

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

ECI REC Member Service Representative Featured in NRECA Magazine

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SPECIAL EDITION
Annual Meeting &
Annual Report

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Cooperative reps gathered
to advocate for you!



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Invitation to attend the virtual
meeting.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Photo credit: Urbana-Polk Twp Fire Department

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we want to hear from you!



There are three places to find the ECI REC member survey:

1. Popup at ecirec.coop
2. SmartHub account sidebar
3. QR code to SurveyMonkey page

take the member challenge

1. COMMUNITY CONNECTED: Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students on this trip since ____.
2. LOOKING OUT FOR YOU: Advocates asked elected officials to protect defined electric service _____ in Iowa that support affordable rates, foster a resilient grid, and encourage rural economic development.
3. COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE: We've created a page on our website dedicated to the _____.

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 2025 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Makenna G. Barth
Ryan P. Svoboda
Daniel K. Rewoldt
Doris M. Macke
Susan Schwinke
John C. Hinde
Kathy A. Meyer
Phyllis M. Williams

Randy Scheel
Eli C. Raue
Alan Andrews
Grant L. Miller
Brian Brummer
Bryce A. Cronbaugh
Loren Wood
David Pippert

Calendar Notes

Monday, May 26 -
CLOSED for
Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 25 -
Annual Meeting of the
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

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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.

ECI REC Member Service Representative Featured in NRECA Magazine

a Cooperative Difference feature

COVER
STORY



THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (NRECA) publishes the monthly *RE Magazine*. In their February 2025 issue, they featured one of ECI REC's own—Member Service Representative Aliza Mollenhauer—in their column showcasing newcomers to the cooperative program. Aliza has been a Member Service Representative for East-Central Iowa REC since March 2024.

The article (reprinted below) celebrates Aliza's work as a volunteer firefighter in her community. Thanks to the NRECA, and especially writer Alexis Woodhouse, for this spotlight!

Tell us about your hobby: I am on the Urbana-Polk Township Fire Department as the first female volunteer, where I have the honor of serving and protecting our local community during emergencies.

When did you begin volunteering? I was introduced to the fire department through my boyfriend when he joined three years ago. When a family friend kept saying it would be a good fit for me, I decided to give it a try. Now I have been with the department for almost two years and am working toward getting my EMT so I can be of greater assistance to the team.

How has being the first female volunteer shaped your journey so far?

Being the first female volunteer on the department comes with some challenges, but I have learned that I just have to show the guys that I can do what they can do.

Have you learned any life lessons through your volunteer efforts? It has shown me that everyone has their own struggles and being there when someone needs you can improve their day or even save their life.

What do you like most about working for an electric co-op? Talking with the members and listening to the stories they tell. The people I work with are amazing and make work so much fun.

Any words of advice to new co-op employees? Don't be afraid to take the initiative and ask how you can help your coworkers, even if it is just watching over their shoulder. Ask questions and be open to feedback because you are not going to know everything right away. This shows that you are interested and want to learn. 🙌

Nominate a Local Volunteer and They Could Win \$3,000 for Their Charity!

Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination! Review contest rules and submission guidelines at IowaShineTheLight.com.

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.

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're excited to once again give out three donations of \$3,000 each this year to recognize local volunteer efforts 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. Nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.

Contest entries will be accepted online starting June 1. The three winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media. 🙌



ECI REC AWARDS 12 SCHOLARSHIPS TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

East-Central Iowa REC is proud to announce that we have awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 10 graduating seniors who plan to further their education in a diverse range of programs. We've also awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to students set to attend the Powerline Technology program.



Isabel Birker
Vinton-Shellsburg

Parents: Scott and Jenni Birker
Iowa State University,
Agricultural Studies



Maya Burkhardt
Center Point-Urbana

Parents: Brooks and Jennifer
Burkhardt
University of Iowa, Nursing



Brenna Chesmore
East Buchanan

Parents: Christopher and
Carey Chesmore
University of Iowa, Diagnostic
Medical Sonography



Addyson Chvala
Vinton-Shellsburg

Parents: Aric and Lacey Chvala
University of Iowa, Sports and
Recreation Management



Tyler Gates
Union

Parents: Jason and Jennifer Gates
Ellsworth Community College,
Precision Agriculture/Agricultural
Business



Natalie Hamlett
Starmont

Parents: Mark and Jennifer Hamlett
Iowa State University,
Food Science



Jackson Hogan
Don Bosco

Parent: Erin Hogan
Iowa State University,
Ecology



Brady Holthaus
Center Point-Urbana

Parents: Josh and Melissa Holthaus
Northwest Iowa Community College,
Powerline Technology



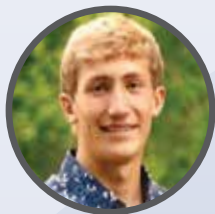
Mallory Howard
Benton Community

Parents: Brad and Wendy Howard
University of Northern Iowa,
Education/History



Katie Johnson
Independence

Parents: Jeremy and Allison
Johnson
Buena Vista University,
Agricultural Business



Remington Ressler
Independence

Parents: Tony and Jen Ressler
Minnesota West Community and
Technical College, Powerline
Technology



Madison Wellman
Jesup

Parents: Keith and Marjorie
Wellman
Iowa State University, Interior
Design/Graphic Design

MAY IS
**ELECTRICAL
SAFETY
MONTH**

Safe
Electricity.org



**May is the perfect
month to share impor-
tant electrical safety
tips with your kids!**

1. Never climb trees near power lines (even if the power lines are not touching the tree).
2. Never climb a utility pole or tower.
3. Only fly kites, drones, and model airplanes in good weather and in large, open areas, like a park or a wide field. Keep these toys away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment. If something gets stuck in a tree near power lines, do not climb up to get it. Contact your electric utility for help.
4. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. These are the metal "boxes" on cement pads. They contain transformers.
5. Never go into an electric substation. Never try to retrieve a pet, ball, or any toy from these areas. Call your electric utility instead.
6. Immediately seek shelter if you see lightning or hear thunder while playing outside.

**CLICK BEFORE
YOU DIG.
IT'S THE LAW!**



iowaonecall.com

Meet ECI REC's 2025 Youth Tour Representative!

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 send one of our outstanding individuals 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 Youth Tour tradition in the years to come."

The 2025 Youth Tour will take place June 15–21. In addition to touring, the 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. This year, ECI REC will be represented by Ranger Reed.

Ranger is a junior at Independence High School and is the son of Todd and Cheryl Reed. He is a member of the Independence Bass Club and has served as both vice president and president. Ranger has also served on the student council and is involved in choir, archery, and the yearbook. He is a recipient of the Schrage Award, which is about living the Mustang Way by showing respect, responsibility, kindness, and gratitude. Ranger is also a representative on the School Improvement Advisory Committee. He is a big history and government enthusiast and is very anxious to learn more about Washington, D.C., and how our government works.

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.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



1. Investing in Our Most Valuable Assets: Each winter, all ECI REC employees go through a day's worth of leadership training. This year, we took a deep dive into identifying individual core strengths and building on them in a group setting. Thanks to IAEC Director of Education & Training Katrina Davis for leading the program!

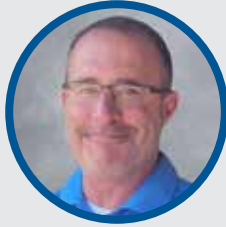
2. We Support #GrowBuchanan! In late February, Executive Director Lisa Kremer of Buchanan County Economic Development stopped by our Urbana administrative headquarters to thank ECI REC for our continued partnership and support. Lisa (left) presented a Grow Buchanan plaque to Manager of Member Service Adam Albertsen (right).

3. Renewing Our CPR Certifications: Every two years, our entire team undergoes hands-on training in CPR. Pictured are Jennifer Schmitz and Molly Cook.

Thank You for Your Years of Service!



TOM SCHMITT
Operations Manager
34 years



PAT HYLAND
System Controller
35 years



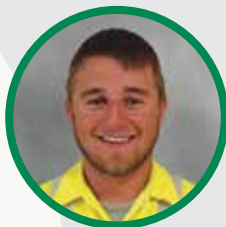
COLTON DIETRICK
Lineworker
7 years



ADAM ALBERTSEN
Member Service
Manager
25 years



JOHN TEGLER
Member Service
Technician
31 years



BRAXTON CLUBB
Lineworker
8 years



SCOTT RAST
Inventory/Maintenance
Technician
14 years

May Anniversaries

June Anniversaries



2025 REC Day on the Hill

Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives Advocate to Protect Defined Service Territory Laws

a Looking Out for You article

SEVERE BLIZZARD CONDITIONS couldn't hold back employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives as they convened at the State Capitol to advocate for important issues during the annual REC Day on the Hill on March 19.

"Our annual advocacy day at the state house is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact the members and communities we serve," remarked Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

There were more than 120 cooperative representatives in attendance, including ECI REC Lineworker Ben Donnelly, who joined as part of IAEC's Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program training. Advocates asked elected officials to protect defined electric service territory laws in Iowa that support affordable rates, foster a resilient grid, and encourage rural economic development. In place for almost 50 years, these service territories provide a high degree of certainty that enables electric cooperatives to make long-term investments to best serve our members. You can learn more about this issue at [ProtectRuralIowa.com](https://www.ProtectRuralIowa.com).

Additionally, cooperative representatives talked with their legislators about the benefits of allowing Iowa's incumbent electric providers the right of first refusal (ROFR) in constructing and maintaining electric transmission projects, as included in the governor's energy bill (HF 834/SF 585).

The group also discussed concerns with a community solar bill (HF 404) that would undercut defined electric service territories and allow non-utilities to provide retail electric service within rate-regulated utility territory.

During the event, cooperative advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model, including local ownership, democratic governance, and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda that provided information on topics like economic development, investments in technology, electric safety, reliable power generation, and student programs.

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

Building on the Past
to Grow the Future

Log in to ECI REC's Virtual Annual Meeting

a Cooperative Difference feature



We would also like to highlight the efforts of our Nominating Committee, who met on February 20. This committee made this election possible. Thank you to the following (pictured left to right): Gary Maurer (District 9), Carl Dodge (District 10), Don Shonka (District 6), John Frazier (District 4; virtual), Peggy Bearbower (District 2), Randy Merkel (District 8), and Clint Sandburg (District 3). Bob Hanson (District 1) is not pictured.

IT'S TIME TO VOTE! ECI REC's Board election will get underway on May 19, when voting opens. Voting will remain open until June 23. Results will be announced at this year's Annual Meeting of the Members, which will be held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, June 25.

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 builds on our past to grow our future.

"Members, your vote matters! 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!"

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. 📖

2024 President & CEO Report

WITH GRATITUDE for our achievements and milestones, we can say 2024 was indeed a remarkable year for your Cooperative—filled with historically low outages, as well as strategic investments in our infrastructure, maintenance, and employees.

Global supply chain issues continued to improve, and lead times on most line materials improved as well. Connecting with local legislators remains very important for ECI REC's leaders, so there is an intentional effort on our behalf to reach out to our senators and representatives to inquire about get-to-know visits at the ECI REC administrative headquarters. It's essential that our legislators can count on ECI REC for credible information!

Let's take a moment to reflect on the successes of 2024 and share our vision for 2025.

Safety

Safety is a cornerstone of your Cooperative's operations and requires commitment at all levels. It's not just about ensuring compliance with regulations but also fostering a culture that prioritizes the well-being of employees and the community. The safety of our employees, members, and the public is our number-one priority. We continue to participate in ongoing education programs, conferences, and in-house training that's available to all Cooperative employees. We also conduct monthly safety meetings with the assistance of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), which provides annually required training and other safety-related training to ECI REC.



STEVE RAU,
President



TERESA FLOYD,
CEO

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2024 President & CEO Report

continued from page 7

We also participate in the NRECA's Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). In 2024, your Cooperative successfully completed the assessment and was awarded the Certificate of Safety Achievement. The over 200-point checklist included in the assessment revealed that we have no areas of critical concern, receiving exceeding expectations or satisfactory scores. One notable highlight was that ECI REC had zero employee lost time or vehicle accidents for five consecutive years (2019–2023). In 2024, your Cooperative reached more than 400,000 hours of work without a lost time accident.

These achievements underscore our steadfast dedication to maintaining a safe and secure work environment for each member of the ECI REC family. Our employees' unwavering commitment to safety ensures their own well-being and that of their colleagues. For that, we extend our deepest gratitude. Let's continue to uphold our commitment to safety as we work together toward even greater achievements in the coming year!

Keeping the Lights On

One of the key highlights of 2024 was a record-low outage total of 21.5 average minutes per member-account. (For perspective, the previous record was set in 2023, and it was 28.2 minutes!) This number is based on the outages we could control. It does not include planned or scheduled outages or outages caused by the public or power supplier.

Our continued investment in plant upgrades, proactive maintenance program, and good weather played a big part. Crews were busy replacing aged poles, changing out oil circuit reclosers with electronic reclosers, installing new services for members, and working on other maintenance projects. Contractors inspected approximately 6,300 poles and 1,030 pieces of underground equipment at 4 of our 35 substations. Contractors also carried out the Cooperative's vegetation management program throughout 376 miles of line in the Walker, Jesup, Shady Grove, and Van Horne substation areas.

As part of our overhead Work Plan projects, our contractor replaced approximately 31 miles of older conductor and poles in the Bryantsburg, Rowley, Shellsburg, Van Horne, and Homer substation areas, strengthening our infrastructure and providing more capacity for our distribution system.

Remotely controlled switches were added to five of our substations to help cut down on outage response times. During an outage, these remote switches will allow us to backfeed circuits that are without power and feed them from other substations that are still energized. They are also used

when a substation must be deenergized for maintenance. This can all happen remotely through our SCADA system.

Cooperative Difference

Unlike investor-owned utilities that maximize profits to pay dividends to shareholders, not-for-profit electric cooperatives like ECI REC provide members with "at cost" electric service. At the end of the year, after all operational expenses have been covered, a portion of any excess funds is allocated back to our members in the form of capital credits. With a positive outlook for 2024, your Board of Directors elected to retire over \$600,000 in patronage dividends. Over 64% of the retirement was returned to current members via credit on their June 2024 energy bills.

We continue to foster a culture of excellence and continuous improvement for our 34 employees, who have 613 combined years of service. In 2024, we invested over 2,573 hours in employee development. We also invested in invaluable education and training for your eight Board directors, helping them make informed decisions as they determine the strategic direction and priorities of your Cooperative. Four ECI REC directors have received Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates. Three of these four have also obtained Board Leadership and Director Gold Certificates.

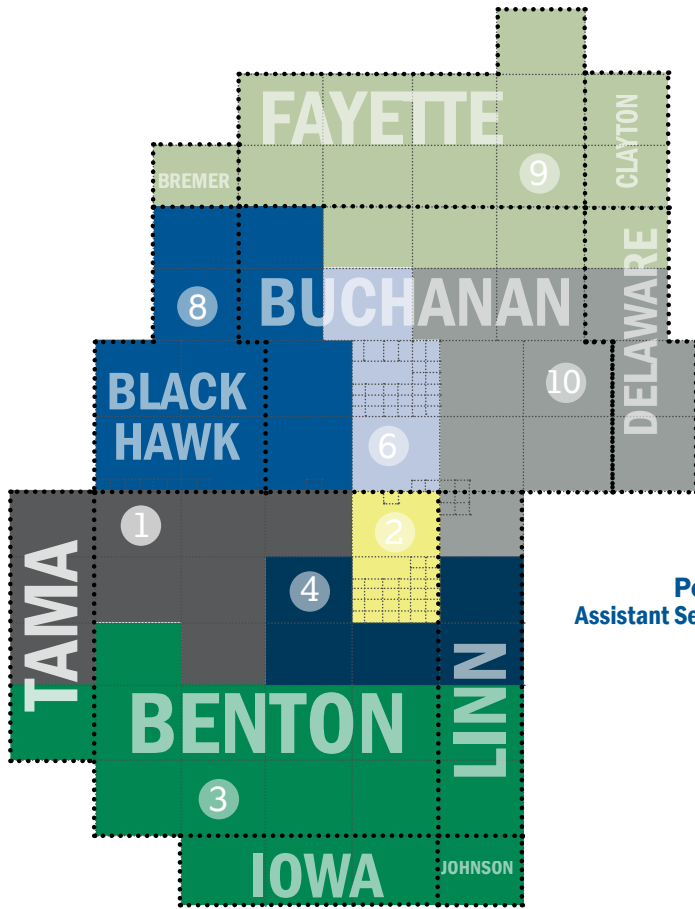
Finally, in 2024 we updated our survey format, making the new survey available to all members, all the time. We understand you are busy and receive many solicitations for your opinion. With that in mind, we've kept the survey questions short, and there is a comments section for your feedback. Your input is invaluable to us; your feedback will guide our efforts and ensure we continue to meet your needs.

Commitment to Community

In 2024, we participated in two Junior Achievement curriculum presentations at local elementary schools. We also awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 12 graduating seniors at 11 different high schools. We sponsored two high school students on the 2024 Iowa Youth Tour, an all-expense week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

In June, Line Foreman Brian Reidy traveled to Guatemala with 13 other lineworkers from Iowa and Minnesota electric cooperatives. They volunteered with an international project affiliated with the NRECA, with a goal of bringing electricity and clean water filtration to the village of Las Penas, which sits at an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet and is made up of about 35 homes scattered on the crests and flat areas of the mountainside. Crews helped build more than three miles of power lines and wired homes for electric service.

Your District Map & Board of Directors



Jeff Elliott
Vice President
Director since 1990
Board District 1



Julie Kester
Secretary/Treasurer
Director since 2019
Board District 2



Brian McNulty
Director since 2021
Board District 3



Gary McKenna
Director since 2016
Board District 4



Pete Burmeister
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Director since 2024
Board District 6



Nick Donlea
Director since 2018
Board District 8



Steve Rau
President
Director since 2005
Board District 9



Gary Cook
Director since 2024
Board District 10



2024 President & CEO Report continued from page 8

ECI REC had a great time at the Benton and Buchanan County Fairs in 2024. We contributed \$1,026 to the county Cattlemen's Associations, Pork Producers, and Dairy Producers through vouchers for pork and beef burgers and ice cream cones. We brought a "live line" trailer for lineworkers to perform demonstrations on the hazards of overhead power lines. We also passed out 200 swag bags and 196 toy hard hats to fairgoers, and 10 lucky members who visited our booth received a \$50 electric bill credit.

We celebrated two local volunteers—Michael Kramer of Vinton and Yvette Vogel of Jesup—who were nominated in the Shine the Light contest by making a monetary contribution to their individual community causes.

Looking Out for You

Iowa's electric cooperatives regularly coordinate meetings with state and federal legislators through the IAEC. During

the week of September 23, approximately 20 electric cooperative representatives traveled to Washington, D.C. These advocates were able to meet with every member of the Iowa congressional delegation.

Looking Ahead to 2025

ECI REC has already started working toward a great 2025. As soon as the new year began, our crews were busy designing and staking projects, replacing poles, doing annual line inspections, and working on other maintenance projects. Our overhead construction contractor has begun work to replace 22–25 miles of older line with new conductor and poles, which is one of the 2025 Work Plan projects. Our tree contractor has begun trimming trees. Pole inspections and underground Work Plan projects are in motion and will continue throughout the remainder of the year. 🌱

Financials

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

REVENUE	2024	2023
Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	\$25,734,523	\$25,644,490
EXPENSE		
Purchased Power	\$13,495,724	\$13,883,043
Distribution Expenses - Operations	\$2,702,577	\$2,631,241
Distribution Expenses - Maintenance	\$649,953	\$614,502
Customer Accounts Expense	\$514,353	\$488,563
Customer Service and Informational Expense	\$522,158	\$608,887
Administrative and General Expense	\$1,611,213	\$1,528,667
Depreciation	\$2,840,973	\$2,690,219
Taxes - Property and Other	\$0	\$(21,608)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$1,753,604	\$1,556,840
Other Deductions and Interest Expense	\$60,819	\$91,891
Total Expense	\$24,151,374	\$24,072,245
Operating Margins	\$1,583,149	\$1,572,245
Non-Operating Margins	\$121,744	\$91,870
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	\$1,125,007	\$994,801
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	\$255,082	\$290,271
Total Operating and Non-Operating Margins	\$3,084,982	\$2,949,187

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2024	2023
Current Assets and Other Debits	\$16,974,520	\$15,442,326
Fixed Assets (Net Utility Plant)	\$74,719,608	\$71,556,945
Total Assets and Other Debits	\$91,694,128	\$86,999,271

LIABILITIES

Total Current and Accrued Liabilities	\$4,487,835	\$4,359,605
Total Fixed Long-Term Debt and Deferred Credits	\$42,656,862	\$40,476,868
Total Margins and Equities	\$44,549,431	\$42,162,798
Total Liabilities and Other Credits	\$91,694,128	\$86,999,271

COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

Miles of Line Energized	2,301	2,298
New Services Connected	85	100
Total Services in Place	9,900	9,869
kWhs Purchased From CIPCO	224,030,543	228,723,401
Cost Power Purchased	13,475,292	13,861,698
Percent Line Loss	4.42%	4.42%

OPERATING REVENUE

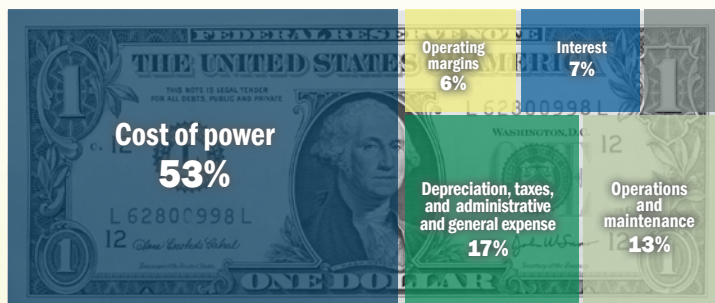
Average kWh Used per Month per Consumer	\$25,680,991	\$25,576,250
Average Monthly Bill	2,024	2,073
Average Monthly Bill	\$232.01	\$231.77
Average Cost per kWh to Consumer	\$0.1146	\$0.1118

LOAN FUNDS

CFC	\$41,317,748	\$39,127,754
Other	\$629,916	\$678,319
Total Loan Funds	\$41,947,664	\$39,806,073

2024 REC DOLLARS AT WORK FOR YOU

Consumer accounts, service,
and information
4%



\$5.51

The average our residential
members spend per
day on electricity.

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



11,372 AMI meters
AT WORK SERVING
7,264 memberships
9,224 member accounts

Invested in Efficiency

\$0.00070327

per kWh

of 2024 revenue
invested in energy
efficiency programs

\$44,666

 donated to **43** causes

\$12,000

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

\$6,775

to Youth Tour

\$4,000

to health/safety
organizations

\$15,850

(including \$5,000 to
Little Knights Learning Center)

to local/county
economic development

\$4,291

to community organizations

\$1,750

to school functions

2024 CONSTRUCTION WORK PLAN ACTUALS

31.1 miles of line replacement	\$2,092,822
Pole, equipment, and conductor replacement	\$1,397,620
New transformers, meter, and special equipment	\$384,517
SCADA technology	\$98,252
Sectionalizing equipment	\$178,589
Service upgrades	\$792,395
New service construction	\$187,653
Outdoor lights	\$25,694
Substation investment	\$69,065

2024 ECI REC Year-End Stats



4,010

REGISTERED SMART
HUB USERS

2,360

AVERAGE MONTHLY
MOBILE/ONLINE
PAYMENTS

1,294

EBILL (PAPERLESS)
MEMBER-ACCOUNTS

2024 \$602,382

2023 \$453,324

2022 \$456,041

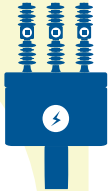
3-YEAR PATRONAGE HISTORY

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

ECI REC
owns and
maintains

24
substations



Empowering
Energy Savings

\$83,903

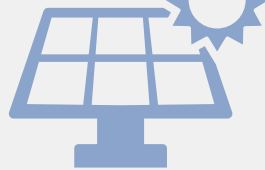
in energy efficiency rebates
to ECI REC members

402,542 kWh

energy saved by
ECI REC members
through energy
efficiency
rebates



94



interconnected

member-owned
onsite generation facilities

HELPING MEMBER
FAMILIES IN NEED

62 members
gave **\$7,313**



**CARE with
RECare**

YOUR BOARD

Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott

2024/2025 Vice President

Board District 2 - Julie Kester

2024/2025 Secretary/Treasurer

Board District 3 - Brian McNulty

Board District 4 - Gary McKenna

Board District 6 - Pete Burmeister

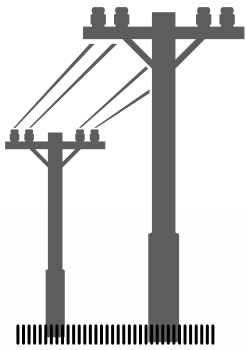
2024/2025 Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Board District 8 - Nick Donlea

Board District 9 - Steve Rau

2024/2025 President

Board District 10 - Gary Cook



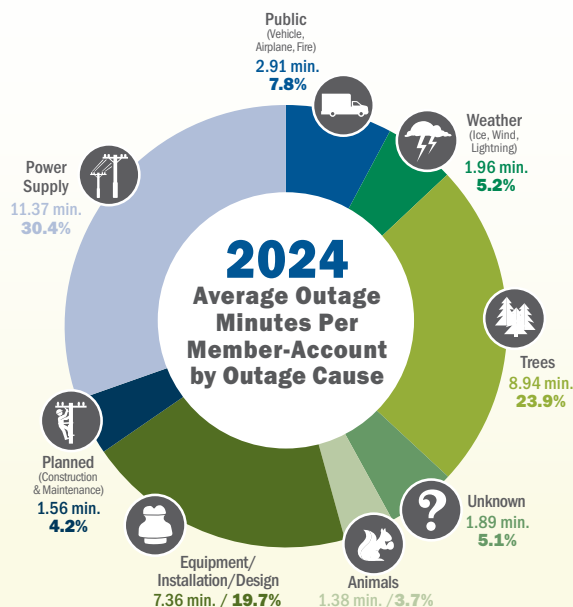
2,301
miles

of overhead and
underground line
maintained

**Members
Support
Renewable
Energy Production
in Iowa**



65 members
\$2,954.70 total



CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the July/August 2025 *Heartland Link* must be received by June 1, 2025.

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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Publisher: Teresa Floyd

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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 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

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?

Ballots will be mailed mid-May and online voting will open May 23. All votes—online and mail-in—MUST be received by June 23.

- 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 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.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

10:30 a.m. - Login opens

11:00 a.m. - Business meeting begins

AGENDA

Call to Order

Invocation

Introduction of Directors

Steve Rau, President

Reading of Affidavit of Mailing of

Notice of Annual Meeting

Julie Kester, Secretary/Treasurer

Approval of Agenda

Julie Kester, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of Last Annual Meeting

Julie Kester, Secretary/Treasurer

Introduction of Attorney

Steve Rau, President

Reading of the Nominating

Committee Minutes and Election Results

Amanda James, Attorney

Adjournment of Business Meeting

Are There Prizes?

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

*ECI REC partnered with Survey & Ballot Systems to administer the 2025 Annual Meeting mailing and ballot validation processes. They will tabulate all the ballots, both paper and online.