



IOWA LAKES
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

ILEC NEWS

Quarterly publication for member-owners

SPRING 2025

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♥ #ThankALineworker

APRIL 14 NATIONAL LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY

Each year, America's electric cooperatives dedicate the second Monday in April to National Lineworker Appreciation Day. Line crews work tirelessly in often tough and hazardous conditions to provide safe, reliable electricity to our homes, businesses, and farms. Whether they are restoring power after a storm or maintaining the vital infrastructure that keeps our system running smoothly, lineworkers are the backbone of every cooperative. National studies consistently rank linework as one of the most dangerous professions in the country—and for good reason. Working at great heights with heavy equipment while managing high voltage makes this job both demanding and unforgiving. Despite these challenges, lineworkers remain dedicated to safety and service, ensuring the power stays on. See page 10-11 for our tribute!

AARON RUSCHY
VICE PRESIDENT OF
OPERATIONS AND
ENGINEERING



"Our lineworkers are the foundation of our Cooperative, demonstrating incredible skill, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to safety every day," says Aaron Ruschy, vice president of operations and engineering. "It's easy to recognize them when they're out in a storm restoring power, but their hard work happens year-round. From maintaining the system and trimming trees to building overhead lines and installing underground infrastructure, they do it all while keeping the lights on and ensuring reliable service for our members. Their focus on safety and precision is what makes it all possible, and we couldn't do it without them."



PRESIDENT/CEO, RYAN CRAIG

At Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, our mission is to provide safe, reliable, affordable power to the rural communities we serve. As a member-owned cooperative, every decision we make is guided by what is best for you—our member-owners. One critical issue that affects the long-term stability of your cooperative is the protection of our service territory.

WHAT IS SERVICE TERRITORY AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Service territory refers to the geographic area where a cooperative has the right and responsibility to provide electric service. These boundaries help ensure fair access to power, avoid costly duplication of infrastructure, and allow cooperatives like ours to plan for the future with confidence.

Originally, electric cooperatives were formed to bring power to rural areas that for-profit utilities ignored. Decades of investment in power lines, substations, and technology, made possible by the certainty of service territories, has made it possible for us to serve our member-owners efficiently. Eroding the certainty provided by service territories can undermine the cooperative model and impact every member's rates and reliability.

PROTECTING OUR SERVICE TERRITORY: WHY IT MATTERS TO YOU

LEGISLATIVE THREATS TO COOPERATIVE SERVICE TERRITORIES

We closely and continuously monitor proposed legislative changes that could undermine cooperative service territories by increasing costs, reducing system reliability, and weakening the cooperative model that has served rural America for generations.

THE IMPACT OF TERRITORY LOSS

If our service territory is challenged or reduced, it can have significant consequences:

- **HIGHER COSTS FOR MEMBER-OWNERS** – Cooperatives, as a not-for-profit, operate at cost, meaning we do not gain a profit like investor-owned utilities. When we lose members in a given area, the remaining members must absorb more of the fixed costs. This can lead to increased rates over time.
- **STRAINS ON INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT** – We plan decades ahead to ensure safe and reliable service. If our territory is uncertain, it becomes more difficult to justify infrastructure investments, delaying improvements that benefit all member-owners.
- **CHALLENGES TO LOCAL CONTROL** – As a cooperative, we are governed by a board of directors elected by our member-owners. Protecting our service territory helps maintain local decision-making, ensuring that our priorities remain focused on the needs of our rural communities, not outside interests.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

One of the key benefits of a strong and stable cooperative is our ability to invest in economic development. At Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, we are committed to projects that improve the quality of life for our communities, including:

- **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** – We support businesses and industries by providing the energy infrastructure they need to grow and create jobs.
- **WORKFORCE AND HOUSING INITIATIVES** – A thriving rural economy requires both a strong workforce and housing options. We partner with local leaders to support efforts that attract and retain skilled workers.
- **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS** – Through grants, loans, and partnerships, we help fund local projects such as fire stations, libraries, schools, and healthcare facilities that make our communities stronger.



These investments are only possible when our cooperative has the stability and resources to plan for the future.

STANDING UP FOR OUR MEMBER-OWNERS

At Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, we are actively engaged in protecting our service territory by:

- Advocating for policies that strengthen and support cooperative service areas.
- Working with lawmakers and regulators to convey the value of the cooperative model.
- Educating policymakers and the public about the risks of weakening territory protection and the potential impact on rural electric reliability and rates.

YOUR ROLE IN PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

As a member-owner, your voice matters. When challenges arise, we may ask you to help by reaching out to legislators or staying informed on the issues. By working together, we can ensure that Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative remains strong, competitive, and member-focused for generations to come.

We are committed to keeping the lights on for our rural communities—because this is more than just electricity; it is about the people, businesses, and farms that depend on us every day.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. If you have any questions about our service territory or how you can help protect it, feel free to reach out. We are always here for you.

Electric cooperatives advocate for affordable and reliable power as Iowa's 2025 Legislative Session begins



Pictured from left to right: Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (ILEC) Directors Chad Boysen and Bruce Amundson, Representatives John Wills and Megan Jones, Senator David Rowley, Representative Henry Stone, vice president of customer and corporate relations, Jennifer Sievert, and ILEC Director Crystal Pluth.

Nearly 170 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives, Iowa Lakes Electric, traveled to downtown Des Moines on January 14 to attend our annual reception at the start of the 91st General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature. At the event, cooperative advocates were able to discuss concerns and priorities face to face with their state legislators. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

“Our legislators are highly engaged in our region and committed to understanding our priorities. Welcoming them back to session provides an opportunity to reinforce the issues impacting the cooperative, ultimately benefiting our rural communities,” comments Jen Sievert, vice president of customer and corporate relations. “Engaging early in the session strengthens our commitment to advocacy, fosters relationships, communicates priorities, and ensures your cooperative staff and board of directors are recognized as trusted energy advisors.”

Representatives from Iowa’s locally owned electric cooperatives covered several important issues that could impact the affordability and reliability of electricity for the members and communities we serve.

Our top legislative priority this session is protecting the state’s defined electric service territories. In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve your home, farm or business. For almost 50 years, these defined electric service areas have provided certainty to electric cooperatives as we work to maintain affordable rates, foster a resilient electric grid and invest in economic development throughout rural Iowa. We strongly oppose any efforts to change or amend the service territory law and you can learn more about this issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com.

→ Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.IAruralpower.org.

DIRECTORS EARN GOLD CERTIFICATE

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN WINTERHOF AND ROGER WILLIAMSON

Two Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative directors received their Director Gold Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). To earn Director Gold, Chair Winterhof and Director Williamson had to complete a three-part program, taken in progression from fundamental to advanced courses.

1. The Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD) requires a director to complete five courses focusing on the basic competencies to serve as an elected board member.
2. The Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) includes the five CCD courses and completing an additional 10 course credits from advanced specialty areas.
3. The Director Gold Certificate is the final tier that consists of the CCD, BLC and three additional education credits from the BLC advanced, specialty courses.

Director Gold demonstrates to cooperative member-owners a director's ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

Thanks to the investment in their professional development, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and our member-owners benefit from well-educated and knowledgeable directors who remain dedicated to serving your Cooperative.



From left to right: Dan Winterhof receives his certificate from Ryan Craig, president/CEO.



From left to right: Roger Williamson receives his certificate from Ryan Craig, president/CEO.

FRIEDRICH RESIGNS FROM BOARD



District II Director David Friedrich submitted his letter of resignation effective immediately on February 27, 2025, to the Board of Directors. Director Friedrich shared that, after careful consideration, he feels it is time to step down from his position due to personal reasons.

Director Friedrich dedicated 10 years of service to Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and his commitment has been truly commendable. Throughout his tenure, he demonstrated a keen sense of duty supporting the member-owners, the employee team and our Cooperative's mission.

Director Friedrich has shown a strong commitment to continuous learning and professional growth beyond his service on the Board. Director Friedrich completed NRECA's

Director Education three-part program, earning his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 2017 followed by his Board Leadership Certificate in 2021 and continuing his commitment to education earning his Director Gold Certificate in 2023. His dedication to improving his skills and knowledge for the benefit of our Cooperative has set a great example for us all.

Note: According to the Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative Bylaws: *Vacancies on the board of directors which occur after the annual meeting of members shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining directors from among members who reside in the district from which the vacancy was created. The director so elected shall serve the remainder of the term of the director creating the vacancy.*

2025 ANNUAL MEETING



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES TOGETHER



Please join us for a free breakfast, inspiring keynote message, and prize drawings

Join fellow member-owners at your Cooperative's 2025 annual meeting. The event will be held on Saturday, April 12, at the Clay County Regional Events Center on the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, Iowa. The purpose of this meeting is to elect your board of directors and to conduct the regular annual business meeting. Please bring your ballot to the annual meeting if you have not already returned it by mail.

Remember to bring your registration form that arrived by mail. This will allow you to be eligible for door prize drawings. You must be present to win.

Powering a Brighter Future for the People of Las Peñas, Guatemala

Imagine life without electricity—no hot showers, no refrigeration, no lights. That was the daily reality for families in Las Peñas, Guatemala, until a team of 14 linemen from Iowa and Minnesota electric cooperatives brought power to their remote village in June.

Partnering with NRECA International, the team built 3.5 miles of electric distribution infrastructure and wired over 30 homes, all by hand, navigating treacherous mountain terrain and unpredictable rain. Villagers eagerly assisted, recognizing how life-changing electricity would be—especially for women and girls, who can now refrigerate food and attend school.

The project culminated in a heartfelt ceremony where the community expressed deep gratitude. For the linemen, the experience reinforced the cooperative mission: electricity isn't just power—it's opportunity. This project mirrors the rural electrification efforts that transformed America decades ago, proving that access to electricity continues to empower communities worldwide.

Join us at the Annual Meeting on April 12 to hear firsthand from the linemen who made this possible and learn more about the life-changing impact of this project!



DOORS OPEN

7:30 AM REGISTRATION BEGINS

- Breakfast provided by Chris Cakes from 7:30 - 8:30 am
- Display area opens. Learn more about energy efficiency programs and rebates, Heartland Security options, and more.



9 AM BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS

- Chairman's Welcome
- Secretary's Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Treasurer's Report
- President/CEO Report
- Operation Round Up Report
- Scholarship Awards
- Youth Tour Representatives
- Keynote Message "Powering a Brighter Future for the People of Las Peñas, Guatemala"
- Director Election
- Prize Drawings



2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTS CANDIDATES



The meeting of the Nominating Committee of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative was held on January 15, 2025, at the office of the Cooperative in Estherville, Iowa. The following members were nominated as candidates for the Director positions and 2026 Nominating Committee

to be voted upon prior to the Annual Meeting of the Membership to be held on April 12, 2025. After determining all prospective candidates were qualified to serve, either as a director or for the nominating committee, the following nominations were submitted for consideration by the entire Committee:

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES:

DISTRICT I – Four Year Term

*Jerry Beck, Spencer, IA
Douglas Westerman,
Milford, IA

DISTRICT II – Four Year Term

*Bruce Amundson,
Larrabee, IA
Jason Glienke, Aurelia, IA
Paul Pingel, Aurelia, IA

DISTRICT III – Four Year Term

*Gary Rouse, Curlew, IA
Barry Anderson,
Greenville, IA

DISTRICT IV – Four Year Term

*Alan Madden, Ringsted, IA

*Denotes incumbent



NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:

DISTRICT I – One Year Term

John Boettcher, Spirit Lake, IA
Rick Gould, Milford, IA
William Heikens, Lake Park, IA
Jim Hemphill, Lake Park, IA
Casey Jones, Estherville, IA
Greg Kaiser, Milford, IA
Ed Packebush, Milford, IA
Doug Schwaller, Milford, IA

DISTRICT II – One Year Term

Justin Joslin, Quimby, IA
Darrell Millard, Alta, IA
Travis Otto, Cherokee, IA
Rodney Parker, Cherokee, IA
Andrew Perry, Alta, IA

DISTRICT III – One Year Term

Lori Baade, Havelock, IA
John Banwart, West Bend, IA
Kathy Gunderson, Cylinder, IA
Shane Hammen, Fonda, IA
Alan Hauswirth, Havelock, IA
Greg Hermstad, Webb, IA
Lisa Siebrecht, Curlew, IA
Timothy Smith, Webb, IA

DISTRICT IV – One Year Term

Clyve Jensen, Ringsted, IA
David Laubenthal, Bancroft, IA
Ryan Larson, Swea City, IA
Clint McConnell, Armstrong, IA
Lucas Oleson, Armstrong, IA
Cody Runksmeier, Ledyard, IA
Shane Smith, Terril, IA
Mark White, Graettinger, IA

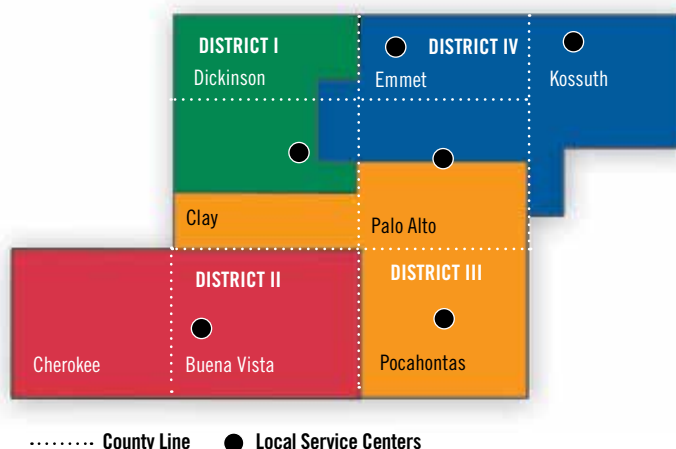
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EVERY VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is a democratic organization controlled by its member-owners who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Your Cooperative directors are elected among member-owners and are accountable to them. Our member-owners have equal voting rights (one member, one vote). This principle is one of the key reasons why America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our member-owners first. Make your vote count! Return your ballot in the prepaid postage envelope. The 2025 director candidates are shown below and on the following pages.



2025 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



JERRY BECK
SPENCER, IOWA
(Incumbent)

Education:

- Two-year College
- NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- NRECA Board Leadership Certificate
- NRECA Director Gold Credential

Occupation: Farmer

What are your Strengths: With over two decades of service as a director of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, I bring a wealth of knowledge in the electric cooperative industry, including governance, financial oversight and regulatory compliance. I am very dedicated and have a proven track record of guiding the Cooperative through challenges while prioritizing the best interests of our member-owners.

Short Term Goals: Ensuring the Cooperative remains a leader in the electric industry by staying true to our Cooperative's mission of providing safe, reliable, competitively-priced electrical services to our member-owners. I am committed to advocating for the Cooperative's interest in legislative and regulatory matters to protect our member-owners and the communities we serve.

Long Term Goals: My long term goal is to ensure the Cooperative remains in a strong financial position, while providing safe and reliable electrical service. I will continue to navigate industry changes and challenges, advocate for an all-of-the-above energy strategy and foster innovation to prepare for evolving energy needs of future generations.

Biggest Concern: My biggest concern is having enough generation supply to meet the anticipated energy demands.

Other organizations and activities you are/have been active in:

- Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Board Secretary
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative Director; Dakota Coal/Montana Limestone Vice Chairman
- Township Trustee
- Royal Lions Club
- Restore antique tractors and attend tractor rides

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



DOUGLAS WESTERMAN
MILFORD, IOWA

Education:

- United States Marine Corps; MARL Program – Southwest Minnesota State University

Occupation: General Manager

What are your Strengths: Ability to listen to understand as opposed to respond. Tact. I have experience working with and participating on various boards, including the Board of Adjustments, School Board, Water Utility Board and State Association Board.

Short Term Goals: Familiarize myself with the electric utility core values and vision.

Long Term Goals: Participate in the path forward to meeting the organization's mission with a positive attitude.

Biggest Concern: How to deal with government mandates in such a manner that least affects the membership.

Other organizations and activities you are/have been active in:

- Iowa Rural Water Association Board
- City of Wahpeton Board of Adjustments
- Member of Bedell Family YMCA

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



BRUCE AMUNDSON
LARRABEE, IOWA
(Incumbent)

Education:

- Farm Operations Associate of Arts Degree, Northwest Iowa Technical College
- NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- NRECA Board Leadership Certificate
- NRECA Director Gold Credential

Occupation: Farmer

What are your Strengths: I listen carefully and thoroughly research options before making decisions. I actively seek opportunities to expand my knowledge and grow as a leader.

Short-Term Goals: Making informed decisions to provide financial stability for future generations. Additionally, staying engaged with our regional legislators on local and national issues that affect the Cooperative's member-owners.

Long-Term Goals: As a director, my long-term goals are to ensure all employees return home safely each night and make decisions that support the long-term viability of the Cooperative. Safety, reliability, wholesale power supply, renewable energy and meeting energy demands will always remain top priorities.

Biggest Concern: My biggest concern in the industry is balancing the need to keep rates affordable for our member-owners while ensuring there is enough reliable generation capacity to meet growing energy demands.

Other organizations and activities you are/have been active in:

- Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, Director Representative
- Session Member and Confirmation Class Teacher at Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee
- Cedar Cemetery Association, Chair
- Storm Lake Gideon Camp, President
- Cherokee County 4-H Foundation, Chairman
- Siouxland Ag in the Classroom, Board Member
- Following the eight grandchildren and their activities

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



JASON GLIENKE
AURELIA, IOWA

Education:

- Bachelor of Science, South Dakota State University

Occupation: Farmer (Grain/Livestock)

What are your Strengths: I feel that one of my strengths is the ability to problem solve. When issues or problems develop, I try to look at solutions from all different angles and then work towards finding the best course of action to solve those problems.

Short-Term Goals: Educate myself on all aspects of ILEC's operations and business strategies.

Long-Term Goals: Continue ILEC's commitment to providing safe and constant electrical service to its members. Another goal would be to support and enhance ILEC's economic development efforts in our service area.

Biggest Concern: I believe one of the biggest issues facing the electric generation and distribution industry is the federal government's restrictions and over regulation of how electricity is generated. We need electricity produced from a variety of sources, especially those that provide a steady flow of power, such as natural gas and clean coal power generation.

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



PAUL PINGEL
AURELIA, IOWA

Education:

- Bachelor of Science, in Agricultural Studies, Minor in Ag Systems Technology, Iowa State University

Occupation: Farmer

Short-Term Goals: Continue to improve the infrastructure of the Cooperative through its service area.

Long-Term Goals: Try to improve the opportunities for our members to capitalize on renewable energy sources.

Other organizations and activities you are/have been active in:

- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Trying to adapt to all kids being in college and not chasing after them nightly at school activities

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



GARY ROUSE
CURLEW, IOWA

(Incumbent)

Education:

- Associate of Science in Farm Mechanics, Iowa Lakes Community College
- NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- NRECA Board Leadership Certificate
- NRECA Director Gold Credential

Occupation: Farmer

What are your Strengths: I have 20 years of experience representing the member-owners of District III with the board of directors of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative. I feel I have learned a great deal about our industry and about the needs and expectations of the people I represent.

Short Term Goals: To help the Cooperative maintain good working relationships with our wholesale partners in order to continue to supply our member-owners with safe, reliable and competitively-priced energy.

Long Term Goals: Continue to explore alternative energy sources and evaluate the growing demand for electricity and how the Cooperative needs to move forward. Additionally, to continue to support our employee team and the outstanding culture at ILEC.

Biggest Concern: The ever-changing energy landscape will present many challenges going forward, including exploding demand, infrastructure upgrades and cost-efficiency.

Other organizations and activities you are/have been active in:

- Zion Lutheran Church, Elder, Finance Committee, Facilities Committee

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



BARRY ANDERSON
GREENVILLE, IOWA

Education:

- South Clay High School
- Bachelor's Degree, Buena Vista College

Occupation: Farmer

What are your Strengths: Forward thinking, problem solver. I enjoy working with people to reach goals that are set and agreed upon.

Short Term Goals: Continue the cost-efficient supply of uninterrupted electrical needs of its members.

Long Term Goals: Look at future opportunities to improve on the ongoing supply of sustainable energy.

Biggest Concern: Watching legislative changes that can put increasing pressure on the sustainability of our grid system and cost-efficient energy.

Other organizations and activities you are/have been active in:

- Clay County Supervisors
- State and Federal Committees
- Hope Reformed Church Board
- Iowa Drainage District Association

DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



ALAN MADDEN
RINGSTED, IOWA

(Incumbent)

Education:

- Bachelor of Science, Ag Economics, South Dakota State University
- NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- NRECA Board Leadership Certificate
- NRECA Director Gold Credential

Occupation: Retired Farmer/Crop Insurance Agent

What are your Strengths: I believe my record of service as a director of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is a major strength. During my time of service, many significant challenges were

successfully resolved. It seems that some of those challenges appear again after many years. My experience of service provides the background that makes tough decision making easier. I also believe my experience helps to effectively form ideas about the vision and future of ILEC.

Short Term Goals: There are always new and renewed challenges facing our Cooperative. The supply of power is very critical given the anticipated growth of demand. Legislative changes, both Federal and State, make for uncertainties that must be resolved. I want to lend help and experience with these issues.

Long Term Goals: Our Cooperative relies on careful strategic planning to guide the organization. This is another opportunity to use my knowledge and experience to build that plan. Our tradition of good service is an expectation of our member-owners. I want to preserve that high level of service.

Biggest Concern: Sometimes it seems we are in an era of change for the sake of change rather than needs. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative has a very highly respected reputation even on a national basis. Our ways and means of operating our Cooperative have been tried and tested and the co-op is successful. I hope to be a part of protecting our methods but accepting and initiating change when needed.

Other organizations and activities you are/have been active in:

- Emmet County Board of Supervisors, Former 12-year Supervisor and Past Chairman
- Emmet County Fair Auction Committee, Former Committee Member and Past Chairman
- Emmet County Fair Beef Committee, Former Committee Member and Past Chairman
- Emmet County Cattlemen's Association
- Iowa Cattlemen's Association

ALTA CREW



Tucker Petersen



Elijah Steffen



Jeff Roemen

EMMETSBURG CREW



Reid Lammers



Gabe Cardwell



Carson Hoffman

POCAHONTAS CREW



Colton Freeburg



Rafael Cardenas



Clayton Petersen



Dave Grothaus



Allen Jensen



Blake McAlister



BRIAN SCOTT

Superintendent of Field Operations



JASON THORSON

Foreman, Alta



MAT KILGORE

Foreman, Emmetsburg/Pocahontas

THANK YOU

APRIL 14 NATIONAL LINEWORKER DAY

ESTHERVILLE CREW



Joel Quastad



Levi Quastad

SWEA CITY CREW



Tyson Nielsen



Dylan Low



Cal Wolterman

SPENCER CREW



Craig Burgeson



Tanner Brinkman



Scott Whitaker



Curt Steiner



Luke Schmidt



MIKE KUMMER

Foreman, Estherville/Swea City

CODY BARTLING

Foreman, Spencer



Jared Hannasch



Jeren McKibbin

SUPPORT CREW



Shane Helmich
Supervisor of Support Crew



Marshal Saboe
Field Technician

THANK YOU

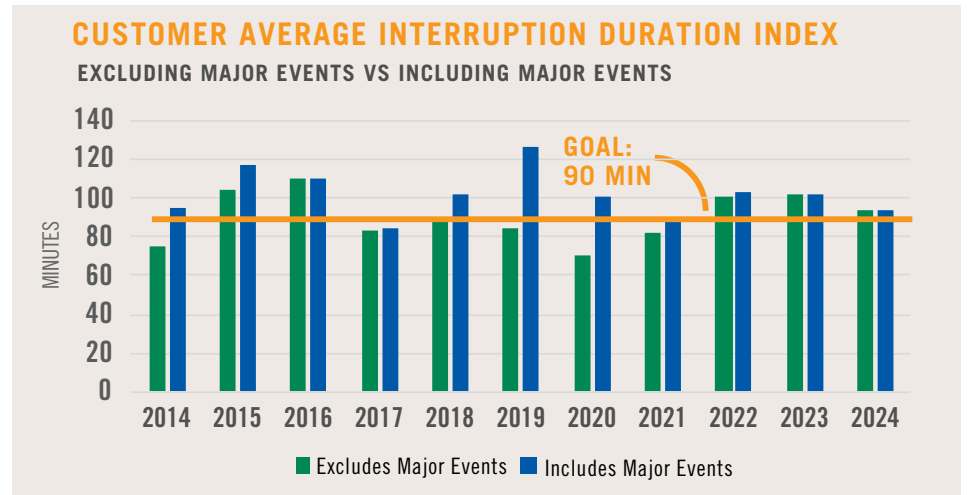
WORKER APPRECIATION DAY

COOPERATIVE'S RELIABILITY REPORT

Your Cooperative strives to deliver safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible power to our member-owners. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative submits our service interruption data to the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC) annually.

One of the reliability indexes we monitor closely is the Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) that tells us the average amount of time it takes our crews to restore a power outage from the time the initial outage calls until we restore service. One of your Cooperative's goals is to limit average restoration time to 90 minutes, which is an aggressive goal for a rural electric utility having nearly 4,800 miles of distribution lines over eight counties.

The CAIDI graph displays your Cooperative's average restoration time for 2024. On average, it took crews 93.8 minutes to restore power during major events and 94.1 minutes excluding major events. As noted in the graph below, 2024's leading cause for outages was due to planned outages. "Planned" means any interruption scheduled by the distribution system to safely perform routine maintenance. You will notice the second leading cause of outages for 2024 was power supply. This year there were



no major storms however, when power supply is interrupted to a substation, it impacts high numbers of member-owners all at one time.

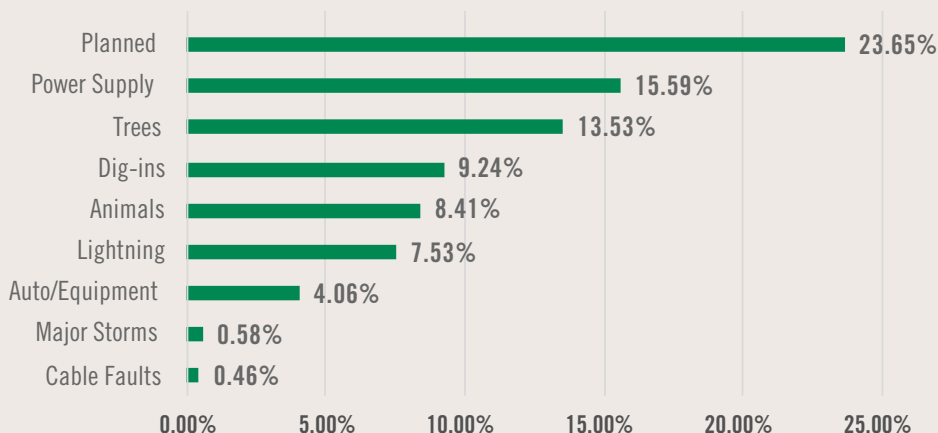
Fallen trees and accidental dig-ins posed challenges for our crews this year. When large trees come down on power lines, they often take the lines with them. Our crews must first cut and remove the tree before repairing the damage, adding to restoration time. Similarly, underground dig-ins—when someone

unintentionally damages buried electrical lines—can disrupt service and require immediate repairs.

At Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, we take proactive steps to minimize service interruptions. Through aggressive preventative maintenance, vegetation management, and strategically located service centers, we work hard to provide the safe, reliable power you expect and deserve as a valued member-owner.

→ "Planned" means any interruption scheduled by the distribution system to safely perform routine maintenance. "Power Supply" means any interruption originating from the transmission system, sub-transmission system, or the substation, regardless of ownership. "Major Event" means an interruption or group of interruptions caused by conditions that exceed the design and operational limits of a system.

2024 CAUSE OF OUTAGES



2024 RELIABILITY REPORT FILING

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's 2024 reliability report was presented to your Cooperative's board of directors during its February 27, 2025 board meeting. This report is prepared in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code 199-20.18(8)b.

The report was also submitted to the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC) on February 28, 2025. The Cooperative's 2024 reliability report is open for public inspection and member-owners may view the complete report at the Cooperative's headquarters office in Estherville, Iowa. This report may also be read online at www.ilec.coop.

IOWA-BASED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HOLD 2025 MOMENTUM IS BUILDING CONFERENCE

Iowa's electric cooperatives hosted the 32nd annual Momentum is Building Conference in February at The Sheraton West Des Moines. The event drew more than 165 contractors, construction trades professionals, electric cooperative representatives and students from across the state.

The conference provided attendees with continuing education credits in Iowa's plumbing/mechanical, HVAC, and electrical codes. Participants had valuable opportunities to network with industry peers, learn from leading experts in energy efficiency and building trades, and gain insights into current energy regulations and incentives.

Sponsored by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), this annual conference serves as a beneficial link between Iowa's construction industry and the services provided by local electric cooperatives, which collectively serve nearly 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties.

Momentum is Building continues to deliver up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on details, and new technology displays specifically designed for building trades professionals, including homebuilders, electricians, and heating-plumbing contractors. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across Iowa joined their local contractors at the conference.



Iowa construction expert Bill McAnally opened the conference with insights on the past, present, and future of energy-efficient home building techniques. Nationally acclaimed relationship coach and Gallup-certified Strengths Consultant Chris Failla concluded the event with a message on the value of effective organizational teams. CEU presenters Terry Moorman, Dave Sullivan, and Jeff Reichart shared their expertise on electrical code, plumbing, heating, and job-site safety best practices. Scott Casey and Silas Hoepfner joined Bill McAnally for a Q&A panel discussing building technologies that support healthy and efficient comfort solutions for residential and commercial applications.

The conference also featured a trade show where participants could learn about new products supporting efficient and healthy homes. Support for the event came from the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency, Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, and premier sponsors Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Sitler's LED Supplies.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative had ten area contractors in attendance in addition to energy advisors, Jeremy Madden and Cody Hantelman. "For many years, Momentum Is Building has allowed building trade professionals from our area to find out what's new in the industry—techniques as well as products. Attendees also obtain continuing education credits they need to stay current in their professions," stated Jeremy Madden. "By supporting this conference each year, we know that the skills learned at this conference will be brought home to benefit our members."

Support for the conference comes from the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency, Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, and the conference's Premier Sponsors Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Sitler's LED Supplies.

For more information on the conference, visit www.MomentumIsBuilding.com.



The Momentum is Building Conference was held February 20-21, 2025 in West Des Moines.

BE READY FOR STORM SEASON

PREPAREDNESS IS THE BEST DEFENSE



Spring is just around the corner, bringing warmer days and more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. It's the perfect time for backyard cookouts with family and friends, getting your hands in the garden, and taking a moment to slow down.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Cooperative crews are always prepared and standing by to respond

should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

As you enjoy the season, we also encourage you to prioritize safety and preparedness. Spring storms can bring unexpected outages, so take steps to protect your family by having an emergency plan in place and staying informed about weather conditions.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a National Weather Service Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for national weather service emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 800.225.4532 this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

While we all hope for a calm spring and summer, Mother Nature can be unpredictable. At Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, we encourage you to prepare now, because having a plan in place is the best defense against severe weather and power outages. Stay safe, stay informed, and be ready for whatever the season may bring.

REBATE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

APPLIANCE REBATES

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer . . . \$50	ENERGY STAR Dishwasher \$25
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer . . . \$50	ENERGY STAR Freezer \$25
ENERGY STAR Heat Pump Clothes Dryer \$100	ENERGY STAR Refrigerator \$25

Unit must be new, ENERGY STAR® rated and installed at member-owner's location. Subject to ILEC inspection.

LIGHTING REBATES

LED Security Lights: No more than 50% of cost
40+ watts. \$15/fixture



INSTALLED INSULATION

Homes with electric heat (with or without central air conditioning):

- 40% of materials cost up to **\$600 max./year**

Homes with non-electric heat and central air conditioning:

- 20% of materials cost up to **\$300 max./year**

Homes with non-electric heat and no central air conditioning:

- **No incentive available**

Must increase ceiling to R38, wall to R19 or foundation to R10; radiant barriers not eligible.

Existing homes (not new homes) only; material costs only (no labor). Must be professionally installed by a registered contractor for blown-in, insulating concrete forms, rigid Styrofoam panels and/or Structural Insulated Panels (SIP) type insulation. Radiant barriers are not eligible. Subject to inspection by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative. Maximum rebate applies to all insulation/weatherization upgrades per residential/farm building per year.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEVEL 2 CHARGER

50% of the charger price up to **\$500**

- Member must submit charger make, model, serial number, receipt and vehicle make, model
- Member must enroll in the Cooperative's EV Time of Day Rate AND have a separate submeter installed
- Chargers must be 240-volt hardwired per local codes (3 charger maximum per household)
- Rebate is eligible for plug-in vehicles (PEVs) or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) only
- Charger installation is subject to verification by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative

3.3339¢ kWh DISCOUNT

Heating with an efficient electric heating system costs less than it would for typically priced fossil fuels. Not only can you heat for less with electricity, but electric rates have held relatively stable while fossil fuel prices fluctuated significantly over recent years. Receive a **3.3339-cent/kWh discount** for the electricity used to heat your home, shop or business during the months of October through April using an energy-efficient heating system. A submeter is required.

Rebates Available:

Geothermal Heat Pump \$1,000/ton

- \$50/unit bonus if installed with desuperheater

ENERGY STAR® rated or at least EER 14 and COP 3.3; 20-ton maximum per structure without prior approval.

Geo HP replacing Geo HP. \$500/ton

Air Source Heat Pump

Two units maximum per single-family dwelling or outbuilding. One rebate per family in multi-family dwelling.

SEER 15+/SEER2 14.3+ • **\$500/ton**

Air Source Heat Pump with Gas Back-Up

Member must sign agreement for future load control.

SEER 15+/SEER2 14.3+ • **\$650/ton**

Mini-Split/Hotel-Type Ductless Heat Pumps

Two units maximum per single-family dwelling or outbuilding. One rebate maximum per family in multi-family dwelling.

SEER 15+/SEER2 14.3+ • **\$500/ton**

Air Source or Geothermal Heat Pump

Compressor Replacement \$100/ton

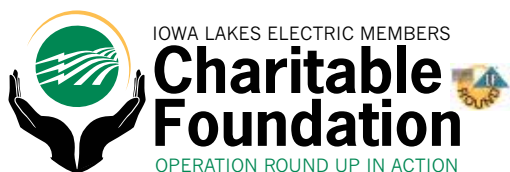
Controllable Resistance Heat \$20/kW

- Central or zoned
- Hard-wired/permanently installed
- Minimum: 10 kW or whole-house
- Maximum: 20 kW per installation; higher kW requires cooperative approval.
- Heat pump back up not eligible

Heat Pump Check-Up. \$50/unit

- Air Source or Geothermal systems eligible every 3 years.
- Contractor must sign a minimum requirements check list provided by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.

Equipment size and efficiency determined by cooling capacity listed in the AHRI Directory.



QUARTERLY REPORT

Directors of the Iowa Lakes Electric Members Charitable Foundation reviewed 4 grant applications and awarded \$20,500 to four organizations during its quarterly grant review process in January 2025. Following a review of grant applications, the directors approved the following grants shown below.

The Foundation's Board of Directors meets quarterly to review the grant applications. The grant applications are available on Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's website (www.ilec.coop) or at our headquarters office in Estherville.

Operation Round Up is a strictly voluntary program where member-owners round up their electric bills to the next nearest dollar and those monies are used to assist worthy causes and organizations in your local communities. Donations to Operation Round Up are tax deductible and both monthly and year-to-date donations are printed on the member's monthly billing statement.



\$5,000

CITY OF PETERSON- PETERSON AMBULANCE

The City of Peterson- Peterson Ambulance received a \$5,000 grant for the Peterson Ambulance CRU Facility. Pictured left to right is Deb Collingwood and Marilyn Schueder, Peterson Ambulance Shed Committee members; Jarrett Smith, Iowa Lakes Electric Members Charitable Foundation board member; and Gage Anderson, Jonathan Winterboer, and Robin Patrick, Peterson Ambulance Shed Committee members.



\$7,500

DICKENS FIRE AND RESCUE

Dickens Fire and Rescue received \$7,500 grant to purchase safety equipment. Members of the Dickens Fire and Rescue Department received the check present by Jarrett Smith, Iowa Lakes Electric Members Charitable Foundation board member.



\$3,000

LEAD THE 'VILLE- EXCEL ESTHERVILLE

Lead the 'Ville received a \$3,000 grant for a mural project in Estherville. Members of the Lead the 'Ville class received the check presented by Sheila Borchers, Iowa Lakes Electric Members Charitable Foundation board member.



\$5,000

CITY OF ROLFE

The City of Rolfe received a \$5,000 grant for the Sunset Ridge Park project. Pictured left to right is Roger Allen; Robin Hauswirth, Iowa Lakes Electric Members Charitable Foundation board member; and James Pentico, mayor of the City of Rolfe.

Thank you

On behalf of ECDC and the City of Emmetsburg, we'd like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous \$5,000 contribution towards the Soper Park splash pad project! Your support plays a crucial role in bringing this highly-desired amenity to our community. We are excited to see the positive impact it will have on families and children by providing a fun and safe place to play. Thank you for your commitment and generosity.

On behalf of our Aurelia Kiwanis Club, I want to thank ILEC Charitable Foundation Operation Round Up Board for the generous support shown to our club by awarding \$5,000 to help fund the Aurelia Kiwanis Walking Path Addition. ILEC is to be commended for all that the Round Up Grant has done not only for our Kiwanis Walking Path, but also what has been done for all the community projects within ILEC's service territory. The Round Up Grant truly does enhance our quality of life.

- Duane Kent, Aurelia Kiwanis Board Member

Thank you so much for the grant to help us build the Peterson Ambulance Building. It is very much appreciated. With things going the way they are, we should be able to break ground this spring.

- Thank you again, Jon, Gage, Robin, Deb & Marilyn

STAY IN THE KNOW



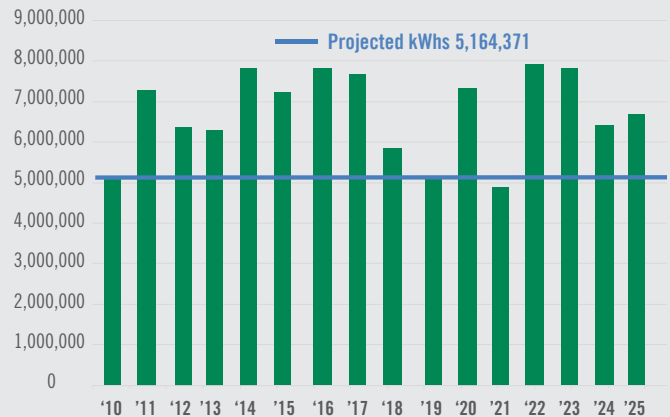
Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

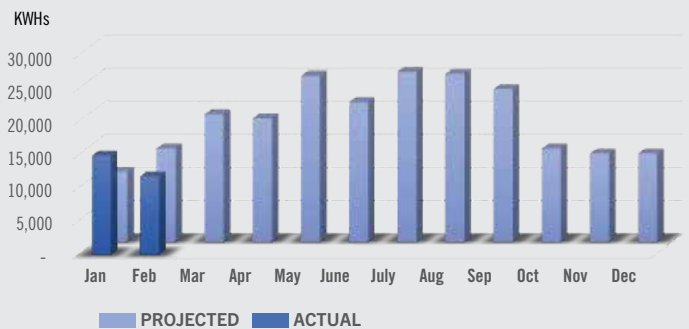
Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.

COOPERATIVE STATISTICS

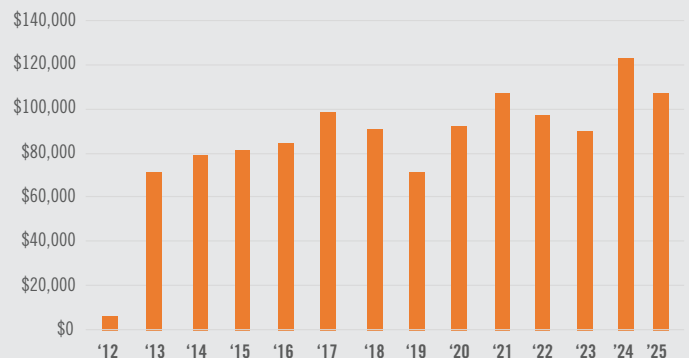
WIND TURBINES KILOWATT-HOURS GENERATED VS. PROJECTED FEB. 2010 - FEB. 2025



SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ENERGY PRODUCTION VS. PROJECTED JAN. - DEC. 2025



CORN BELT ESTIMATED CONTROLLED LOAD FEB. 2012 - FEB. 2025





2025 SHINE THE LIGHT CONTEST

Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative encourages our member-owners to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

Member-owners and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, you're a cooperative member-owner and we invite you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a cooperative member-owner. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and on social media.



**Nominate a local volunteer
and they could win
\$3,000 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at
IowaShineTheLight.com

NOMINATIONS

Go to **www.IowaShineTheLight.com** to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination.

PLANNING A NEW GRAIN BIN?

Communicate early with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative for a safe and cost-effective new grain bin. Before planning for a new grain bin or moving an existing bin, contact your Cooperative's local energy advisor to review the specific safety clearances along with the electric service requirements and associated charges. Please allow a minimum of six to eight weeks lead-time so power will be ready when and where you need it by following the guidelines below.

Contact your energy advisor before the grain bin pad is poured to ensure it is located a safe distance from overhead power lines.

Your local energy advisor will help you create a safe environment for those living and working near or around the grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for overhead electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable or permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

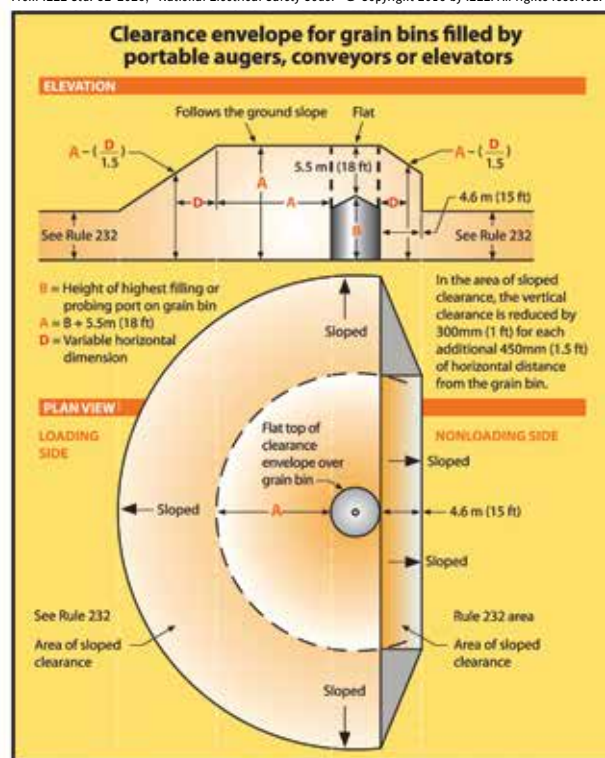
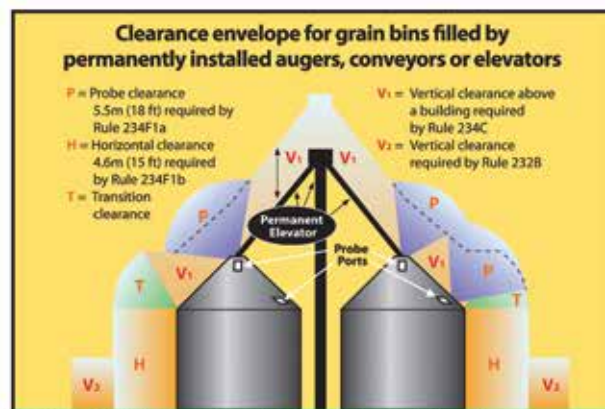
Electric service cannot be provided to a grain bin installation that does not meet the following specific clearances: Electric wires should be, at minimum, the distance calculated from the appropriate figures and tables associated with this article. All sides are considered to be loading sides unless natural terrain features such as a road right-of-way, a ditch, or a creek is between the overhead line and that side of the bin. In that case, the side with the natural terrain

feature would then be considered a non-loading side.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b., an electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2023 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after Sept. 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after Dec. 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

To promote safety, it is also suggested that you post warning signs indicating "loading" and "non-loading" sides of the bin. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative has free warning decals available that can be used to alert others around grain bins.

Contact your energy advisor before the bin site is confirmed to ensure there are adequate electrical facilities in place to handle the new electric load. Your local energy advisor will determine the electric service requirements (single or three-phase service) relative to the grain bin's motor size and review with you the associated service extension charges.



SERVICE EXTENSION CHARGES

Member-owners are charged a contribution in aid of construction to extend or upgrade the Cooperative's existing service facilities to your bin site. The service extension charges are based on the distance and the additional kVA capacity of load installed or added.

Contact your energy advisor before you purchase the bin or add any new motors to ensure that your load functions properly and does not compromise the quality of the Cooperative's electrical service delivered to others.

Individual motors of 25 horsepower or larger require an engineering analysis and may require the installation of "soft start" equipment to reduce voltage problems.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 20.4(15) b., an electrical utility may refuse or disconnect service without notice in the event of "customer use of equipment in a manner which adversely affects the utility's equipment or the utility's service to others."

Your Cooperative has a "Shared Power" program that requires seasonal loads of 25kVA or larger to share in the annual costs for additional transmission and distribution capacity. In order to determine the annual Shared Power requirement, the transformer is sized to meet your highest expected demand during the year. The Shared Power program is a cost-effective and convenient program that offers you the flexibility and local control of your farming operation.



SIEVERT COMPLETES MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Vice President of Customer and Corporate Relations, Jennifer Sievert has completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin, - Madison.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.

MIP participants go through three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate in new, innovative management techniques. Participants leave with a better understanding of what member-owners want and how to ensure they get it.

By also covering the unique principles that govern the operations of electric cooperatives, the program helps the cooperative analyze other business ventures it may want to enter as well as enhancing the core organization.

Only rural electric cooperative CEOs and top-level management participate in the program. This allows greater emphasis on management and leadership challenges and the aspects of member-ownership that cooperatives enjoy. Participants focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making.

Sievert has completed one of the most exclusive management development programs in the nation for electric cooperatives.



VLASMAN ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Doug Vlasman has accepted the position of Manager of Business and Community Development at Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.

With over 35 years of experience, Vlasman brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will strengthen our community engagement and drive business growth. Vlasman's leadership and vision will have a positive impact on our member-owners, our employee team, and our Cooperative's mission.



HANTELMAN EARNS CERTIFICATION

Cody Hantelman has earned the Certified Key Account Executive Program (CKAE) credentials. This program is designed to assist key account executives and their electric cooperatives in building and executing a successful key account management strategy or enhancing an existing one. The CKAE certification demonstrates proficiency in key account management skills, highlighting both knowledge and experience in the field.



**SUBMIT YOUR
PHOTOS BY JUNE 1
FOR CONSIDERATION!**

COOPERATIVE CALENDAR IN THE WORKS!

We are excited to announce that Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is putting together a special calendar for 2026, and we want YOU to be a part of it! This calendar will showcase the amazing people, places, and moments that make your cooperative community unique. Whether it's a stunning landscape or a candid moment that captures the spirit of your cooperative, we'd love to feature your photos.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:

- **THEME:** Photos that celebrate your cooperative community, local landscapes, people, events, and everyday moments that make your cooperative special.
- **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** All photo submissions must be received by **June 1**.
- **HOW TO SUBMIT:** Simply email your photos to ilec@ilec.coop with "Calendar Submission" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name and a brief description of your photo(s).

We can't wait to see the creative and inspiring photos you share with us. Your image could be featured in the 2026 cooperative calendar!



ENERGY ADVISOR MOVES TO EMMETSBURG/POCAHONTAS SERVICE AREA

Jeremy Madden, energy advisor, will be transitioning from the Spencer service territory to the Emmetsburg/Pocahontas service territory. With his valuable experience and expertise, Madden will continue providing exceptional service to our members in the Emmetsburg/Pocahontas area.

Energy Trail Tour 2025

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative. Eight lucky couples from Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative will be selected at random from those who sign up.



☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 18-20	1st	2nd	3rd	(please circle)
June 25-27	1st	2nd	3rd	
July 9-11	1st	2nd	3rd	

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 25, 2025.



Pictured is Jed Skogerboe, manager of business and community development, presenting his volunteer check to Cynthia Adams, president of Iowa Great Lakes Rotary.

VOLUNTEERING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Commitment to Community, one of the seven cooperative principles, is a core value that drives Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative. Beyond providing manpower and trucks to support our communities, our employees and directors volunteered a total of 2,362 hours in various community organizations throughout 2024.

Employees and directors of your Cooperative who volunteer a minimum of 25 hours are eligible to receive a donation to a charitable organization of their choice. Both Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), your Cooperative's two wholesale power suppliers, also encourage volunteerism among their employees and directors. Through Corn Belt, volunteers who report a minimum number of hours are eligible for a monthly and year-end drawings, with Corn Belt donating to the winner's chosen charity.

Ruschy wins Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's Vice President of Operations and Engineering, Aaron Ruschy, was randomly selected in the year-end Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge drawing, and as a result, Corn Belt Power made a \$500 donation to the Gruver Community Fire Department on his behalf.



Letters from Our Member-Owners



■ Thank you for your generous donation for our silent auction. We feel so blessed to have the support of our community. Peterson Point Preservation Foundation

■ On behalf of the Foundation, the College and our students, I would like to express appreciation for your most generous gift. Your gift will address needs beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. Through a team effort by Iowa Lakes employees, community businesses and individuals a difference is made at the College and in student's lives. Thanks for joining our team to help our students succeed! Daniel W. Lutat, Director of Foundations

■ Thank you for donating to the ELC Foundation event on New Year's Eve. Your continued support means a lot! We won the package of items at the silent auction! Thank you! Drs Lisa Dreeszen & Craig Baker

■ Happy New Year. Sending wishes for a wonderful year! Keep up the great service. Thank you, Lazetta Van Den Top

■ Thank you for all you do throughout the year. Things we take for granted and for the wonderful informative newsletter we receive periodically! Gary & Cheryle Wilson

■ Thank you for continuing to offer youth the Washington D.C. trip. I was blessed in summer of 1970 to attend and meet many "friends" on the trip. The wonderful experience of the tours, the capital, the monuments and friendships will live on in my mind forever! Thank you, Maureen Reeves Horsley

■ On behalf of Friends of Lakeside Lab, I would like to thank you for your gift. Each year the Friends continue to advance its mission of supporting the Lab as a community resource. From K-12 and collegiate students to life-long learners, your support allows us to impact many lives. Friends of Lakeside Lab

■ Thank you for your donation to ELC Post Prom. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

■ Thank you for your financial support. Thanks, Emmet County Cattlemen

■ Thank you for your donation to EMS Day by The Lake 2025. We really appreciate your continued support of our efforts to bring quality continuing education opportunities to our area EMS providers. Thank you again! BV County EMS Training Academy

■ Thank you for making a difference! Thank you for your generosity in support of the Emergency Response Fund to assist in purchasing the Powered Stair Chair equipment for our ambulances. Your gift makes a critical difference, helping us provide safer and more efficient care to those in need. We are truly grateful for your kindness and commitment to our mission. Lakes Regional Healthcare Foundation

■ Thank you so much for the donation to the Emmetsburg After Prom. It is greatly appreciated. Emmetsburg After Prom Committee

■ We are delighted to extend our heartfelt thank you for investing in Storm Lake United. Your continued support is instrumental in helping us foster a thriving business community. Thank you once again for your invaluable support. We look forward to another year of collaboration and shared achievements. Storm Lake United



■ Education is extremely important to our children and our community. Their future is our future! We appreciate your commitment to the students and your interest in helping to address needs beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. Thank you! Spencer Community School Foundation

■ Thank you for the donation to the ELC backpack program. We appreciate your generosity, and it will be put to good use in helping students at ELC. ELC Pantry Staff

■ Thank you for your support of the Spencer Fine Arts Boosters through your 2024-2025 membership! Your donation helped pay for the middle school musical production, middle school & high school mock trial supplies, debate and speech resources, funding for the high school fall musical and spring play, scholarships, meals for students during fine arts events and many other needs. These things would not be possible without your support! Thank you! Spencer Fine Arts Boosters

QUIZ CORNER

Congratulations winners: Joyce Brodersen of Curlew; John Tatman of Spencer; Wagner Partnership, LLC of Milford and Brian & Velvet Ross of Estherville. Send in your completed Quiz and Iowa Lakes will draw four lucky members each quarter who will receive \$25 credits towards their electric bills.

1. The 2025 ILEC Annual Meeting is scheduled for _____, with breakfast beginning at _____ and the business meeting starting at _____.
2. A _____ outage refers to any interruption intentionally scheduled by the Cooperative to safely conduct routine maintenance.
3. Directors _____ and _____ have earned NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director Gold Certification.
4. _____ has successfully earned the Certified Key Account Executive (CKAE) credentials.

Name: _____

Account #: _____



Energy Efficiency Tip

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs. Source: energy.gov

Reach Us

OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Mon- Fri)
Contact Iowa Lakes
24 hours/day, 7 days/ week
with the following toll-free
number:

(800) 225-4532 (24 hr.)
(Primary and Emergency)

Fax: (712) 362-2819

Visit Us Online:

www.ilec.coop

E-Mail: ilec@ilec.coop

Newsletter Editor:

Jen Sievert

Iowa Lakes Electric
Cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider
and employer.



**IOWA ONE-CALL
AT 811 OR
(800) 292-8989
BEFORE YOU DIG**

EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

SmartHub: Access through
www.ilec.coop or via the
SmartHub app to pay online
24/7.

Auto Bill Pay (ACH): Deduct
from your bank account.
Sign-up through SmartHub
or call 800-225-4532.

Pay Now: Access at
www.ilec.coop to pay
online 24/7.

Automated Phone System:
Call ILEC at 800-225-4532
and select option #3 to make
a payment 24/7.

CheckFreePay: Pay with
cash or debit card at: Hy-Vee:
Storm Lake, Walmart: Spencer,
Spirit Lake and Storm Lake

**Outside Drop Box or Inside
Front Counter:** Estherville
headquarters.

U.S. Postal Mail