

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

TWO FAIRS, TWO CHANCES TO VISIT ECI REC!

Story on page 3

Photo credit: Lisa Franck

SPECIAL EDITION Annual Meeting & Annual Report

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

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Boost safety at home with these tips.



YOUTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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Meet the Youth Tour winners and scholarship recipients.

REC DAY ON THE HILL

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Cooperatives gather to discuss 2024 legislative issues.

SHINE A LIGHT

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Nominate a local volunteer!



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Boost safety at home with these tips.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov



take the member challenge

1. COMMUNITY CONNECTED: This year, visitors can look forward to something new—we will have a _____ with poles, power lines, and a transformer.

2. LOOKING OUT FOR YOU: IRPs will increase administrative and legal fees, which must ultimately be paid by _____.

3. PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT: _____ is another top priority for your Cooperative. In May 2023, the ECI REC management team underwent data security training.

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answers to memberchallenge@ecirec.coop. Or, print the word(s) at the top of the back page, cut it out, and send it to: ECI REC, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue must be received by June 1. Sixteen names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will not be allowed to win more than once per calendar year.

last issue's challenge winners

The following names were drawn from the March/April 2024 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Kenny J. Berns

Jay Montague

Gary Humes

Dennis R. Sanders

Fred Frost

Terry L. Benda

George L. Vandevorde

Tim R. Fannin

Dennis F. Mills

Donald M. Putz

David M. Schmitz

Donna M. Lohrer

2011 R&D Muchmore
Family Trust

Charles W. Pettit

Phyllis J. Schlueter

John Lee

Calendar Notes

Monday, May 27 –
Closed for
Memorial Day

Friday, June 21 –
Benton County Fair

Wednesday,
June 26 – Virtual
Annual Meeting of
Members

Contact ECI REC

EMAILS

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

WEBSITE

www.ecirec.coop

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Teresa Floyd
Chief Executive Officer
Ext. 450
teresa.floyd@ecirec.coop

Jennifer Schmitz
Manager of Finance
Ext. 427
jennifer.schmitz@ecirec.coop

Tom Schmitt
Operations Manager
Ext. 519
tom.schmitt@ecirec.coop

Adam Albertsen
Manager of Member
Service
Ext. 503
adam.albertsen@ecirec.coop

Lisa Franck
Manager of
Communications
Ext. 472
lisa.franck@ecirec.coop

Nathan Groom
Information Services
Manager
Ext. 410
nathan.groom@ecirec.coop

ADDRESS
2400 Bing Miller Lane
PO Box 248
Urbana, IA
52345-0248

PHONE
319-443-4343

TOLL FREE
877-850-4343

FAX 319-443-4359

HOURS

Monday-Friday
Office: 7:30 a.m. to
4:00 p.m.

(closed Saturdays,
Sundays, and holidays)

Stay connected! We post operations news and outage updates at facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec.

Scan to find a printable copy of the form below on our website. Available June 7–July 18.



Two Fairs, Two Chances to Visit ECI REC!

a Community Connected feature

THIS SUMMER, ECI REC is excited to participate in both the Benton and Buchanan County Fairs for the second year in a row. “Summer is a time to celebrate community and enjoy one of Iowa’s greatest traditions: the county fair,” said CEO Teresa Floyd. “We can’t wait to connect with our members and other friends during these events!”

While at the fair, enter our prize drawing for your chance to win a \$50 bill credit. Just complete the form below and bring it to the ECI REC display area. Each fair will have five winners! Visitors will also have a chance to win a tasty treat from the county’s corresponding Cattlemen’s Association, Pork Producers, or Dairy Producers booths. (And of course we’ll have toy hats for the kids!)

This year, visitors can look forward to something new—we will have a trailer with poles, power lines, and a transformer. Lineworkers will use this equipment to demonstrate some of the electrical hazards that could occur when items come into contact with “live” high-voltage overhead power lines. Visitors will learn some basic knowledge of how electric systems work, what to do in the event of an emergency, and safety tips. Stop by, say hi, and see our lineworkers in action!

Benton County Fair: Friday, June 21, 2024
1801 2nd Ave., Vinton | 5 p.m.–7 p.m.

Booth located south of the grandstands

Buchanan County Fair: Thursday, July 18, 2024
204 12th St., Independence | 5 p.m.–7 p.m.

Booth located near the front entrance, in front of the 4-H building

FAIR ENTRY FORM: Complete and turn in at either county fair for the chance to win a \$50 bill credit!

First & Last Name: _____

Service Location/Street Address: _____

Town: _____

Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

A Safe, Happy House
Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

DON'T place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.

DO keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.

DO ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.

DON'T overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.

Meet ECI REC's 2024 Iowa Youth Tour Representatives

a *Community Connected* feature

FOR OVER 60 YEARS, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives has been sending high school students to our nation's capital for the NRECA Youth Tour. Each summer, nearly 40 Iowa high school students attend, including students selected by ECI REC.

"Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students from Iowa, and we're proud to be sending these bright young women to Washington, D.C., this year to participate," said East-Central Iowa REC CEO Teresa Floyd. "These students will gain a firsthand understanding of the legislative process, visit the museums and monuments of D.C., learn about advocating on behalf of their communities, and make connections that will last a lifetime. Our youth are our future, and we can give them the tools they need to succeed in advocacy, government, and public service. We look forward to this year's trip and continuing to be a sponsor of the Iowa Youth Tour tradition in the years to come."

The 2024 event will take place June 15–21. In addition to touring, the Youth Tour students will participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jump-start their national peer network, and learn more about electric cooperatives. Participants hail from all corners of the state, including one sophomore and one junior from ECI REC's service area. This year, your Cooperative will be represented by Carlee Noe and Leadah Price.



Carlee Noe



Leadah Price

Carlee Noe is a sophomore at Independence High School and is the daughter of Wendy and Larry Noe of Rowley. She currently participates in tennis and bowling and serves as the at-large officer for FFA. Carlee is an honor roll student and has earned her Silver Cord.

Leadah Price is a junior at Starmont High School and is the daughter of Michele Ross of Arlington. She participates in individual and group speech, plays, musicals, band, and choir. Leadah has lettered in both academics and music and has earned the Coach's Commitment Award. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is the teacher's assistant for freshman math. Leadah has participated in track, is an avid volunteer, and has worked many hours in the school concession stand.

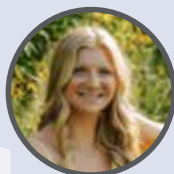
Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students on this trip since 1958. Students apply and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperatives. Over 50,000 students have participated in the national Youth Tour program since its creation. For more information, visit youthtour.coop.

2024 ECI REC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

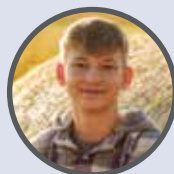
East-Central Iowa REC is proud to announce that we have awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 12 graduating seniors who plan to further their education in a diverse range of programs. These students were chosen from a field of 30 accomplished scholars and represent 11 high schools. Congratulations to these deserving students!



Lydia Albertsen
Union



Keelie Curtis
Starmont



Jared Dvorak
North Tama



Alexis Even
Don Bosco



McKenna Kingsbury
Vinton-Shellsburg



Brody Kleitsch
Wapsie Valley



Allison Kleve
Independence



Wyatt Kuch
Belle Plaine



Derrick Lindsay
East Buchanan



Morgan Schulte
Benton Community



Carter Shaffer
Starmont



Madalyn Staggs
Center Point-Urbana

Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives Advocate for Power Reliability at 2024 REC Day on the Hill

a Looking Out for You article

ON MARCH 12, the sun was shining on more than 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives as they convened at the Capitol in Des Moines to advocate for important issues during the annual REC Day on the Hill.

"Our annual advocacy day at the Capitol is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowans and rural economic development," remarked Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

Human Resources Director Katie Stadheim and Member Service Representative Molly Cook represented East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative at the event.


Advocates asked elected officials to ensure reliable electric service for Iowans by supporting an "all-of-the-above" electric generation strategy. Specifically, Iowa's electric cooperatives believe it's time to update the state's 2001 advanced ratemaking principles (ARPs) to stipulate an all-of-the-above approach and include nuclear and energy storage technologies.

Also related to reliability, advocates talked with their legislators about Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) and the potential pitfalls of requiring

Iowa utilities to file IRPs as part of contested case proceedings before the Iowa Utilities Board. IRPs will increase administrative and legal fees, which must ultimately be paid by ratepayers. In other states, IRPs have served as a pathway to the premature closure of carbon-based power generation facilities, which negatively impacts electric reliability.

Additionally, cooperative representatives discussed the issue of "right of first refusal," which allows incumbent, established utilities to have the first option to construct, maintain, and operate electric transmission projects. Iowa's electric cooperatives are best prepared to respond locally to weather-related outages because we have a proven track record of restoring power quickly and safely.

During the advocacy event, representatives educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model, which includes local ownership, democratic governance, and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda that provided information on topics like economic development, digital metering advancements, investments in technology, safety innovations, energy efficiency efforts, and vegetation management work.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa's electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at www.iaruralpower.org 

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!



TOM SCHMITT
Operations Manager
33 years



PAT HYLAND
System Coordinator
34 years



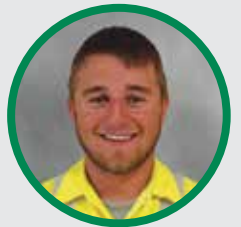
COLTON DIETRICK
Lineworker
6 years



ADAM ALBERTSEN
Member Service Manager
24 years



JOHN TEGLER
Member Service Technician
30 years



BRAXTON CLUBB
Lineworker
7 years



SCOTT RAST
Inventory/Maintenance Technician
13 years



KELLY POHLMAN
Member Service Supervisor
25 years

June
Anniversaries

Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

a Community Connected notice




GUIDED BY OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY, ECI REC is encouraging our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest 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 of choice.

“We’ve been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first three years,” remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. “We’re increasing our three charity donations to \$3,000 each this year to encourage even more participation across the state.”

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa’s electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from ECI REC, 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-consumer. 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.

Go to 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! 



2002



2014

Celebrating Our Team

a Keeping the Lights On spotlight

Congratulations to **Kelly Pohlmann** on her retirement! Kelly, pictured above, has retired from her role as member service supervisor. Her career at ECI REC spans 25 years, during which she served in various roles, including billing assistant, office/operations assistant, and consumer service coordinator. Kelly has been a tremendous leader for the MSR team.

Kelly, thank you for your years of service and dedication! We wish you all the best and hope your calendar will be filled with more traveling and time with family.




Molly Cook was promoted to member service supervisor effective May 1. Molly is in her twenty-third year at the Cooperative and has been an integral part of the ECI REC family, starting out as a billing assistant. Her dedication and hard work have been evident throughout her journey, during which she has served as a senior billing clerk

and then a member service representative. Molly is excited for the change and is looking forward to her new leadership role. Congratulations, Molly!



We’re excited to welcome a new member service representative to ECI REC: **Aliza Mollenhauer**. In her new role, she will be assisting members with payments, resolving billing questions, and addressing usage concerns.

Aliza attended Center Point-Urbana High School. She and her boyfriend of four years, Bryston Raue, and their dog, Nelly, currently live in Vinton and are members of ECI REC. She enjoys hunting, fishing, building things for the house, and being a volunteer with the Urbana Fire Department.

“When I learned about the opening at ECI REC, I knew I wanted to apply. I’ve heard others say what a great place it is to work,” said Aliza. “After being here just over a month, I’m intrigued by the challenges that arise and how we find the solutions. I have amazing co-workers who are always there to help.” 


Vote in the ECI REC Board Election!

a Cooperative Difference highlight

IT'S TIME TO VOTE! ECI REC's Board election will get underway on May 24, when voting opens. Voting will remain open until June 24. Results will be announced at this year's Annual Meeting of the Members, which will be held virtually via Zoom on June 26.

"Members, your vote does matter! Though we no longer gather in person, we offer an extended voting window, and members have three ways to cast their ballots," said CEO Teresa Floyd. "We hope you'll join us for our livestream and take part in guiding our Cooperative's future!"

In today's challenging environment, cooperative leaders carry a significant responsibility. Over the past year, we've been reminded how incredibly essential our utilities are. ECI REC is blessed to have a dedicated Board of Directors that supports innovation that will energize our tomorrows.

We've created a page on our website dedicated to the Annual Meeting. Look for the yellow button at the top of the home page at ecirec.coop. For more detailed information on how to attend the meeting, how to vote, and this year's prizes, see the back cover. 

OUR MISSION
To demonstrate the advantages of the cooperative business model



OUR VISION
To make a difference in the lives of those we serve



VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

10:30 a.m. - Login opens

11:00 a.m. - Business meeting begins

MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Invocation

Introduction of Directors
Steve Rau, President

Reading of Affidavit of Mailing of Notice of Annual Meeting
Ryan Kress, Secretary/Treasurer

Approval of Agenda
Ryan Kress, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of Last Annual Meeting
Ryan Kress, Secretary/Treasurer

Introduction of Attorney
Steve Rau, President

Reading of the Nominating Committee Minutes and Election Results
Amanda James, Attorney

Adjournment of Business Meeting



Nominating Committee Confirms Candidates

Photo credit: Lisa Franck

Nominating Committee Members, pictured left to right: Carl Dodge (District 10), Bob Hanson (District 1), Clint Sandburg (District 3), Peggy Bearbower (District 2), Gary Maurer (District 9), and Randy Merkel (District 8). Present virtually via Zoom: Ernie Henderson (District 6) and John Frazier (District 4).

EACH YEAR, ECI REC's Board of Directors selects members from each district to serve on our Nominating Committee. The committee's purpose is to nominate one to two East-Central Iowa REC members to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming Board of Directors election, which is voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Members.

This year, there are three positions up for election. On Thursday, February 15, 2024, the Nominating Committee met at Urbana Administrative Headquarters to review and confirm the candidates:

- » Board District 6: Pete Burmeister
- » Board District 8: Nick Donlea and Brent Parks
- » Board District 10: Gary Cook and Brett Soukup 

FINANCIALS

2023 PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT

Energizing Tomorrow: A Resilient Journey of Innovation and Dedication

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

REVENUE	2023	2022
Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	\$25,644,490	\$23,860,298
EXPENSE		
Purchased Power	\$13,883,043	\$14,173,119
Distribution Expenses - Operations	\$2,631,241	\$2,274,858
Distribution Expenses - Maintenance.....	\$614,502	\$657,492
Customer Accounts Expense.....	\$488,563	\$445,937
Customer Service and Informational Expense	\$608,887	\$560,820
Administrative and General Expense	\$1,528,667	\$1,319,691
Depreciation.....	\$2,690,219	\$2,577,474
Taxes-Property & Other.....	\$(21,608)	\$0
Interest on Long-Term Debt.....	\$1,556,840	\$1,428,023
Other Deductions and Interest Expense.....	\$91,891	\$64,013
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$24,072,245	\$23,501,427
Operating Margins	\$1,572,245	\$358,871
Non-Operating Margins.....	\$91,870	\$850,471
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits.....	\$994,801	\$288,856
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends....	\$290,271	\$244,230
Total Operating & Non-Operating Margins	\$2,949,187	\$1,742,428

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2023	2022
Current Assets & Other Debits	\$15,442,326	\$16,264,383
Fixed Assets (Net Utility Plant)	\$71,556,945	\$67,070,411
Total Assets & Other Debits	\$86,999,271	\$83,334,794
LIABILITIES		
Total Current & Accrued Liabilities	\$4,359,605	\$6,222,281
Total Fixed Long-Term Debt & Deferred Credits.....	\$40,476,868	\$37,372,701
Total Margins & Equities	\$42,162,798	\$39,739,812
Total Liabilities & Other Credits	\$86,999,271	\$83,334,794

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

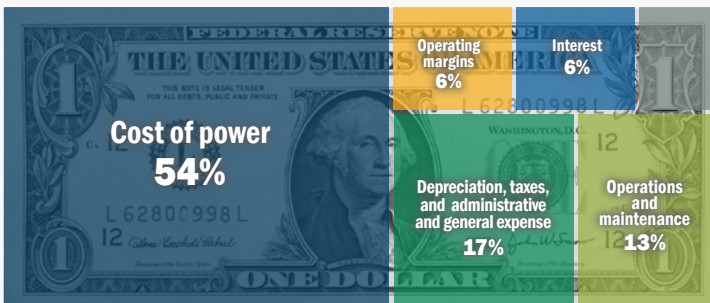
Miles of Line Energized	2,298	2,296
New Services Connected.....	100	117
Total Services in Place.....	9,869	9,813
kWhs Purchased From CIPCO.....	228,723,401	237,286,671
Cost Power Purchased	13,861,698	14,155,294
Percent Line Loss.....	4.42%	4.50%
OPERATING REVENUE	\$25,576,250	\$23,814,779
Average kWhs Used Per Month Per Consumer.....	2,073	2,159
Average Monthly Bill	\$231.77	\$216.68
Average Cost per kWh to Consumer	\$0.1118	\$0.1004

LOAN FUNDS

CFC	\$39,127,754	\$35,942,449
Other.....	\$678,319	\$726,723
Total Loan Funds	\$39,806,073	\$36,669,172

2023 REC DOLLARS AT WORK FOR YOU

Consumer accounts, service, and information
4%



STEVE RAU,
President



TERESA FLOYD,
CEO

AS WE REFLECT ON the successes and milestones of 2023, it can be said it was a remarkable year filled with historically low outages, lower power costs than projected, and strategic investments in our infrastructure, maintenance, and employees.

We had a record low outage total of 28.2 average minutes per member-account, based on the outages we could control. That figure does not include planned/scheduled outages or outages caused by the public or our power supplier. Our continued investment in plant upgrades, our proactive maintenance program, and good weather also played a big part.

Financial stability is crucial and remains the bedrock of your Cooperative. We started out 2023 announcing the need to raise electric rates, and we expected our members to see an increase in wholesale power costs via the power cost adjustment. The rate increase was implemented on March 1; however, the increase in wholesale power costs did not materialize. In fact, our power supplier lowered their rate twice during 2023, saving our members an average of \$86 in power cost adjustments. Despite the initial forecast of rising electric rates, we were able to navigate through uncertain terrain, ultimately witnessing a reduction in wholesale power costs.

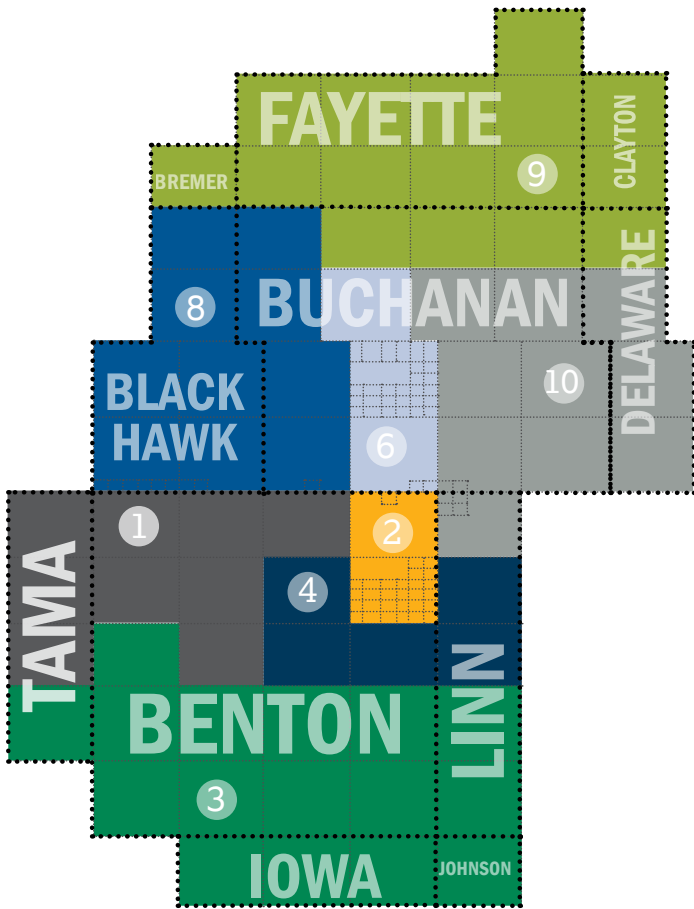
Our ongoing monthly safety meetings continue to shine the light on working safely. One aspect we focused on in 2023 was fleet management. ECI REC invited the Iowa State Patrol to our September safety meeting to do a presentation on proper cargo securement, vehicle weight limits, and distracted driving. While onsite, the commercial vehicle patrol officer inspected some of ECI REC's fleet and gave pointers on how to remain in compliance with commercial vehicle regulations.

Cybersecurity is another top priority for your Cooperative. In May 2023, the ECI REC management team underwent data security training. An RC3 (Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities) tabletop exercise was also performed to test our cybersecurity posture.

In collaboration with our esteemed leadership and through active engagement with legislators, we have advocated for the interests of rural electric cooperatives, amplifying our

continued on page 10

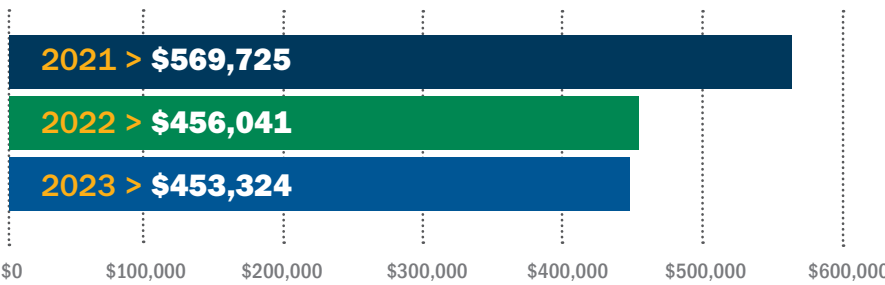
YOUR DISTRICT MAP & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



<p>Jeff Elliott Vice President Director since 1990 Board District 1</p>		<p>Julie Kester Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer Director since 2019 Board District 2</p>	
<p>Brian McNulty Director since 2021 Board District 3</p>		<p>Gary McKenna Director since 2016 Board District 4</p>	
<p>Don Shonka Director since 2006 Board District 6</p>		<p>Nick Donlea Director since 2018 Board District 8</p>	
<p>Steve Rau President Director since 2005 Board District 9</p>		<p>Ryan Kress Secretary/Treasurer Director since 2009 Board District 10</p>	

2023 WORK PLAN NUMBERS

45 miles of line replacement	\$4,819,652
Pole, equipment, & conductor replacements	\$893,024
New transformers, meters, & special equipment	\$548,080
Service upgrades	\$322,635
New services construction	\$148,891
Sectionalizing equipment (such as breakers & fuses)	\$82,680
Outdoor lights	\$41,719



3-YEAR PATRONAGE HISTORY Returning Your Investment

Since ECI REC is a nonprofit organization, you pay for electricity at cost. Any margins left over at the end of the year, after all expenses are covered, are allocated to you by your Board of Directors in the form of patronage dividends!

2023 PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT *continued from page 8*

collective voice and shaping policies that benefit the communities we serve.

In January 2023, Directors Jeff Elliott and Gary McKenna and CEO Teresa Floyd represented the Cooperative at the Welcome Back Legislative Session. During the March 2023 REC Day on the Hill, Manager of Finance Jennifer Schmitz represented your Cooperative. In August, ECI REC was visited by a legislative correspondent out of D.C. We also held a get-to-know event in November, inviting local legislators to meet the Board and management team. These initiatives and annual events are a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. We hope to become a trusted resource they can call upon if a need should arise.

Each year, regular inspections and our vegetation management program proactively address potential issues and extend the lifespan of the Cooperative's distribution assets. In 2023, we invested over \$380,000 in maintenance and \$4.8 million in infrastructure investments that included 45 miles of distribution line replacement by contractors.

In 2023, supply chain management was another challenge we dedicated resources to addressing. Fortunately, ECI REC is a 30-year member of the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO), a not-for-profit wholesale distributor whose advanced logistics gave us a slight edge in terms of cost-effective inventory and quicker deliveries. We implemented new strategies and projected the need for materials like transformers five years into the future.

Your Cooperative continues our commitment of returning patronage dividends to our members. In September, your Board approved returning over \$453,000 in deferred patronage divi-

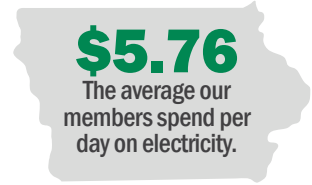
dends. These dividends were margins allocated to the membership in 2008. In the past 10 years, ECI REC has returned \$5,261,705 to the membership.

Guided by our commitment to community, ECI REC has a long history of supporting students through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've been sending deserving high school students to Washington, D.C., every summer for years as a part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. In 2023, ECI REC also participated in both the Benton and Buchanan County Fairs by setting up a booth to connect with our members and the community.

As we look back at the past year, it becomes evident that our journey has been defined by resilience, innovation, and unwavering dedication. Our commitment to infrastructure investments and maintenance ensured the reliability and efficiency of our services, exemplified by the record low outage duration experienced by our members.

At the heart of our operations lies our 34 employees with 548 combined years of service. Their collective expertise and dedication to safety has propelled us forward. (Our employees have worked over 386,000 hours since our last lost-time accident!) In 2023, we invested over 2,100 hours in employee development. Through these initiatives, we continue to foster a culture of excellence and continuous improvement.

As we embark on the journey ahead—guided by our Board of Directors—we remain steadfast in our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the well-being of our members. Together, we stand poised to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, fortified by a resilient spirit and an unwavering dedication to energizing tomorrow. 🌱



ECI REC IS AMONG IOWA'S LOWEST RATES
for cooperative residential electricity.



11,305
AMI meters
AT WORK SERVING
7,236
memberships
9,206
member-accounts

2023
Facebook Fans

1,004 FOLLOWERS **884** FANS BY YEAR-END


HELPING MEMBER FAMILIES IN NEED

64 members gave **\$5,808**



>1,968,650 kWh energy saved by ECI REC members through energy efficiency rebates

2023 ECI REC YEAR-END STATS



3,104
REGISTERED SMART HUB USERS

1,519
AVERAGE MONTHLY MOBILE/ONLINE PAYMENTS

1,117
EBILL (PAPERLESS) MEMBERS

\$47,674 donated to **42** causes



\$12,000
(via \$1,000 scholarships)
to 12 graduating seniors

\$3,250
to school functions

\$14,400
to local/county economic development

\$5,500
to health/safety organizations

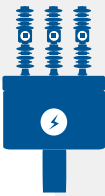
\$5,849
to community organizations



\$6,675
to Youth Tour



ECI REC owns and maintains



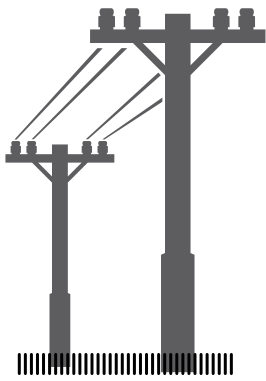
24 substations

Members Support Renewable Energy Production in Iowa
67 members > \$4.20 per month



Invested in Efficiency

\$0.00106187 of 2023 revenue invested in energy efficiency programs
per kWh



2,298 miles

of overhead and underground line maintained

Empowering Energy Savings

\$143,399 in energy efficiency rebates to ECI REC members

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

YOUR BOARD

Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott
(2023/2024 Vice President)

Board District 2 - Julie Kester
(2023/2024 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)

Board District 3 - Brian McNulty

Board District 4 - Gary McKenna

Board District 6 - Don Shonka

Board District 8 - Nick Donlea

Board District 9 - Steve Rau
(2023/2024 President)

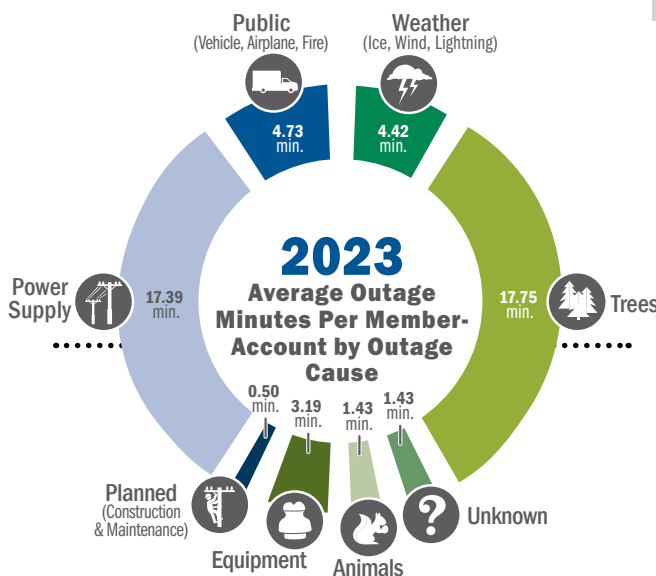
Board District 10 - Ryan Kress
(2023/2024 Secretary/Treasurer)

CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the July/August 2024 *Heartland Link* must be received by June 1, 2024.

FOR SALE: Craftsman® shallow-well jet pump, 0.75 HP, 3450 RPM, used very little. New \$250.00, asking \$125.00 OBO. Ph: 319-290-2833.

East-Central Iowa REC will publish non-commercial advertisements as a service to our members. All ads are free. They may be submitted by any member or employee of East-Central Iowa REC. Ads should contain a phone number, name (if desired), a brief description of items with price if applicable. Each ad is limited to maximum of 50 words; please type or print clearly. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. No ads will be taken over the telephone—please email, mail, or bring your ad to the office.



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CLIP AND MAIL

See page 2 for the Member Challenge questions.

Answers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please note: NO ANSWERS will be taken over the phone.

Find tools for members at www.ecirec.coop



24-Hour Bill Pay With SmartHub
See account information at ecirec.coop, smarthub.coop or download the app.



Outage Center & Map
View current outages via SmartHub or at outages.ecirec.coop:81.



Online Forms
Access rebate, service request, and program sign-up forms.



Call Before You Dig
Notify utilities before you dig at www.iowaonecall.com or call 811.



Co-op Connections®
Get discounts on everyday expenses. Visit www.connections.coop or download the mobile app.



Heartland Link E-Newsletter
Email ecirec@ecirec.coop and ask to receive our newsletter via email.



Iowa Rural Power
Join grassroots advocates for Iowa's electric cooperatives. Visit www.iaruralpower.org.

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Energizing Tomorrow: A Resilient Journey of Innovation and Dedication

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

HOW DO I ATTEND?

Visit ecirec.coop and look for the yellow button at the top of the home page, which will take you to the Annual Meeting of the Members page. Look for the green JOIN NOW button. The virtual meeting room will open at 10:30 a.m.

HOW DO I VOTE?

On May 24, ballots will be mailed and online voting will open. All votes—online and mail-in—MUST be received by June 24.

1

MAIL - A ballot will be mailed to every member with a self-addressed and stamped return envelope.*

2

SMART HUB - Log in to SmartHub at ecirec.smarthub.coop and click VOTE NOW. Please note: SmartHub voting must be done in a web browser, not the SmartHub mobile app.

3

ONLINE - Click the blue VOTE NOW button located on the home page at ecirec.coop. Enter your voter number and election passcode, which will be listed at the bottom of your mailed ballot. Follow online voting instructions.

*ECI REC partnered with EverView to administer the Annual Meeting mailing and ballot validation processes. They will tabulate all the ballots, both paper and online.

ARE THERE PRIZES?

Of course! Twelve \$50 bill credits and two \$100 bill credits will be given away as grand prizes this year.