

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative



Iowa Youth Return from Washington, D.C.

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JUNE STORMS page 3

Crews get members back online after another round of severe weather.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

page 7

Fire Prevention Week means it's time for an electrical checkup.

WINTER WEATHERIZATION

page 9

Get money back for making your home more efficient this winter.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

page 10

Board elections, a great meal, and messages from co-op leaders.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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our members say thank you

“Thank you so much for sponsoring the medal that I received for my drawing going to the State Fair! Your support is greatly appreciated not only by me, but by all of Benton County. Thanks again for all you do!” **EMMA WILEY**

take the member challenge

1. **COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE:** Rural America is served by a network of approximately ____ electric cooperatives.
2. **SAFETY:** Look for ____ ways to exit each room in the home, and practice emergency evacuation plans several times a year.
3. **COMMUNITY CONNECTED:** ____ recipients are not required to take electricity service from ECI REC.

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 October 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 July/August 2019 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jack & Candice Davis | Lester & Debra Hyke |
| James P. Kullmer | Chelsea & Daniel Peoples |
| Travis & Bridget Speer | Alma Schlumbohm |
| Dennis Sommerfelt | William & Emma Venneman III |
| Fred Frost | Aaron & Erin Lagrange |
| Howard Purdy | James & Lois Loughren |
| Larry Kettler | Monti Polk LLC |
| Bob Pedersen | Judy Irish |

Calendar Notes

- 9/02 – Closed for Labor Day
- 11/11 – Closed for Veterans Day

Contact ECI REC

EMAILS

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)
csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

WEB SITE
www.ecirec.coop

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(closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays)

OPERATIONS NEWS
OUTAGE UPDATES

facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec

Iowa Youth Return from Washington, D.C.

a Community Connected feature

THIRTY-EIGHT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS representing Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were in Washington, D.C., on June 14–20. They joined more than 1,900 other students from across the nation for the 61st Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

“The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students, and we were proud to send 38 of Iowa's best and brightest to our nation's capital this year to participate,” said Chuck Soderberg, Executive Vice President of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. “These students gained a firsthand understanding of the legislative process and made connections with other student leaders from across the country that will last a lifetime.”

Iowa's electric cooperatives were among the first to send students on the tour back in 1958. This year, Jacob Ludeking and Kaylee Kleitsch were sponsored by East-Central Iowa REC.

Jacob attends Benton Community High School and is the son George and Theresa Ludeking of Norway. He is an

honor roll student. His school activities include speech, band, show choir, musicals, and plays. He is an Iowa Ambassador of Music and serves as a reporter for the Benton Community FFA Chapter. Jacob's activities outside school include the Florence Go-Getters 4-H Club. At his church, Jacob has been an altar server and an assistant fifth-grade religious education teacher.

Kaylee attends Wapsie Valley High School and is the daughter of Richard and Brenda Kleitsch of Fairbank. She is an honor roll student. Her school activities include archery and being a student ambassador representative. Kaylee is also a member of the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter. Kaylee is a teacher's assistant and is part of the Talented and Gifted Program (TAG), choir, chamber choir, and musicals. Her activities outside school include the Atom Bombers 4-H Club and teaching Vacation Bible School.

Students on the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-



photos by IAEC

During this year's Youth Tour, ECI REC's Jacob Ludeking was chosen as one of four delegates to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns during the Youth Tour's visit to Arlington National Cemetery. He was chosen for his thoughtful explanation of why he wanted to have the honor.

one conversations with elected officials, learned about electric cooperatives, and toured the monuments and museums of Washington, D.C. “Youth Tour was an amazing experience for everyone who went,” said Kaylee. “It was my first time in D.C., and I learned so much. I saw incredible things and made lifelong friends. I'm so grateful I was able to spend my week trying new things.”

Students apply and are selected for Youth Tour by their local electric cooperative. Nationally, nearly 50,000 students have participated in this program. For more information, visit www.youthtour.coop.



Crews Tackle Damage Caused by Late June Storms

a Keeping the Lights On snapshot

IN LATE JUNE, Mother Nature once again brought strong winds and rain. Debris and trees were thrown into ECI REC's distribution system, damaging three poles and a transformer. Two outages occurred in ECI REC's northern service area, while another five occurred in the southern service area. A total of 77 member-accounts were affected by the outages.

We'd like to thank ECI REC's line crews for their work in getting these accounts back online! We'd also like to thank Foreman Walton for snapping some great pictures to help us catch a glimpse of what our line crews see in the field.



Follow #CoopMonth

OCTOBER National Co-op Month

ECI REC Will Observe National Co-op Month in October

a Cooperative Difference update

EACH OCTOBER, ECI REC joins 30,000 cooperatives nationwide to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. “By the Community, For the Community” is the theme for this year’s celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.

“ECI REC provides electricity to more than 8,700 member accounts in

our 11-county service area,” said CEO Steve Marlow. “Delivering safe, reliable, affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated. Revenue generated by ECI REC goes back to Main Street.”

Rural America is served by a network of approximately 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to the farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies

had no interest in serving because of the higher costs of serving low-population and low-density areas.

In addition to providing the vital power cooperative members depend on, ECI REC engages with local communities through electrical safety demonstrations, the RECare program, Youth Tour, scholarships, and much more.

Follow #CoopMonth on Facebook and Twitter to see how cooperatives across the country are celebrating National Co-op Month. 

Get Smart: Combine Auto Banking and Budget Billing

a Keeping the Lights On article

Looking for a way to make payments easier and access your crucial account and usage information quickly? **SmartHub** is the answer.

Using **SmartHub**, ECI REC members can quickly view and file bills using any computer or smartphone. After registering, you can receive your electronic bill via email.

You can also use **SmartHub** in combination with direct

payment and budget billing to significantly streamline your month-to-month financial planning. With direct payment, you pay automatically each month by electronic direct payment from a bank account or credit card. The direct payment form can be found online at ecirec.coop.

Then, add budget billing so you know what amount you will pay each month. Your monthly payment is calculated based on your 12-month usage history or the usage history of the past occupants of your residence. Accounts are periodically reviewed to ensure that payments match actual usage so you do not face a large debit or credit at the end of the year.

There are several ways you can enroll in budget billing:

- » Complete the budget billing form to the left and mail it in
- » Email csr@ecirec.coop
- » Make an inquiry via SmartHub, under the Contact Us section
- » Call our toll-free number: 877-850-4343
- » Visit our Urbana headquarters building



YES, tell me my monthly budget amount.

Name: _____

ECI REC Account No.(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____



RuralPower

Iowa's electric cooperatives

Energizing rural economic growth

In the coming months, candidates for president will be traveling to all corners of the state, talking with Iowans and sharing their message. It's our job to make sure electric cooperatives are part of the conversation!

It just takes TWO easy steps:

1. Attend a caucus event
2. Ask the "energy question"

"How will your energy plan help provide affordable and reliable power to rural Iowa?"

This question is important because:

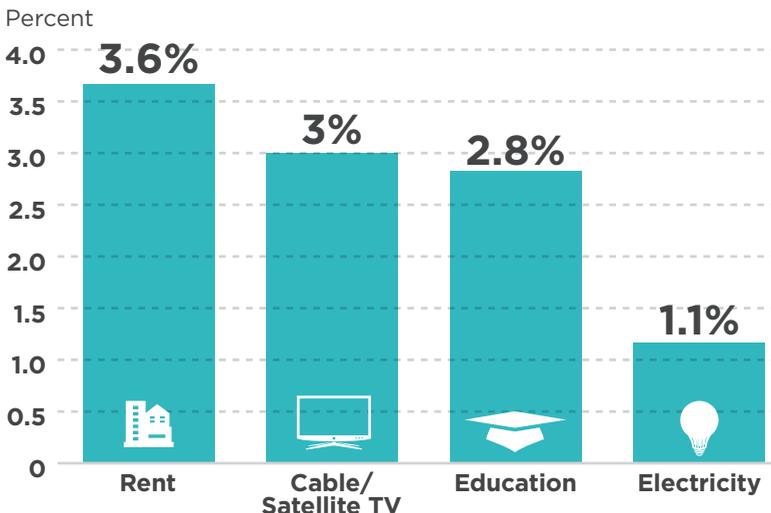
1. As the national conversation includes climate change and clean energy themes, we want to make sure energy policies discussed won't shift the costs to our member-consumers, making their power less affordable.
2. Safety and reliability of service are impacted by federal policies ranging from emergency assistance following extreme weather, to cyber and physical security threats to the grid. A safe grid is a reliable grid.

STAY INVOLVED! Visit the **About Us** section at iaruralpower.org and sign up to receive updates. Continue the conversation with your family and friends. Your dedication helps make sure policymakers and candidates represent the interests of rural Iowa!

The Value of Electricity Remains Steady

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2013-2018



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index

Your Support Can Help Influence Energy Policy

a Looking Out For You article

TODAY MORE THAN EVER, what is happening in Des Moines, Iowa, and Washington, D.C., can impact your cost of power and its reliability. Through political action committees (PACs), members can support the campaigns of those officials who have shown themselves supportive of our goals. Because it is illegal for cooperative funds to be contributed to election campaigns, these PACs rely on donations from cooperative employees, directors, and members like you.

The two PACs members can consider donating to are the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), which sends funds to candidates for federal elections, and the Friends of Rural Electrification (FORE), which supports candidates running for state office. Sign up today by filling out the form below.

Yes, I will support ACRE and FORE.

I will make a one-time contribution of \$_____. My check is enclosed.

Make checks payable to REC Transmittal Account.

I will contribute monthly. Please add \$_____ each month to my electric bill.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail form to: ECI REC | PO Box 248
Urbana, IA 52345

Electric Water Heaters Offer Many Benefits

an Energy Wise feature

ARE YOU IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW WATER HEATER?

If you already have an electric unit, you know the benefits; but if you have a propane (gas) water heater, or are

contemplating one, here are a few points to ponder.

Safety – An electric water heater requires no venting, no gas line, and offers no CO₂ concerns.

Space – The water heater space allotment in your home often determines what will work best. An electric water heater installation requires zero clearance.

Maintenance – Electric water heaters are very low maintenance; there are no moving parts and no pilot lights to be concerned with.

Price – An energy-efficient 50-gallon electric water heater will cost a family of four about \$40 per month to operate. Electric rates are considerably more stable than gas. For example, East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative's price per kilowatt-hour has increased 4.6% (less than a half a cent) over the past 10 years. Installation costs are also considerably less with an electric water heater.

Energy Efficiency – Consider the ultimate in electric water heating with an air source heat pump water heater. With an efficiency rating of at least 2.4 (240%), they are the most efficient water heaters on the market today.

Incentives – Buy a new, energy-efficient electric water heater and receive a \$75 rebate. Receive a \$650 rebate for the purchase of an air source heat pump water heater.

Still can't decide? Give us a call and let us help. As a member-owned cooperative, we work for you, offering friendly, local, reliable, no-cost help with all your energy-efficient household decisions. 🏡

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov



REMINDER: Heat Plus Rate Offers Winter Savings

ECI REC's Heat Plus rate will take effect October 1, 2019, and is available through May 31, 2020. Even with lower gas prices, our Heat Plus rate of .0485 cents/kWh remains a great value for members using primarily electric heating. Call 877-850-4343 or visit ecirec.coop to see if you qualify for the Heat Plus rate.

Join Fellow Members & Support RECare



CONTRIBUTING TO RECare—a program that distributes funds to low-income energy consumers in Benton and Buchanan Counties via community action agencies—is one easy way to help others. The donated funds help pay these members' heating bills or weatherization costs.



Scan to fill out the RECare form online.

ECI REC would like to thank all the members who are giving to others in our communities. Even a small amount can help those less fortunate.

From July 2018 to June 2019, 61 members contributed to RECare through monthly contributions. Three members contributed via one-time donations. Members contributed \$6,585, an increase of \$558 from last period. Those donations assisted 13 members in need, with an average assistance of \$336 going to each family.

Help ECI REC reach our goal of exceeding that number of participants in 2019–2020! To sign up for RECare or make a one-time donation, complete and return the form located at ecirec.coop under Your Electric Bill, Member Programs. 🏡

Take Steps to Prevent Electrical Fires During Fire Safety Week

a Safety feature courtesy of SafeElectricity.org

ELECTRICITY IS AN ESSENTIAL part of our everyday lives. Because of this, it can be easy to let our guard down when it comes to our safety around it. Yet, electrical hazards in our homes can develop if left unchecked.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an estimated 37,900 home fires were reported in 2014 that involved electrical distribution and lighting equipment. These fires resulted in approximately 530 deaths, 1,290 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage.

The Red Cross estimates that after a fire has started, you have just two minutes to escape your home. In order to exit your home safely, education and preparation are your best tools for staying safe. **With the two-minute goal in mind, construct and communicate with all family members about an escape plan.** Look for two ways to exit each room in the home, and practice emergency evacuation plans several times a year. Choose a meeting place outside of the home.

Smoke detectors can be life-savers. The Red Cross reports that 60% of fires occur in homes without working

alarms. **Install working smoke alarms on each level of the home.** Test these alarms monthly and replace each smoke alarm at least every 10 years.

The following checklist can help find possible issues with your electrical system or appliances before they become a fire hazard in your home:

- ✓ **Electrical outlets** – Check for loose plugs and wall receptacles. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring is not exposed. If you have young children, install tamper resistant outlets (TROs). Avoid overloading outlets.
- ✓ **Electrical wiring** – If an outlet is not working, have an electrician check it out. If light switches are hot to the touch or lights spark and flicker, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- ✓ **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** – Install GFCIs in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement, garage, and outdoor outlets.
- ✓ **Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)** – Consider installing AFCIs on circuit breakers; if they

detect any abnormality, they shut the system off, preventing fires.

- ✓ **Plugs** – Do not remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet.
- ✓ **Cords** – Make sure cords are not frayed, under carpets or rugs, tightly wrapped around objects, or located in high-traffic areas.
- ✓ **Light bulbs** – Verify that your light bulbs are the intended wattage for the lamp or fixture they are in, and make sure they are screwed in securely so they do not overheat.
- ✓ **Service capacity** – As you add more appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may get overburdened. If fuses trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. Call a qualified electrician to assess. 

Tegler Honored for 25 Years of Service

a *Keeping the Lights On* spotlight

AT ECI REC'S JUNE safety meeting, Member Service Technician John Tegler was recognized for his 25 years of service. To honor John, CEO Steve Marlow presented him with a personalized crystal award, thanking him for his dedication to ECI REC and its members. Way to go John, and congratulations! 



Not every hero wears a cape.
PLAN and PRACTICE
your **ESCAPE!**
firepreventionweek.org

FIRE SAFETY WEEK: October 6-12

NFPA
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The graphic features a cartoon illustration of a family (a man, a woman, a child, and a dog) and a person in a wheelchair, standing next to a fire truck character named Sparky. A tree in the background has a sign that says 'Meeting Place'.





Scam Alert: Be Wary of Fraudulent Phone Calls

a Safety reminder

ON JULY 8, 2019, one of our members received a fraudulent call in which the caller identified himself as an ECI REC employee. The caller told our member he needed to pay his electric bill right away, or he would be disconnected within the hour. The caller also gave a fictitious work order number and a call-back number of 818-478-9732.

This call did not come from ECI REC and serves as a reminder to all to be wary of phone scams. If you receive a call of this nature, do not give your personal information to the caller. Call our office directly to check the legitimacy of the call. ECI REC personnel will be able to provide members with specific account details, which this scammer was not able to do.

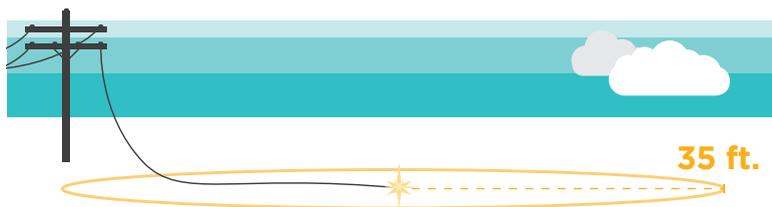
HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity

Downed and Dangerous

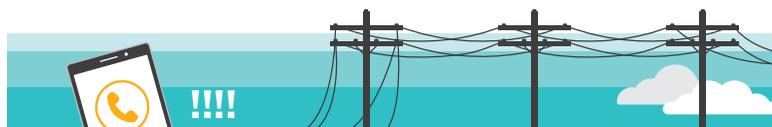
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org



ECI REC Weatherization Incentives

an Energy Wise feature

Make upgrades now to save this winter

Requirements (with or without LIHEAP)

- » Must have electric heat and/or central air (homes with natural gas do not qualify).
- » Home must be built prior to 2000.
- » Must be upgraded to existing home (new additions do not qualify).
- » Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

Electric Heat (with or without air conditioning)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 60% up to \$600
- » Wall Insulation - 60% up to \$600
- » Foundation Insulation - 60% up to \$600
- » Infiltration Control - 60% up to \$200
- » Duct Insulation/Sealing - 60% up to \$200

Maximum rebate per home \$2,200

Central AC Only (non-electric heating)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 15% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation - 15% up to \$150

Maximum rebate per home \$300

LIHEAP Qualified (See LIHEAP weatherization income guidelines to the right)

Electric Heat (with or without air conditioning)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Wall Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Foundation Insulation - 80% up to \$800
- » Infiltration Control - 80% up to \$200
- » Duct Insulation/Sealing - 80% up to \$200

Maximum rebate per home \$2,800

Central AC Only (non-electric heating)

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation - 20% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation - 20% up to \$150

Maximum rebate per home \$300

State Releases 2019-2020 LIHEAP Requirements

an Energy Wise update

THE 2019-2020 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply dial 2-1-1, or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency.

You may also write to: **LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.**

HOW TO APPLY FOR LIHEAP

WHEN TO APPLY

- » Elderly (60 and over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2019, to April 30, 2020
- » All other households: November 1, 2019, to April 30, 2020

WHAT TO TAKE

- » Proof of income for all household members age 19 and over (most recent three months' check stubs, award letter from Social Security, or 2018 tax return)
- » Social Security numbers for **all household members**
- » Recent heat bill
- » Recent electric bill

WAGE EARNERS

- » Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME

- » This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veterans Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your most recent three months' check stubs.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS

- » Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP RECIPIENTS

- » Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$21,858
2	\$29,593
3	\$37,328
4	\$45,063
5	\$52,798
6	\$60,533
7	\$68,268
8	\$76,003

For households with more than eight members, \$7,735 for each additional member.

Get ECI REC News and Energy Tips in Your Inbox!



To receive the *Heartland Link* as a PDF in your inbox, fill out the form on the Email Newsletter Signup page at ecirec.coop by scanning the QR code above. We can also stop postal delivery—just indicate that preference as well.



This monthly e-newsletter is full of tips and facts to help you and your family embrace energy efficiency. Click on the Watts \$mart button in the footer at ecirec.coop to check it out! Sign up by scanning the QR code above. Or contact Director of Member Service Adam Albertsen at 319-443-3578 or adam.albertsen@ecirec.coop.



24th Annual Meeting of the Members in Review

a Cooperative Difference recap

THE 24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS of ECI REC was held on June 20. This year's meeting was well-attended by an estimated 125 members plus guests. This year's guest speaker was Bill Cherrier, Executive VP and CEO of CIPCO, ECI REC's power supplier. He reviewed CIPCO's current generation (energy) portfolio and updated the membership on upcoming renewable energy projects.

As usual, elections took place during the meeting. Allen Albers (District 3) and Gary McKenna (District 4) were re-elected to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors. Julie Kester (District 2) was newly elected to serve a three-year term.

We were also excited to welcome 2018 Youth Tour alumni Brock Ortner and Sarah Collison. They shared about their incredible experiences in Washington, D.C., and thanked the ECI REC Board of Directors and membership for the opportunity.

ECI REC CEO Steve Marlow addressed the membership, stating, "We are committed to delivering safe, affordable, reliable electricity in a an environmentally responsible manner." CEO Marlow went on to thank those who attended and all the employees who worked to host a successful event.

Following the meeting, McElroy's Catering out of Winthrop provided BBQ pork sandwiches, side dishes, and beverages. Joseph Weber and his son also served ice cream. A Board reorganization meeting followed lunch. Re-elected to office were Steve Rau, president; Jeff Elliott, vice president; and Ryan Kress, secretary/treasurer. Gary McKenna was newly elected to the position of assistant secretary/treasurer.

Annual Meeting attendees received food bags courtesy of ECI REC, Eastern Iowa Honor Flight, Quaker Oats, and PepsiCo. Roger Uthoff, a Navy vet and treasurer of Eastern Iowa Honor Flight, thanked ECI REC for its support. He then asked the veterans in attendance to stand and be recognized; those remaining in the audience applauded the men and women who had served their country. Leftover food bags were donated to the local food pantry. Door prizes included several gift cards. 🍷

24th Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Grand prize \$100 bill winner:
Larry Thompson

\$100 energy credit winner for mail-in ballot:
John C. Schoettmer

The following members were the recipients of \$50 gift cards:

\$50 Fareway Card

William Kester
Allen Peterson
Albert Covington, Jr.
Roger Palmer
Cardinal Ct. Homeowners' Association
June Folkmann
Clark Crisman
Tom Doyle

\$50 Walmart Card

Everett Mills
Laura VanDaele
Vernon Hoffman Trust
Larry Walker
Walter Bruce
Sam Mentzer
Ron Bland
Doris Schulze



Couldn't make the meeting?
Download the Annual Report
from our website: ecirec.coop



JEFF ELLIOTT
2019/2020 Vice
President - District 1



JULIE KESTER
Newly Elected -
District 2



ALLEN ALBERS
Re-elected -
Board District 3



GARY MCKENNA
2019/2020 Asst. Secretary/
Treasurer - District 4



STEVE RAU
2019/2020 President
- District 9



RYAN KRESS
2019/2020 Secretary/
Treasurer - District 10

Revolving Loan Fund Supports Local Economy

by Steve Marlow, CEO
a Community Connected article

BUSINESS OWNERS TAKE NOTE—

your project may be eligible for a loan through the ECI REC revolving loan fund. Anyone may apply for a loan for any community or economic development project that benefits the rural area, such as new or expanding private businesses, non-profit groups, and city or county governments. Loan recipients are not required to take electricity service from ECI REC.

The Loan Review Committee and Cooperative's Board consider the financial need of the project; the probability of success; the benefits of the project to the rural area,



Photo from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

including number of jobs to be created or retained; diversification of the economy; quality job creation in terms of pay scale and benefits package; and community development projects and improvements to the community infrastructure.

Please contact ECI REC's CEO Steve Marlow by calling 877-850-4343 for more information on loan requirements and terms. 

YOUR BOARD



- Board District 1** - Jeff Elliott
(2019/2020 Vice President)
- Board District 2** - Julie Kester
- Board District 3** - Allen Albers
- Board District 4** - Gary McKenna
(2019/2020 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)
- Board District 6** - Don Shonka
- Board District 8** - Nick Donlea
- Board District 9** - Steve Rau
(2019/2020 President)
- Board District 10** - Ryan Kress
(2019/2020 Secretary/Treasurer)

CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

FOR SALE: 10-quart Valvoline MaxLife 5W-30, \$3; three Purolator PL25288 PurolatorONE oil filters, \$14; Carquest serpentine belt #5061090, \$18; MAHLE rocker arm gaskets, grommets, and crossover gaskets, \$18; FRAM cabin air filter #CF8392A, \$7; ACDelco valve cover gasket #10154775, \$8; GM oil pan gasket #12602848, \$10; MAHLE oil filter adapter gaskets #B32184, \$4; Victor Reinz rear main seal #JV1633, \$6; 22" Beam wiper blades, \$8. PH: 319-431-6343

FOR SALE: Camping/hiking equipment for adults. Various small items but four significant items. Sierra Designs tent (1 adult or 2 kids); Camp Trails external frame backpack; 2 Duluth Pack canoe packs. All have very little use, exceptionally good condition. The Duluth Packs are USA-made, very durable. For more info or pics email zeisf@uiu.edu. Urbana area. PH: 319-448-4414.

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the November/December Heartland Link must be received by October 1, 2019.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO from page 12

ernance education courses and industry conferences, where they learn about the latest challenges, trends, regulations, and technologies affecting electric cooperatives. In fact, our national association manages an extensive credential program for electric cooperative Directors. This program includes opportunities to earn Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates and Board Leadership Certificates. Five of ECI REC's current Directors have earned these certificates.

These programs are especially important for newer directors, as they must quickly learn about their roles and responsibilities and understand the challenges and issues unique to the electric industry. Many of these education courses are provided here in Iowa, which helps us manage costs.

Investing in valuable education and training for our Board of Directors helps ensure our leaders make informed decisions that will guide ECI REC to a successful future as we power lives and empower the communities we serve. 

Five ECI REC directors have received their Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate; four of these five have also obtained their Board Leadership and Director Gold Certificates.

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Jeff Elliott
Ryan Kress
Steve Rau
Don Shonka

CREDENTIALED COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR

Jeff Elliott
Ryan Kress
Steve Rau
Don Shonka
Gary McKenna

DIRECTOR GOLD CREDENTIAL

Jeff Elliott
Ryan Kress
Steve Rau
Don Shonka

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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.

Members get connected at www.ecirec.coop



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See account information at ecirec.coop or download the app. smarthub.coop



Outage Center & Map

View current outages via SmartHub or at outages.ecirec.coop:81.



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Message From CEO Steve Marlow

Educated Directors are More Effective Leaders

IT'S NO SECRET that for leaders to be most effective, they must be knowledgeable about the industries and issues that could impact the organizations they serve. This is especially true in the electric industry. Our local cooperative leaders—our Board of Directors, who are elected by fellow members—invest a great amount of time in education and training so they are knowledgeable about issues that affect the operations of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative.

Our Board of Directors guides the Cooperative in providing electricity that is safe, affordable, reliable, and sustainable. It plays a crucial role in determining the strategic direction and priorities of ECI REC. This input and guidance are key as we keep the lights on today and work to meet our members' future energy needs. We strongly believe that a more informed and educated Board is a more effective and successful Board, which is why ECI REC invests resources in providing quality education and training to our Directors. Through our affiliations with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, our Directors have valuable opportunities to attend gov-