

FEBRUARY 2015



# Highline Headlines

Volume 37  
Issue 2

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable, efficient service while being a good citizen in our communities.



Visit our website to learn about how Board of Directors are elected  
**About**  
Annual Meeting  
[www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

## What Does it Take to Serve as an Access Energy Director?

Our Board of Directors is elected by and from the membership of Access Energy Cooperative. Three **seats** are up for election, one in each of the three districts. Each board member is elected to a term of three years. Terms that will expire with this year's **annual** meeting to be held Tuesday, August 4th, are:

- District 1, Larry White
- District 2, Victor Pierrot, and
- District 3, Joe Heckethorn

In order to serve on the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors you must

be a member of the cooperative and a bona fide resident of a premise served by the cooperative.

The Board appointed a Nominating Committee (see page 2 for list) at its regular meeting in January. Members of the Nominating Committee will select candidates to run for the **expiring** terms. Anyone interested in running for a seat on the board may contact a member of the Nominating Committee, call our office at 1.866.242.4232 or check out our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com).

### SAVE THE DATE ~ August 4, 2015

For your 2015 Annual Meeting of Members to be held August 4, 2015, at McMillan Park in Mt. Pleasant at 5:00 p.m. Everything is FREE and all members are encouraged to attend. There will be fun activites for the whole family including country music entertainment, rides and kids activities, a free meal, gift and door prizes, and Board elections during the business meeting.



2015 Legislative Welcome Back Reception, Des Moines, IA  
The Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, along with the Director of Marketing & Communications, Kimberly Brumbaugh, attended the annual Welcome Back Reception for our state legislature in Des Moines, to meet with newly elected legislators and discuss current issues with our elected officials. We are looking forward to a very positive year working with our friends in Des Moines in 2015!

## Survey on Solar

In January, we **sent** out a survey postcard to a list of randomly selected households to participate in a **survey** we are conducting to explore how you, the members, feel about **our** participation in solar projects. If you received a card and did not do the survey **online**, you may be receiving a phone call to complete the survey by **phone**. If you filled out this survey – THANK YOU! We very much value your input as we explore options on solar energy into the future.

Your opinion is extremely valuable!

Your household has been randomly chosen to take part in an important survey being conducted by Access Energy Cooperative. The survey is designed to collect your input on the topic of renewable energy, specifically solar energy concepts and potential programs.

You may complete the survey online anytime before January 30, 2015. Go online to [www.coopstats.com/access2015](http://www.coopstats.com/access2015) and enter the Survey ID shown at the top left on the opposite side of this postcard. Simply answer each question and then click the submit button to finalize.

Randomly selected members who do not complete the survey online may instead be called to participate by phone. For more information, please feel free to contact us at the number below. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Access Energy Cooperative  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1-319-385-1577  
1800 West Washington St. • Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641  
[www.AccessEnergyCoop.com](http://www.AccessEnergyCoop.com)

## Manager's Corner



### General Manager/CEO Robert Swindell

We have a lot going on at your Cooperative. I want to share a couple of them. First, we have a number of contractors working throughout our service territory. We currently have three contractors working rebuilding lines as part of our FEMA Mitigation Project. By early March, I expect to have a total of

five contractors working in the system. Presently we have Croft Electric out of Troy, Missouri working in the Donnellson area; Echo Powerline LLC from Bunkie, Louisiana is working near Lockridge; and Highline Construction from Paynesville, Minnesota is working around Batavia. Later this winter Kiowa Line Builders from Tipton, Missouri will begin construction in the Demark area; and Gray's Electric from Oakland, Georgia will be working between Mount Pleasant and Fairfield. When completed later this year we will have rebuilt over 180 miles of line. The funding for these projects is shared between FEMA, The Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) and your cooperative. FEMA will provide 75% of the funds, HSEMD will cover 10% of the funds and the Cooperative will provide 15% of the funds for projects.

#### SOLAR SURVEY

We recently sent out a request to a number of members asking them to participate in an online survey to measure

the membership's interest in solar power. Members receiving the postcard who don't respond on-line may receive a phone call to complete the survey. I hope that you will all take part in the survey either on-line or by phone. Your voice on the cooperative's potential investment in solar is critical to our decision making. Based on the results, we may look into ways that your cooperative can provide solar options to members that may be interested.

In closing this month, I want to pay my respects to two people that we lost recently, who over the years contributed to the success of your cooperative. Helen Perrott retired in 1994 as our Billing Supervisor after over 37 years of service to the cooperative. Dwight Krebill served on the Board of Directors of the cooperative for 26 years, retiring from the board in 2012. Dwight held several officer positions including President of the Board. Dwight also represented the cooperative as Director on the Northeast Missouri Power Board of Directors. I am grateful to have had the privilege of working with them both.

## COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

### Access Energy Cooperative

1800 West Washington Street  
P.O. Box 440  
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

**Phone:** 319.385.1577

**Toll free:** 866.242.4232

**Fax:** 319.385.6873

#### Website:

www.accessenergycoop.com

#### Facebook

facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

#### Twitter

twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

#### Email:

contactus@accessenergycoop.com

#### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
(closed Saturday, Sunday,  
& Holidays)

Office: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Billing & account information can be accessed 24/7 by calling our office or by visiting our website.

Payments can be placed in the dropbox under the flag pole.

Visa and Mastercard accepted.

#### After Hours Emergencies call:

319.385.1580  
or 800.452.7819

**General Manager/CEO:** Robert Swindell  
**Editor:** Kimberly Brumbaugh  
**Assistant Editor:** Cheryl Wibben

#### Officers and Directors:

Jerry Barker	District 2 President
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1 Vice President
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1 Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3 Treasurer
David Hollingsworth	District 1 Director
Larry White	District 2 Director
Ronald Campbell	District 2 Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3 Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3 Director

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## 2015 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### DISTRICT I

Gene Mellinger, Stockport  
Susie Greiner, Douds  
Kenneth Whitham, Fairfield

### DISTRICT II

Cliff Hunsaker, Mt. Pleasant  
Bob Scarff, Mt. Pleasant  
Charles Sutter, Mt. Pleasant

### DISTRICT III

Brad Lake, Ft. Madison  
Myrna Folker, Donnellson  
Brian Burk, Wever

## Call Us For Safety Information Before Starting A Solar or Wind Project

Concern for community is at the heart of our cooperative business model, which is why the safety of our member-owners and employees is our top priority. A commitment to safety is present in every aspect of our business, whether it involves linemen working on power poles and lines, workers in our offices, or member-service personnel educating students about ways to stay safe around electricity.

In recent years, we've been tying more renewable energy into our portfolio, and today, some member-owners are exploring the option of owning a wind turbine or solar system. Each type of energy source, including wind and solar, requires careful consideration of the unique safety needs of that particular resource.

In the case of a rooftop solar system, the International Fire Code requires a construction permit, specific signage and markings, properly spaced access points, and smoke ventilation, just to name a few. All renewable energy generation systems within the state must have a safety inspection by either a local city inspector or the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

If you are considering investing in a renewable energy system for your property, contact Access Energy Cooperative at the beginning of your research and planning process. We will help you to understand the necessary requirements to ensure your system is safely and properly interconnected to the power grid. Iowa law requires that customers notify their electric utility before interconnecting any generation source and that an interconnection agreement is in place. These measures are to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the system and to protect our member-owners and employees who interact with the power grid. If our linemen are not aware of an interconnected system, they could be at risk of a serious injury when working on the distribution system.

Contact a member of the Access Energy Cooperative team today if you would like more information about renewable energy.

## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

### This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

# Compare Heating Sources for Efficiency

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for nearly half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most households. While few people enjoy spending money on home heating fuels, most of us are willing to pay for it for our comfort.

Here is some help in determining the most economical heating method to evaluate the cost per unit of heat. This is referred to as a British thermal unit (Btu).

## EVALUATING COST PER UNIT OF HEAT FOR PROPANE AND ELECTRICITY

- The Btu content per gallon of propane is 91,500 Btu.
  - The Btu content for electricity is 3,413 Btu per kilowatt-hour (kWh).
  - It takes 26.8 kWh to equal the Btu content of one gallon of propane.
- Using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's table on residential propane and electricity rates for November 2014, \$2.40 per gallon, excluding taxes, and 13.01 cents per kWh, we arrive at the following calculation for electric heat:

$$26.8 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.49$$

If we used only Btu content to determine the best energy source for home heating, it would appear that propane is less costly than electricity if the price for propane is below \$3.49 per gallon.

## EFFICIENCY MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED

While we may have determined the cost of the actual heat content, what matters even more is the cost of the **useable** heat (warmth). A propane furnace may have an efficiency rating from 80-95%. Using a 90% efficient propane furnace for an example, (which means 10 percent of the Btus are not converted to useable heat), here is the math:

$$91,500 \text{ Btu} - 10\% \text{ Btu loss} = 82,350 \text{ Btu}$$

So now it only requires 24 kWh to equal the delivered Btu content of propane.

$$24 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.12$$

## ELECTRIC HEAT IS 100 PERCENT EFFICIENT

What may surprise most consumers is that the least efficient electric heating system delivers 100% efficient heat. Yes, electric resistance heat (i.e., space heaters,

baseboard heating) is 100 percent energy efficient. Every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as useable heat. So if you are paying more than \$3.12 per gallon of propane for a 90% efficient propane furnace, it would be cheaper to use electric resistance heat.

## PUMPING UP EFFICIENCY

There are even more efficient electric heating systems called heat pumps. An air-source heat pump is at least 250 percent energy efficient. How is it so efficient?

In the heating mode, heat pumps do not use electric energy to create heat; they use it to pump heat into your home through a reversal of the refrigeration process. Air source heat pumps are equipped with some type of auxiliary heat for those times when temperatures are near freezing or dip below. The typical back-up is in the form of electric resistance heat strips, but there is also a dual fuel propane option.

In calculating the Btu's per kilowatt hour for a heat pump we use this formula:

$$3413 \text{ Btu} \times 250\% = 8532 \text{ Btu}$$

This means that it only takes 9.65 kilowatts using an air source heat pump to deliver the same amount of warmth as a 90% efficient propane furnace.

$$9.65 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$1.25$$

You would need to purchase propane at or below \$1.25 per gallon to break even with the cost of home heating using an air source heat pump. Efficiency increases even more sharply when looking at the 350+% efficiencies of a geothermal (water source) heat pump. An additional advantage of geothermal systems is that they can be equipped to provide free water heating most of the year.

## PROVIDING RELIABLE ENERGY FACTS – REGARDLESS OF FUEL TYPE

At Access Energy Cooperative, we believe it is our responsibility to provide members with reliable energy facts regardless of fuel type so you can get the most from your energy dollars. We are committed to helping you find the best energy solution for your budget and lifestyle and hope you will consult with your local co-op before making any big home-heating decisions.

Source: Anne Prince

# Access to Energy Efficiency

Every five years, we are required to set energy efficiency goals, develop programs to achieve those goals, then file our five-year-plan with the Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Attorney General's Office of Consumer Advocate. We recently filed our 2015-2019 energy efficiency plan; and collectively, Iowa's electric co-ops will invest almost \$80 million from 2015-2019 and the energy savings are expected to total nearly 3.2 billion kWh over the life of the measures installed, which represents enough electricity to power more than 290,000 homes for a full year.

Access Energy Cooperative, with the help of NE Power Electric Cooperative, and AEI (our power suppliers), plans to invest \$2,510,750 in energy efficiency programs, incentives and rebates for member-owners over the next five years. Some of our current rebates and incentives include:

- Replacing outdoor area lighting that needs attention with LED lighting
  - Commercial and industrial lighting rebates
  - Residential and Commercial heat pump and water heating rebates
  - Free residential energy audits and cost-shared commercial and industrial energy audits
- Your participation in these programs could result in a cumulative 78,757,336 kWh of energy saved over the life of those measures being installed during this five-year period.

Why would an electric company offer incentives for our members to use LESS of our product? Access Energy Cooperative is different from most businesses; we are a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by those we serve. What's in your best interest is in our best interest. We are committed to helping you use energy wisely as we work to provide power that is safe, reliable, efficient, and environmentally responsible.

We encourage you to visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), or contact our Member Services department at [mktg@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:mktg@accessenergycoop.com) for information on our programs. If you've participated in our energy efficiency programs previously, thank you!

## Members Saving on Prescriptions

In 2014, members saved over \$8000 on their prescriptions.

To find out more on the discounts offered check out our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com). It's easy to save—you just have to show your card to participating merchants.

If you own a business and would like to offer a discount for the card, please contact Kim Brumbaugh at [kbrumbaugh@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:kbrumbaugh@accessenergycoop.com) or call our office at 1.866.242.4232.



For more details on our 2015 programs and contests go to our website.

Sophomores & Juniors  
Win a Trip to DC  
Deadline 3/2/15

Seniors Scholarships Available  
Deadline 3/13/15

Kids Grades 1-6 Poster Contest  
Deadline 4/10/15

Everyone  
2015 PhotoContest  
Deadline 3/31/15

[www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

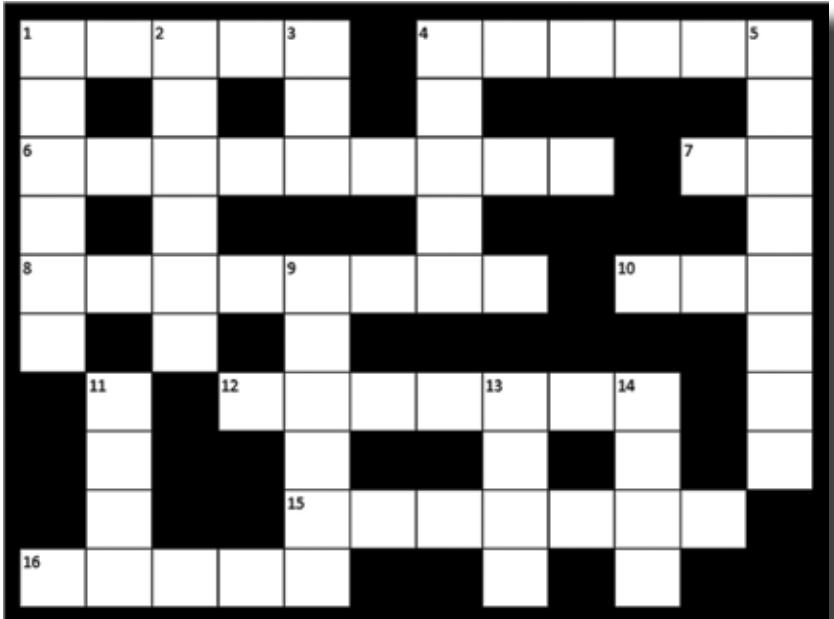
Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Win A \$25 Bill Credit

Access Energy Cooperative members can win a \$25 bill credit by completing the crossword. Send your answers in by February 27, 2015, to: Access Energy Cooperative, Attn: Crossword Puzzle, P.O. Box 440, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641. Most of the answers are bold and highlighted elsewhere in this issue of the Highline Headlines. If more than one person answers all of the questions correctly by the deadline, a drawing will be held to determine the winner.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_



Last month's crossword winner is Sandra Speidel of Mt. Pleasant.

### ACROSS

- 1 There will three of these up for election at the annual meeting in August
- 4 If you received a postcard for our survey you can answer it here
- 6 We have been tying more of this type of energy into our portfolio
- 7 Opposite of down
- 8 Page 3 has information on how to do this for determining the most economical heating sources
- 10 When we use this word, it means you and your cooperative
- 12 If these are not aware of an interconnected renewable energy system, they could be in danger
- 15 This type of heat matters more than the cost of the heat content as part of efficiency
- 16 All renewable energy systems within this must have a safety inspection

### DOWN

- 1 We are conducting this to find out about your interest in solar energy
- 2 Elections will be held for seats on the board at this meeting
- 3 Do this with a needle and thread
- 4 The earth does this to the sun
- 5 The Nominating Committee will select candidates to run for these terms
- 9 Each type of energy source has this type of safety needs
- 11 We did this to postcards to invite a random list of members to participate in our solar survey
- 13 This will be served FREE at the annual meeting in August
- 14 This is part of a technical term in qualifications to run for a seat on the board

## Annual Meeting Legal Notice

Pertaining to provisions set forth in RUS Bulletin 1790-1, we are providing you with a summary of the following prior to a meeting of the 2015 Nominating Committee.

### 2014 ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE BYLAWS. ARTICLE III.

#### Section 2(b). District Boundaries.

Directors shall be elected from districts beginning with the election held at the 1990 Annual Meeting and as scheduled in the Articles of Incorporation. The three (3) districts will be comprised of the following territories:

District I: DAVIS: Salt Creek Twp; JEFFERSON COUNTY: Blackhawk, Buchanan, Cedar, Center, Des Moines, Liberty, Locust Grove, Penn, Polk and Walnut Twpss; KEOKUK COUNTY: Steady Run Twp; VAN BUREN COUNTY: Bonaparte, Cedar, Farmington, Harrisburg, Henry, Lick Creek, Union, Village and Washington Twpss; WAPELLO COUNTY: Competine, Pleasant and Washington Twpss; WASHINGTON COUNTY: Brighton and Franklin Twpss.

District II: HENRY COUNTY: Center, Jackson, Jefferson, Marion, Salem, Scott, Tippecanoe, Trenton and Wayne Twpss; JEFFERSON COUNTY: Lockridge and Round Prairie Twpss; LEE COUNTY: Cedar, Marion and Pleasant Ridge Twpss; LOUISA COUNTY: Elm Grove Twp; WASHINGTON COUNTY: Marion and Washington Twpss.

District III: DES MOINES COUNTY: Burlington, Concordia, Danville, Pleasant Grove, Union and Washington Twpss; HENRY COUNTY: Baltimore, Canaan and New London Twpss; LEE COUNTY: Charleston, Denmark, Franklin, Green Bay, Harrison, Jefferson, Van Buren, Washington and West Point Twpss.

#### Section 3. Qualifications.

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident of premises served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members, or who within two (2) years preceding a director candidate nomination was an employee of the Cooperative, or who within seven (7) years preceding a director candidate nomination has received benefit from any collective bargaining agreement with the Cooperative, or is a close relative of a director or employee of the Cooperative, with close relative being defined as: spouse, cohabitant, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, brother, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and natural, step, and adopted children, or within fifteen (15) years preceding a director candidate nomination been convicted of a felony whether by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, plea of guilt, or plea of **nolo contendere**, or who is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of another director or employee, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of another director, and no person shall take or hold office as a Director who is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office other than on a school board, board of supervisors, township trustee, township clerk, or member of the State legislature; provided, however, that nothing in this Section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever

the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors. When a membership is held jointly, either one, but not both, may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications herein above set forth. Before the meeting of the committee on nominations for directors each year, the Board of Directors shall determine whether any director has ceased to be a bona fide resident of premises served by the Cooperative, and any director found by a two-thirds vote of all directors not to meet the residence requirement or any other qualifications of this Section, may continue to hold office only until the next annual meeting at which time the vacancy shall be filled by the members.

#### Section 4. Nominations.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than one hundred sixty (160) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of three members from each District from which a Director is to be elected. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post, at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, a list of these candidates nominated for Director from each District from which a Director is to be elected, and the list shall include at least two candidates for each Director to be elected. Any fifteen or more members from a District from which a director is to be elected, acting together, may make other nominations for Director from their District by petition not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected from each District, and the names and addresses of the candidates from each district, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee and the nominations made by petition, if any. The ballots to be used for the election of Directors shall list the names of the candidates from each District nominated by the committee and the names of the candidates from each District nominated by petition, if any. The names of nominees shall be posted and listed on the ballots by District in alphabetical order.

The statement mailed by the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail as provided in this Section. Any member may cast their vote by mail for directors by marking on the ballot an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected from that member's district and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing the member's name, addressed to the Secretary of this Cooperative. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any member in advance of the meeting, it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such member at such meeting. The provisions of this Section shall not be mandatory in the case of a recall of one or more directors as provided in Section 6 of Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation.