



20  
09

Annual  
Report



**Continued Commitment to You**  
**AFFORDABILITY | LEGISLATION | TECHNOLOGY**



Steve Rau  
President



Harry Ruth  
CEO

## Continued Commitment to You

**E**ast-Central Iowa REC is owned by you, our member-consumers. Therefore, providing you with exceptional customer service is very important to our employees. But we are realistic—we know that first and foremost, you depend on ECI REC to provide reliable, affordable electricity. As the future of energy in America continues to be uncertain, our employees and board of directors are doing all they can to ensure a system exists in which we can continue to meet these expectations.

### Reliability

In the next five to ten years, reliability of the power ECI REC delivers to you should improve significantly. Upgrades to our distribution system, automated control of our circuits, and preventative maintenance will all be contributing factors.

It is an unfortunate fact that until recently, 50% of our distribution system did not meet our specifications. As we learned during the winter storm of 2007, those poles were too small and too far apart, and the wire too brittle, to stand up to inclement weather. With financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), ECI REC has replaced 235 miles of this old equipment over the past three years. We have applied for an \$11.2 FEMA mitigation grant to rebuild another 250 miles. These improvements will substantially improve our reliability.

On average, one-third of the outages we experience are caused by problems with the transmission system that delivers power to our substations. ECI REC does not own

those transmission wires. The transmission system owner, ITC Midwest, is replacing its old system that transmits power at 34,500 volts (34.5 KV) with a much stronger system that transmits at 69,000 volts (69 KV). This also should greatly improve reliability. To maintain the compatibility of these systems, East-Central is converting 14 substations that currently receive power at 34.5 KV to receive power at 69 KV. These conversions will cost approximately \$3.5 million.

Another reliability improvement is also in process. Our line crews are working to install the last of 35 automated switches that enable the operations staff to remotely open and close these switches. When we do lose power to one of our substations, we can feed the circuits of that substation from an alternative substation. These switches cost about \$25,000 each, but in many cases, they will allow us to cut down outage time from hours to 15 to 30 minutes.

Regular work to maintain reliability, such as annual inspection of our lines to repair problems before they cause outages, continues this year. Our Outage

# ECI REC is spending more time communicating and meeting with elected officials.

Management System software, which can detect patterns in past outages, provides crucial support in these preventative maintenance efforts. Vegetation control to keep lines free from interference also happens regularly.

## Affordability

How do you keep the electricity affordable when your Cooperative has to spend money to keep the lights on? How do you keep electricity affordable when your energy supplier is facing higher energy prices and needs to begin financing its next baseload generator to meet growing demand for electric power?

The reality is that we have little control over our wholesale power bill. As long as we continue to invest in our distribution system, we have little control over fixed costs—mostly depreciation on our system and interest on the money we borrow to finance our capital projects. We must focus on our operating expenses, which are 21.5% of our revenues.

With this in mind, the Cooperative is focusing on increasing the productivity of our employees. We must learn to do more with less. We accomplish this with greater use of technology, and by putting policies and procedures in place that allow our employees to meet the needs of our members with the least amount of effort.

In the past seven years, we have been able to eliminate three positions from our Urbana office. This year, we have decided to delay filling a position that is open due to a retirement. We want to see if we can accomplish our goals without filling that position. In 2010, total payroll is increasing less than 2%.

Another way to keep electricity

affordable is to use it more efficiently. This year, East-Central has expanded rebates and services to encourage members to purchase and install more efficient heating and cooling systems, appliances, water heaters, and indoor air quality equipment. We have set a five-year goal of helping our members save over 40,000,000 kilowatt-hours. We have included some energy saving tips in your welcome bag. For more ways to cut your monthly electric bill, talk with one of our member service technicians.

## Advocacy

The challenge of keeping the cost of electricity affordable becomes even more complex when elected officials in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., keep proposing solutions to energy problems that will result in higher energy prices.

ECI REC is spending more time communicating and meeting with our elected officials. All of your board members and many East-Central employees take the time to get to know the senators and representatives that represent our service area in Des Moines. We also have developed relationships with elected officials from urban areas, particularly Cedar Falls and Waterloo.

First, Cooperative representatives make sure lawmakers know what an electric cooperative is—a locally owned and controlled organization that maximizes customer satisfaction, not profits, and which actively contributes to the economic and social well-being of the communities and families in our service territories. We want them to trust us to provide them with accurate, truthful information. After establishing this

credibility, Cooperative representatives make sure legislators realize the negative impact some of the proposed legislation is likely to have on our members.

Sometimes, an issue is important enough that we solicit your help in communicating a message. In 2009, members of elected cooperatives in Iowa sent more than 75,000 postcards to U.S. Senators Grassley and Harkin with the message that any legislation to regulate greenhouse gases had to be fair, achievable, and affordable. Your efforts paid off. The “cap and trade” legislation that passed the House of Representatives has stalled in the Senate. At this time, alternative approaches to controlling greenhouse gases are being explored.

Another challenge related to the environment has surfaced, and members may again be called on to send messages to the decision makers in our United States Capitol. Cooperatives are very concerned about the plans of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gases. The legislators who enacted the Clean Air Act never intended for it to regulate carbon dioxide emissions—in fact, it is a poor vehicle for doing that.

## Thank You

Finally, in closing, we would like to thank Rick Geater for his 28 years of service to East-Central and our members. Rick retired in January of this year. We wish Rick all the best in his years of retirement.



Allen Albers  
ECI REC  
Representative  
on CIPCO Board  
of Directors

**E**ast-Central Iowa REC is a member and part-owner of Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO). CIPCO is our wholesale power source. As Iowa's largest cooperative energy provider, CIPCO exists to serve its membership with reliable and affordable electricity today, tomorrow, and well into the future.

I have represented East-Central Iowa REC on the CIPCO board of directors for the past six years, and I currently serve on the Economic Development, Strategic Planning, and Budget/Rate committees. As your representative, my role is to not only understand the electric utility business but also keep focus on our long-term goals. It is that focus on the future that helped position CIPCO to weather the economic storm of the past year and remain financially stable.

### **Ownership means control over price**

One main objective is to own and therefore control the facilities needed to meet at least 85% of our members' electricity demands. Control of our generation assets leads to control of price, and control of price goes to the very heart of providing affordable electricity to members like you. With this goal in mind, CIPCO has been diligent in expanding and diversifying its energy portfolio to ensure that its member cooperatives are not overly reliant on a single fuel source. This minimizes, to some extent,

CIPCO's exposure to market fluctuations.

In 2009, over 90% of the electricity sold by CIPCO came from CIPCO-owned assets. In addition, more than 95% of CIPCO's power is generated right here in Iowa, and over 40% is generated from carbon-free resources.

### **Modified patronage policy builds equity**

CIPCO also moved to build equity and provide flexibility to member cooperatives when the board took action to modify the patronage policy. Patronage allocated from 1994 to 2007 will continue to be paid out on a 15-year roll. Beginning with 2008's allocations, members will have the choice of patronage allocation on a 40-year roll; at a discounted amount on a current basis; or a blend of both options.

### **Energy programs supported**

With energy costs coming in under budget throughout 2009, CIPCO acted to reduce wholesale power costs on three separate occasions. A total reduction of \$2.8 million

The 13 member-owned electric cooperatives and associations that make up CIPCO serve a population of over 320,000 residents living in 58 Iowa counties.

# This year, \$189,813.87 will be returned to East-Central Iowa REC from CIPCO in the form of a patronage payment from 1994 and 2009 margins.

for member cooperatives brought the average billing rate inline with the forecasted rates established for the 2010 budget.

As a result of under-budget costs, in October, the board was able to return \$1 million to members to provide startup funding for new and expanded energy-efficiency programs. A significant amount of work went into developing these new programs.

Through collaboration with a number of partners, CIPCO made major progress in the area of energy efficiency by:

- Developing rigorous benefit/cost models.
- Advancing energy-efficiency program design.
- Supporting member “assessment of potential” and goal-setting.
- Aiding the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives in meeting the January 1, 2010, energy efficiency report filing.

This work has, in turn, positioned East-Central Iowa REC to continue its leadership position in offering quality energy-efficiency programs to our membership. The importance of these programs cannot be overstated as we work to provide financial benefits to members and demonstrate our commitment to making efficiency the first step in meeting increased electricity demand.

## Financial stability confirmed

Despite a global economic recession and the cancellation of Sutherland Generating Unit 4, CIPCO remains financially sound. S&P and Fitch affirmed our “A” and “A-” ratings respectively, and both financial corporations noted a stable outlook for CIPCO.

CIPCO’s stability positioned the cooperative to take advantage of soft forward market prices to secure very favorable pricing for baseload and regulatory capacity purchases through the summer seasons of 2010 through 2012. Stability is also increasingly important as we explore opportunities to partner in new generation projects.

During 2009, CIPCO continued to be successful in obtaining low interest, long-term financing to fund capital projects. Total borrowings for the year were \$5.3 million at an average interest rate of 3.79%. In addition, we completed a \$17.3 million generation loan application to the Rural Utilities Service for construction improvements to existing generation facilities.

## Ready for the future

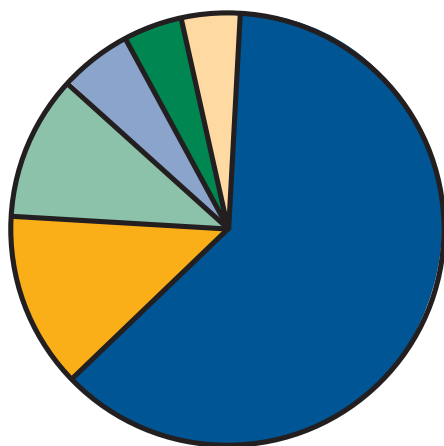
The future of energy policy is less certain today than it was a year ago. However, I am pleased to report that CIPCO is in a position of strength, regardless of what may lie ahead. As your representative on the CIPCO board of directors, I work hard to make sure East-Central Iowa REC members continue to receive reliable and affordable electricity from CIPCO. The commitment to a long-term business strategy, investment in upgrading generation and transmission systems, and strong financial management has positioned CIPCO to provide the superior service you have come to expect well into the future.



*CIPCO Energy Solutions Manager Russ Steven (left) presents a marketing award to ECI Member Services Director Frank Weber.*



## HOW YOUR REC DOLLARS WERE SPENT IN 2009



- 63%** - Cost of Power
- 13%** - Depreciation, Taxes, Administrative, and General Expenses
- 11%** - Operations and Maintenance
- 5%** - Interest
- 4%** - Consumer Accounts, Service, and Information
- 4%** - Operating Margins

## BALANCE SHEET

### Assets

	2009	2008
Current Assets and Other Debits .....	\$11,242,821	\$10,107,481
Fixed Assets.....	\$33,913,197	\$33,259,007
<b>Total Assets and Other Debits.....</b>	<b>\$45,156,018</b>	<b>\$43,366,488</b>

### Liabilities

Total Current and Accrued Liabilities.....	\$3,254,662	\$3,754,884
Total Fixed Long Term Debt and Deferred Credits .....	\$20,194,065	\$18,630,849
Total Margins and Equities .....	\$21,707,291	\$20,980,755
<b>Total Liabilities and Other Credits.....</b>	<b>\$45,156,018</b>	<b>\$43,366,488</b>

### Comparative Operating Statistics

Miles of Line Energized .....	2,265	2,264
New Services Connected.....	87	131
Total Services in Place .....	9,238	9,182
kWhs Purchased From CIPCO .....	204,456,472	207,649,917
Cost of Power Purchased.....	\$12,893,378	\$12,145,919
Percent of Line Loss .....	6.52%	6.23%

### Operating Revenue ..... \$20,387,349 \$18,872,408

Average kWhs Used per Month per Consumer .....	1,871	1,916
Average Monthly Bill .....	\$200.21	\$186.12
Average Cost per kWh to Consumer.....	\$.107	\$.0972

### Loan Funds

Our Loan From RUS Is Being Paid Back with Interest We Owe RUS.....	\$14,092,095	\$12,033,154
Our Loan From CFC Is Being Paid Back with Interest We Owe CFC .....	\$5,635,512	\$6,097,125

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

### Revenue

	2009	2008
<b>Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital.....</b>	<b>\$20,458,709</b>	<b>\$18,964,751</b>

### Expense

Purchased Power .....	\$12,893,378	\$12,145,920
Distribution Expenses – Operations .....	\$1,705,617	\$1,570,630
Distribution Expenses – Maintenance .....	\$433,368	\$646,413
Consumer Accounts Expense.....	\$485,854	\$461,369
Customer Service and Information Expense.....	\$384,957	\$343,245
Administrative and General Expense .....	\$1,340,358	\$1,134,474
Depreciation .....	\$1,298,153	\$1,278,455
Taxes – Property and Other.....	\$20,450	\$18,916
Interest on Long Term Debt.....	\$1,007,540	\$968,471
Other Deductions and Interest Expense.....	\$42,880	\$20,289
<b>Total Expense .....</b>	<b>\$19,612,555</b>	<b>\$18,588,182</b>

Operating Margins .....	\$846,154	\$376,569
Non-Operating Margins.....	\$18,710	\$82,875
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits .....	\$206,129	\$372,870
Other Capital Credits .....	\$200,917	\$117,936
<b>Operating and Non-Operating Margins .....</b>	<b>\$1,271,910</b>	<b>\$950,249</b>



**21 Donald Shonka**  
Assistant Secretary /  
Treasurer  
Director since 2006



**23 Jim Alberts**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Director since 2007



**24 Lloyd Bathen,**  
Director since 1994



**26 Steve Rau,**  
President  
Director since 2005



**27 Ryan Kress**  
Director since 2009



**11 Jeff Elliott**  
Director since 1990



**12 Judy Finger**  
Director since 2008



**13 Allen Albers,**  
Vice President  
Director since 1985



**15 William Frazier**  
Director since 1985



**17 Burt Byers**  
Director since 2007

## KEY

Green: Geographic District 1 - Benton County Area

Blue: Geographic District 2 - Buchanan Area

**Board District 21:** Hazleton, Washington, and Sumner (Sections 1-18) Townships in Buchanan County.

**Board District 23:** Fremont, Harlan, and Oran Townships in Fayette County; Franklin Township in Bremer County; Lester, Barclay, and Fox Townships in Black Hawk County; Fairbank, Perry, Westburg, and Sumner (Sections 19-21 and 28-33)

**Board District 24:** Poyner, Big Creek (except Sections 31-36), and Spring Creek (except Sections 31-32) Townships in Black Hawk County; Jefferson (less Section 34), Homer (less Sections 35-36) and Cono (less Sections 31-32) Townships in Buchanan County; Polk Township (Section 4) in Benton County; Grant Township (less Sections 5-8) in Linn County.

**Board District 26:** Illyria, Smithfield, Fairfield, Jefferson, Scott, and Putnam Townships in Fayette County; Sperry and Cass Townships in Clayton County; Madison and Buffalo Townships in Buchanan County; Richland and Coffins Grove Townships in Delaware County.

**Board District 27:** Byron, Fremont, Liberty, Middlefield, Newton, and Sumner (Sections 22-27 and 34-36) Townships in Buchanan County; Prairie and Adams Townships in Delaware County.

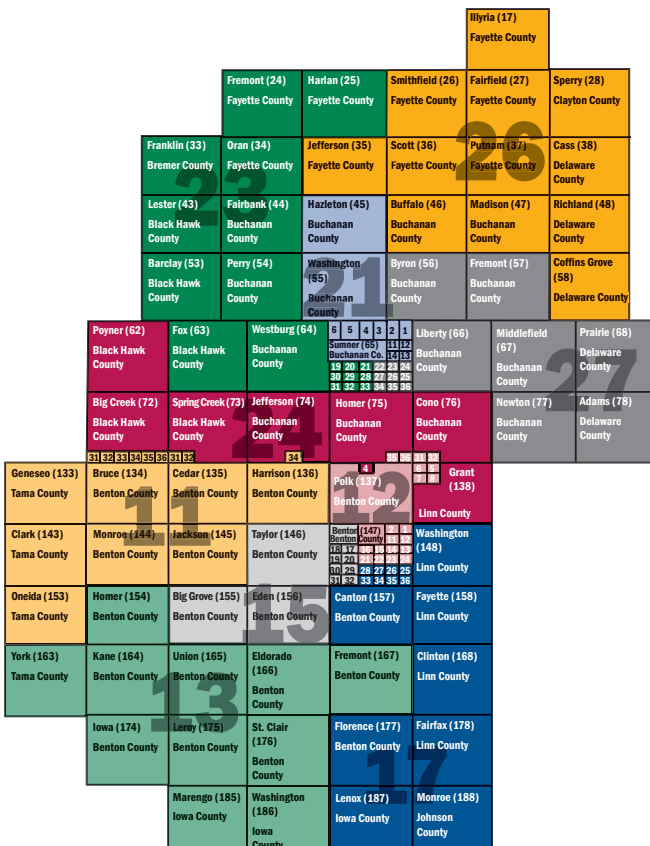
**Board District 11:** Big Creek (Sections 31-36) and Spring Creek (Sections 31-32) Townships in Black Hawk County; Jefferson (Section 34) Township in Buchanan County; Geneseo, Clark, and Oneida Townships in Tama County; Bruce, Cedar, Harrison, Monroe, and Jackson Townships in Benton County.

**Board District 12:** Cono (Sections 31-32) and Homer (Sections 35-36) Townships in Buchanan County; Polk (all Sections less Section 4) and Benton (Sections 1-4, 9-16, and 21-24) Townships in Benton County; Grant (Sections 5-8) Township in Linn County.

**Board District 15:** Taylor, Benton (Sections 5-8, 17-20, and 29-32), Big Grove, and Eden Townships in Benton County.

**Board District 13:** York Township in Tama County; Homer, Kane, Union, Eldorado, Fremont, Iowa, Leroy, and St. Clair Townships in Benton County; Marengo and Washington Townships in Iowa County.

**Board District 17:** Benton (sections 25-28 and 33-36), Canton, and Florence Townships in Benton County; Washington, Fayette, Clinton, and Fairfax Townships in Linn County; Lenox Township in Iowa County; Monroe Township in Johnson County.



# ECI REC Staff



Harry Ruth  
CEO  
6 years



Mike  
Inventory/  
Maintenance  
Technician  
12 years



Adam  
Member  
Service  
Technician  
10 years



John  
Lineman  
40 years



Ann  
Accounting  
Clerk  
8 years



Holly  
Consumer  
Services  
Representative  
4 years



Molly  
Consumer  
Services  
Representative  
9 years



Ben  
Lineman  
6 years



Lisa  
Manager of  
Communications  
8 years



Sam  
Engineering  
Design  
Technician  
35 years



Julie  
Consumer  
Services  
Representative  
7 years



Rick  
Member  
Service  
Technician  
26 years



Dave  
Engineering  
Design  
Technician  
15 years



Pat  
Lineman  
20 years



Paul  
Lineman  
7 years



Larissa  
Office  
Assistant  
6 years



Eric  
Inventory/  
Maintenance  
Technician  
7 years



Greg  
Marketing  
& Economic  
Development  
Director  
17 years



Kelly  
Consumer  
Services  
Coordinator  
11 years



Brian  
Lineman  
11 years



Jennifer  
Cost Records  
Administrator  
14 years



Teresa  
Operations  
Assistant  
31 years



John  
Member  
Service  
Technician  
17 years



Anna May  
Administrative  
Assistant  
22 years





**Doug**  
SCADA  
Technician  
12 years



**Dave**  
Line  
Foreman  
23 years



**Carl**  
Line  
Foreman  
30 years



**Teresa**  
Manager of  
Finance and  
Consumer  
Services  
18 years



**Nathan**  
Information  
Services  
Administrator  
3 years



**Gary**  
Operations  
Supervisor  
35 years



**Steve**  
Manager,  
Operations/  
Engineering  
29 years



**Travis**  
Lineman  
8 years



**Tom**  
Lineman  
19 years



**Kevin**  
Lineman  
14 years



**Frank**  
Member  
Services  
Director  
39 years

There are five key issues cooperatives such as ECI REC are working on that impact the 650,000 Iowans who receive electricity from co-ops. Legislation on climate change, renewable electricity, energy efficiency, railroad antitrust exemption, and the Rural Utilities Service program—if not addressed properly—jeopardize our ability to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - The objective of Iowa's electric cooperatives is to help Congress develop and pass simple, affordable, flexible, and effective legislation to address energy and climate change objectives. Representatives of Iowa's electric co-ops encourage Congress to:

- Give allowances to retail electric utilities, based upon CO2 emissions associated with the production of electricity sold by the retail utility.
- Set CO2 caps consistent with the commercial availability of technology.
- Not allow Wall Street speculators to set electricity rates by treating CO2 allowances as just another money-making commodity.
- Support an economic safety valve that limits CO2 allowance prices.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY** - Iowa is No. 2 in the nation in the generation of electricity from wind turbines, and we achieved that distinction with an incentive-based approach supported by federal and state government which has allowed utilities to make investments that match their size and consumer mix. At Iowa's electric cooperatives, we are concerned a renewable energy standard that mandates how much and what renewable electricity utilities purchase would reduce a utility's flexibility and could potentially raise costs for consumers. Representatives of Iowa's electric co-ops oppose any renewable energy mandate for electric utilities, and instead support government incentives.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY** - There is concern that the federal energy-efficiency standard included in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 would result in higher electric bills. Iowa's electric co-ops support the same incentive-based approach that has led to significant renewable-energy investment in Iowa and encourage Congress to:

- Extend consumer efficiency tax credits.
- Increase federal investment in advanced energy technologies.
- Oppose an energy-efficiency standard.

**RAILROAD ANTITRUST EXEMPTION** - The nation's antitrust laws are meant to protect consumers and the overall public interest from anticompetitive behavior by businesses, but railroads are exempt. That has led to higher electric bills for some electric co-op member-consumers. Furthermore, the Surface Transportation Board, which regulates railroads, protects railroads, not the public. Iowa electric co-ops encourage Congress to:

- Vote for S. 146, the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act, in the Senate.
- Support H.R. 233, the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act, in the House.

**RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service makes it possible for electric cooperatives to construct and maintain their electric grids and systems. Iowa benefits from RUS loans as a result of the investment of RUS loan funds in the state's economy. Iowa's electric co-ops representatives urge Congress to:

- Support \$6.6 billion for the Rural Electric Loan Program.
- Eliminate restrictions on RUS funding for new electric generating plants.



## Keeping the Lights On

- The more than two-year process of repairing and upgrading our distribution system after the 2007 ice storm was completed. In total, 235 miles of lines were completely rebuilt and approximately 100 miles were repaired.
- In addition to those line rebuilds, \$1,358,606.01 was invested in planned system maintenance and upgrades.
- After an ice storm hit southern Missouri and other southern states in February, ECI REC repaid the favor shown to our members by sending linemen Carl Gray, Ben Donnelly, Dave Becker, and Brian Reidy to assist with repairs.
- An online power outage map was introduced by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, allowing ECI REC members to keep up-to-date on outage circumstances via the Internet.
- Upgrades to three substations' cables, gaskets, and boots costing \$85,000 improved reliability of electricity delivery. Work was completed by subcontractor PUSH Incorporated.
- In 2009, The Cooperative's average outage time per account was 4.14 hours, an improvement of almost 2 hours over 2008.
- ECI REC's partnership with the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) continued to pay off in 2009. CRC helped

ECI REC respond to 8,470 member calls. On average, CRC answered these calls in 27 seconds, and the group was able to make contact with ECI REC line crews in just over 4 minutes.

- The cooperative invested \$82,799.51 in tree trimming and vegetation control.

## Looking Out for You

- With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, ECI REC representatives were ready to help members understand the weatherization and energy-efficient improvement options eligible for rebates and credits. ECI REC sent more than 1,000 energy-efficiency rebate checks to members in 2009.
- In 2009, your board of directors and ECI REC employees faithfully attended many Legislative events such as REC Day on the Hill and the Welcome Back reception. These efforts established the Cooperative's credibility and provided a platform from which to discuss our member's desire to keep electricity affordable.
- In May, ECI REC CEO Harry Ruth joined 3,000 other electric cooperative representatives in Washington, D.C., to bring a message to lawmakers about the need for affordable and fair solutions to energy challenges.

- Electric cooperatives monitored the progress of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 as it worked its way through Congress. Iowans came together to send 75,000 postcards to Iowa's senators expressing acute concern about how the bill would affect electric bills. Efforts paid off when U.S. Senator Tom Harkin announced 13 fellow senators had joined him in refusing to sign a bill that did not treat all regions of the country fairly.
- By supporting political action committees, nine member-consumers joined ECI employees and directors to help support state and federal political candidates whose policies best met the needs of cooperatives like ECI REC and their members.

## The Cooperative Difference

- In 2009, ECI returned \$500,000 in capital credits to its member-consumers.
- Two small-group member meetings were held to provide members a comfortable setting in which to ask questions of Cooperative representatives.
- As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, ECI REC was able to bring members campaigns like Together We Save, which gave energy-saving tips via print ads and television commercials.



## Communications Report

In 2009, ECI REC introduced a new, more comprehensive, member packet aimed at presenting information on many Cooperative processes and programs in one, convenient location. Our Communication Department's efforts were honored in the Spotlight on Excellence national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. ECI REC received an Award of Excellence in the Special Publication category.

### Community Connected

- With donations of \$35,843, ECI REC supported 35 individuals, community groups, and organizations, and 80% of those donations came from the Community Reinvestment Fund. Scholarships totaling \$10,500 were awarded to 21 high-school seniors headed for higher education.
- Lindsay Kelty from Urbana High School and Cally Bengston from Jesup High School represented ECI REC at the 2009 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.
- Four interns, Corbin Hopkins, Phillip Miller, Jacob Cory, and Travis Weis, worked with ECI REC during the summer, earning valuable career experience.
- For the sixth year in a row, ECI REC cosponsored Character Counts! training sessions for educators.
- In 2008-2009, the number of ECI REC members contributing to RECare rose to 107 from 99. However, donation dollars fell.

### Energy Wise

- The cooperative's power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), signed a 10-year contract with the Story County Wind Energy Center to purchase

an additional 42 megawatts of renewable energy. With this purchase, CIPCO's energy supply from carbon-free sources rose to 41 percent.

- Through Consumers Energy Cooperative in Marshalltown, ECI REC began to offer home energy audits to members.
- With support from ECI REC, two member-consumers opened their homes to fellow members to showcase energy-efficient home improvements such as air source heat pumps.
- Iowa took over as the national runner-up in wind generation capacity. ECI REC worked with several members who plan to install wind turbines and sign cogeneration contracts.
- ECI REC again teamed up with ENERGY STAR® and cooperatives across the country for the Change a Light, Change the World campaign aimed at promoting the switch to CFL bulbs. Members picked up more than ~~600~~<sup>2,600</sup> bulbs through the program.
- Many members saved money by purchasing new appliances that use less electricity, qualifying them for the following rebates.
  - ✓ \$55,750 for 220 energy-efficient electric water heaters
  - ✓ \$68,225 for 47 geothermal heating and cooling systems
  - ✓ \$33,875 for 54 air-source heat pumps

- ✓ \$10,150 for 319 ENERGY STAR appliances—an 18% increase over 2008
- ✓ \$2,000 for 69 high-efficiency, outdoor light fixtures
- ✓ \$1,950 for 15 high-efficiency central-air conditioning systems

### Safety

- Our technicians inspected 103 new electric service points, ensuring they were properly installed and ready to come online.
- In 2009, ECI REC personnel educated 9 schools and community groups on safety precautions to use around electricity.
- The Cooperative held monthly safety meetings attended by both field and office personnel. Pole-top rescue exercises, fire extinguisher handling, CPR, and first aid training were all reviewed in 2009.

# Annual Meeting PROGRAM

10:30 a.m. - Registration

11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

1. Call to Order  
*Steve Rau, President*
2. Invocation  
*Steve Rau, President*
3. Introduction of Directors  
*Steve Rau, President*
4. Reading of the Notice of Annual Meeting  
*Jim Alberts, Secretary/Treasurer*
5. Reading of Affidavit of Mailing of Notice of Annual Meeting  
*Jim Alberts, Secretary/Treasurer*
6. Minutes of last Annual Meeting  
*Jim Alberts, Secretary/Treasurer*
7. Reading of the Nominating Committee Minutes  
*Howard Miller, Nominating Committee Chairman*
8. Introduction of Attorney  
*Steve Rau, President*
9. Introduction of CEO  
*Steve Rau, President*
10. Drawings for Door Prizes (*must be present to win*)  
*Steve Rau, President*

Adjournment of Business Meeting

**East-Central Iowa  
Rural Electric Cooperative**

Phone: 319-443-4343

Toll free: 877-850-4343

Fax: 319-443-4359

Email: [ecirec@ecirec.coop](mailto:ecirec@ecirec.coop)

Web site: [www.ecirec.coop](http://www.ecirec.coop)