivered, this time touching more than 1,000 people.

"Being in the food business and having a place to do it really streamlines the process," Hayes says. His family spent 12 hours in the restaurant and employees refused to clock in. "It's humbling to think people would put support and faith in another person."

Hayes says the planning, donations and momentum to deliver meals in 2024 started as early as July with phone

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# June 2025 director election

South Kentucky RECC members will have the opportunity to vote for directors for the co-op's board in June 2025. Two district seats will be up for election. Frank Phillips, legal counsel to the SKRECC Board of Directors, addresses common questions about the upcoming election process.



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## Question: What important dates should I be aware of in this process?

**Answer:** After South Kentucky's Credentials & Elections Committee verifies all candidate information and satisfactory background screenings are completed, the ballot was finalized in mid-February.

- **District 5:** Incumbent Director Tommy Nelson Jr. is unopposed in 2025 and will retain his director's seat effective July 1, 2025.
- **District 1 (Pulaski County):** Incumbent Director Cathy Epperson is challenged by Rick Barker for this seat and the two will conduct their campaigns in compliance with South Kentucky RECC's strict guidelines.

## Voting timeline:

- **Online voting:** Begins May 23, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. and ends June 6, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.
- **In-person voting:** Drive-thru voting will take place during the co-op's annual membership days June 10, 11 and 12.

The election process will be managed by Survey & Ballot Systems. After results are compiled and verified by the Credentials & Elections Committee, a formal announcement will be made to congratulate the winners.

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## Question: How will the 2025 election be conducted, and who is eligible to vote?

**Answer:** The 2025 election will be conducted through online voting and in-person drive-thru voting, utilizing Survey & Ballot Systems as the third-party vendor.

- **Online voting:** Members may vote online from May 23 through June 6 by logging into their South Kentucky RECC account and clicking the VOTE NOW icon. This will redirect them to a secure site to cast their vote for the District 1 candidate. Once a vote is registered, no further voting will be allowed for that account.
- **In-person voting:** Drive-thru voting will occur during membership days at the following locations:
  - » **June 10:** Monticello and Albany district offices
  - » **June 11:** Jamestown and Whitley City district offices
  - » **June 12:** Somerset office

Voting hours for all locations will be 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time). Voting will be conducted electronically using iPads; no paper ballots will be used.

**Eligibility:** Only one vote per South Kentucky RECC member account is permitted. All South Kentucky RECC members are eligible to vote for any candidate running in the election, regardless of the district in which they reside. This means that even if a candidate is running for a district different from the member's home district, that member may still vote for that candidate. Each member may cast one vote per account, either online or in person, but not both.

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## Question: When will the election results be announced, and when will new directors be seated?

**Answer:** The results of the 2025 director election will be certified within one to two days after voting concludes at the final membership day event on June 12, 2025. Newly elected directors will begin their service at the July 2025 regular monthly meeting of the South Kentucky RECC Board of Directors.

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## Question: How can I get answers to questions about the 2025 election process?

**Answer:** As legal counsel to South Kentucky's board of directors, I am available to answer any election-related questions. Please contact me via email at [frank@phillipsattorneys.net](mailto:frank@phillipsattorneys.net).

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calls coming in with names of people, donations and pledges of time.

One of the main reasons for Hayes to continue the meal deliveries in 2024 was the last delivery of 2023.

A family of nine, whose car had broken down on Thanksgiving, had missed their scheduled delivery. Hayes personally got up from his own Thanksgiving

meal and took the family their food.

"They were in a one-bedroom apartment, with seven beds in the living room." The employee with him for that delivery suddenly disappeared. He found him sobbing in the truck.

"You don't realize until you get out there, what all needs attention. And food is one of the biggest things," Hayes says.

The plan going forward is to feed as many people as he can every year, twice a year. That badly-timed big idea is now a big boost for those in need in Somerset and surrounding communities.

Nominate someone making a difference in the 2025 contest during the month of October at [www.WhoPowersYouKy.com](http://www.WhoPowersYouKy.com)



# A springtime challenge

## Nominate a project for Beautify the Bluegrass

As Kentuckians, we're fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. And here at South Kentucky RECC, we're excited to recognize some of the people who help keep it beautiful—starting with the communities we serve.

Beautify the Bluegrass is an annual partnership between Kentucky's electric cooperatives, *Kentucky Living* magazine and the governor's office that recognizes efforts to beautify our state. Each year, homegrown community projects are nominated to be recognized during the Beautify the Bluegrass awards ceremony at the Capitol. This issue of *Kentucky Living* celebrates our 2024 honorees—and I hope it will inspire you to nominate a project of your own.

To be considered for the recognition, all you have to do is nominate your

project—or the good work being done by someone else—at [KentuckyLiving.com/Beautify](https://KentuckyLiving.com/Beautify). The deadline to nominate this year is July 14.

Before you tell yourself this doesn't apply to you, stop and think about the many Beautify the Bluegrass projects that have been recognized in the past. We have celebrated community clean-ups, murals, gardens, parks, landscaping, welcome signs, waterway trash removal and more. Chances are good that you or someone you know has completed some kind of project that beautifies our community. Your good work, or theirs, deserves to be recognized.

Or maybe you haven't completed a beautification project yet, but you want to. If you feel inspired, there's no time like the present. Make your plan, gather your volunteers and complete and enter



CHRIS HAYES

your project by the July 14 deadline.

South Kentucky RECC has always been more than a utility company. Our priority is providing safe, reliable power at an affordable rate, but our larger mission is to improve the quality of life in our community. As we look forward to spring, let's celebrate our partners in this mission—everyone who steps up to beautify the place we call home.

## South Kentucky RECC Annual Membership Days

**June 10, 2025**    **June 11, 2025**    **June 12, 2025**

Wayne and Clinton county offices    McCreary and Russell county offices    Somerset office

7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. All times are local



PHOTOS: MORGAN BLEVINS

## POWERING UP

### How service is restored

**Co-ops restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.**

### HERE'S A BASIC ORDER OF REPAIR:

1. **Transmission lines**, which can serve tens of thousands of people.
2. **Substations**, which can affect thousands of consumers.
3. **Main distribution lines**, which carry electricity from substations to groups of consumers, like towns or housing developments.
4. **Tap lines**, which connect main distribution lines to transformers outside buildings.
5. **Individual service lines**, which run from the transformer to the consumer's electric meter.

WADE HARRIS

#### Board of Directors

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Brent Tackett, Vice Chairman  
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William Allen, Jr.  
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Tommy Nelson, Jr.  
Greg Redmon

#### President & CEO

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#### Communications Administrator

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(606) 387-6476

**McCreary County**  
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**Pulaski County**  
200 Electric Ave., Somerset, KY 42501  
(606) 678-4121

**Russell County**  
2405 N. Main St., Jamestown, KY 42629  
(270) 343-7500

**Wayne County**  
780 N. Main St., Monticello, KY 42633  
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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**Visit [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com)** to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

**To report an outage 24/7/365**, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

**Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:**



# Don't get fooled

## Protect yourself from scammers

**T**hieves are stepping up efforts to pick your pockets by pretending to represent our cooperative. Safeguard your money and personal identity by knowing how to spot a scam.

In the newest con, scammers attempt to trick you into providing your bank account information to receive a refund for an over-paid bill. To further convince you to give up your bank account information, they promise a discount on future electric bills. Beware: Those who fall for this "refund" scam can have their bank account drained and their identity stolen.

Never give your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information to anyone over the phone unless you initiate the conversation, advises Doug Hutton, SKRECC chief membership officer. He lists these additional tips for defending against utility scams:

1. Most utility scams are now initiated via email, phone or text.
2. Be suspicious of anyone claiming to be a South Kentucky RECC employee who requests banking or other personal information.
3. Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be falsified.
4. Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts—especially those asking for your account information.

If you believe you have been called by a scammer, hang up. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. Then call South Kentucky RECC at (800) 264-5112 to report it. If you are in doubt about your account status, contact the co-op.



# SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ON 3/9.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

