

# living with energy

IN IOWA



JULY 2016

Win a thermostat that can help you save energy from anywhere! ▶ See page 5

## Youth Tour

students were part of the big picture in Washington, D.C.



New cybersecurity standards protect your co-op – and you

Fix firecracker foods for family functions

Rooftop solar systems aren't entirely maintenance-free



Mark Your Calendar!

# It's almost here: the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members!

Please join us on Aug. 2 at McMillan Park. We look forward to gathering with you to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food, fun and fellowship.

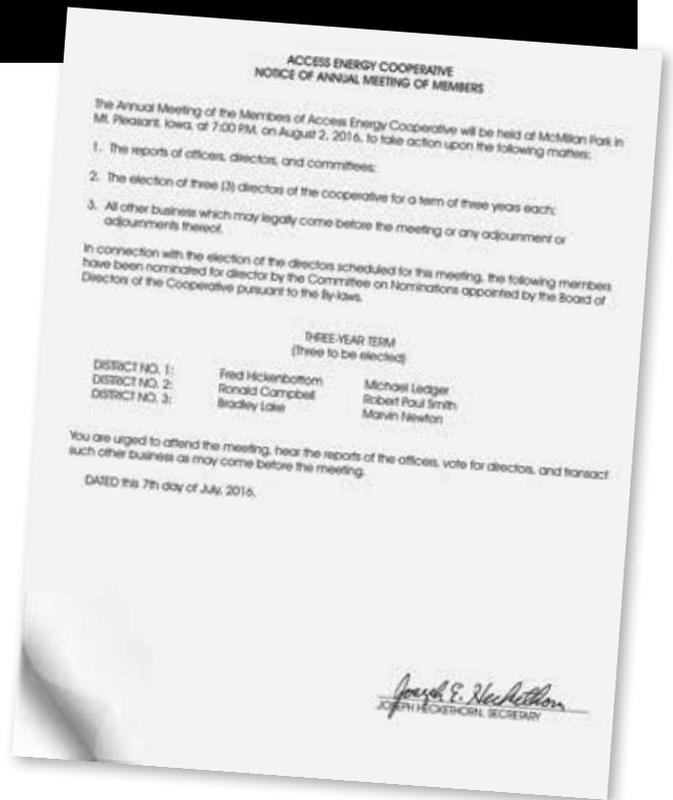
This event isn't just a chance to visit with members of our co-op community, it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Access Energy Cooperative and get to know your co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

It's also an occasion for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors. Access Energy Cooperative isn't owned by faraway investors, and it's not run

by an appointed board of directors. We're run by a democratically elected board of directors – a board that's given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

Our directors are members of your community. They're concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them too. And remember: It's members of Access Energy Cooperative who are eligible to run for the board – maybe even you!

We remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and efficient service, and we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So make it a point to join us on Aug. 2 at your annual meeting. We have a great evening planned!



### Can't make it? You can still vote!

Even if you can't make it to the annual meeting on Aug. 2, 2016, you can still vote for directors running in the 2016 election. Ballots will be mailed to you on July 7. Mail your ballot or drop it off at our office by Aug. 2, 2016, to be eligible. ⚡



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

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**Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call):** 800-292-8989  
**Website:** www.accessenergycoop.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/AccessEnergyC  
**E-mail:** contactus@accessenergycoop.com  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

**After Hours and Report Outages:** 319-385-1580 or 800-452-7819

Payments can be placed in dropbox under flag pole. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

**General Manager/CEO:** Kevin Wheeler  
**Editor:** Kimberly Davis  
**Assistant Editor:** Cherity 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

## Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

Tuesday, August 2, 2016 • McMillan Park • Mt. Pleasant  
Follow the event on our Facebook page: @AccessEnergyCoop

### 5-7 P.M. EVERYTHING FREE

Music by Jake McVey  
Supper Served with Homemade Ice Cream  
Pick Up Dividend Checks  
Pony Rides  
Ground Train Rides  
Carousel Rides  
Drive-a-Tractor  
Inflatable Activities  
Register for Door Prizes  
Pick Up Registration Gift  
Information Booths



### 7 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order, Invocation  
Welcome Remarks  
Reading of 2016 Notice and Waiver  
Reading of 2015 Minutes  
Nominating Committee's Report  
Call for Ballots from the Floor  
Treasurer's Report  
President's Report  
Power Supplier's Report  
General Manager's Report  
Special Award Presentation  
Youth Tour Report  
Election Results  
Door Prizes  
(Must be present to win)

**Grand Prize**  
**\$750**  
**Bill Credit**  
Must be present to win

# Become a co-op voter!

BY KEVIN WHEELER

When was the last time you voted? As a member-owned electric cooperative, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility that's responsive to the people we serve. But voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise our civic responsibility to select the best leaders for our communities.



Yet in places all over America – even those served by electric cooperatives – citizens aren't exercising that right. In the 2012 national elections, voter turnout dropped overall, but the decline in rural counties was 18 percent – twice that of the nation as a whole. When you miss the chance to vote, you also lose the opportunity to communicate your concerns to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live and raise families.

Reliable electricity, access to rural broadband and the quality of our health care system are just a few issues we all care about. Still, they only become priorities if enough people show elected officials that they're paying attention. Registering to vote and voting are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community" in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of the people, by the people and for the people" – people like you and me.

I'd like you to join me in a new initiative to get every eligible person registered to vote – you, your family and friends – and take the pledge to become a co-op voter. Access Energy

Cooperative has joined America's electric cooperatives in launching a campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops into the public discussion. Called "Co-ops Vote," this effort will help boost voter turnout in areas served by cooperatives across the country to ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear every day – and especially on Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Visit the Co-ops Vote website at [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) and take the pledge to support your community and electric cooperative when casting your vote in 2016. The website will give you information on your elected officials and candidates, the voter registration process, election dates and locations, and background about eight key co-op issues we want our elected leaders

to understand: rural broadband access, hiring and honoring veterans, low-income energy assistance, cybersecurity, water regulation, rural health care access, affordable and reliable energy, and renewable energy.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. With 42 million members across the nation, electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

I hope to see you at the polls. If you have questions, visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop). You also may contact us directly by calling 866-242-4232 or by e-mailing us at [contactus@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:contactus@accessenergycoop.com).

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.

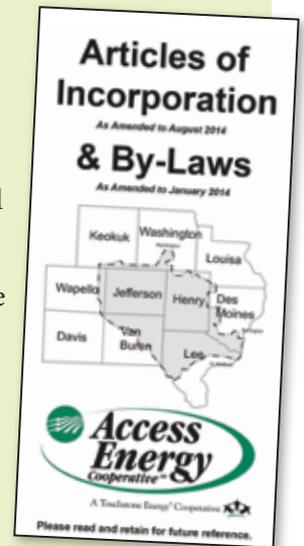


## Co-op's bylaws are available for your review

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, copies of the bylaws of Access Energy Cooperative are available to anyone interested,

either members of the cooperative or the general public, at the reception counter of the headquarters office at 1800 West Washington St. in Mt. Pleasant, or by visiting our website at [accessenergycoop.com](http://accessenergycoop.com).

If you would like a copy of the cooperative's bylaws, please stop by our office to pick one up.



## Editor's Choice Contest

### Win a thermostat that can help you save energy from anywhere!

With this Honeywell Wi-Fi Thermostat, you can adjust the comfort level of your home from anywhere at anytime. All you need is a device such as your smartphone, tablet or laptop computer. To enter the contest, please go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and fill out the entry form no later than July 31, 2016.



# Dividends are coming soon

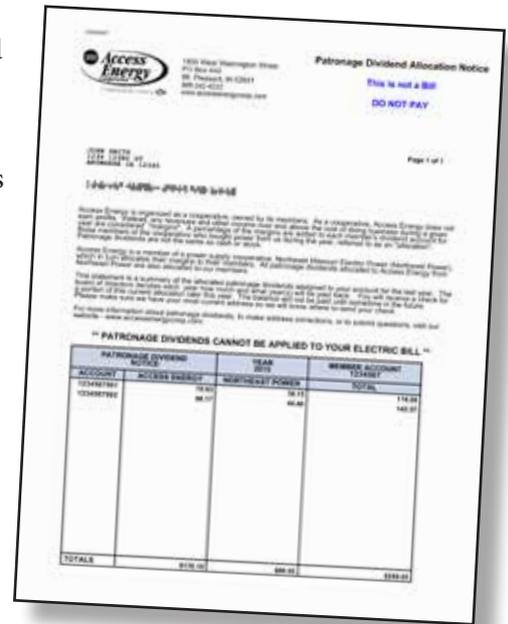
Once a satisfactory level of margins or profits for 2015 was determined by the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, the cooperative assigned the rest of the margins to you, the members – each of whom owns a portion of the cooperative – according to the amount of energy purchases you made in 2015.

Each member has a dividend account at the cooperative where your dividend allocations accumulate. When the Board allocated the 2015 margins, your portion was moved to your dividend account. Notices were mailed May 18 with the amount that was allocated to your account.

This year, Access Energy Cooperative allocated \$1,254,258 and passed through allocations from NE Power of \$567,342 – for a total allocation of \$1,821,600.

The amount of total allocations the cooperative has stored in the dividend accounts was then reviewed by the Board to determine whether or not to generate a dividend payment this year. After reviewing the cooperative’s current financial position, the Board approved a dividend refund this year in the amount of \$969,670. This refund is 100 percent of the remaining dividends for 1996, 29 percent of 1999, 61 percent of 2000 and 13 percent of 2015.

Dividend checks will be available to pick up at the annual meeting on Aug. 2. Any checks not picked up will be mailed after the annual meeting to the most current address we have on file. The cooperative will not be printing checks for amounts under \$5; these amounts will be added to next year’s refund. ⚡



## CHOOSE THE RIGHT BULB FOR THE RIGHT JOB

There are three primary types of lighting: ambient (general lighting), task lighting and accent lighting. As lighting technologies continue to advance, consumers should be open to trying new shapes and types of bulbs. The checkmarks below indicate appropriate locations for different types of bulbs on the market. Happy shopping!

### BEST BETS FOR HOME LIGHTING

Common Bulb Types	Ambient Lighting			Accent Lighting			Task Lighting
	Pendant Fixture	Ceiling Fixture	Recessed Cans	Ceiling Fan	Wall Sconce	Spot Light	Table or Floor Lamp
Spiral	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Globe	✓				✓		
A-Shape	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Candle	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Reflector	✓		✓			✓	

Source: energy.gov



## Student Leaders

# Co-op awards scholarships

Three area high school graduates recently were named recipients of \$500 scholarships from Access Energy Cooperative. Receiving the awards were Dakota Andersen, Robert Kemp and Allison Sporkman.

Access Energy Cooperative awards three \$500 scholarships each year, one in each of its three districts. The parents or guardians of the applicant must be members of Access Energy Cooperative. Winners are chosen based on their academics, achievements, community involvement and a submitted essay.

**Dakota Andersen**, son of Kevin and Mary Andersen of Fairfield, plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to study music education and performance.



**Robert Kemp**, son of Robert and Karen Kemp of Burlington, plans to attend the University of Texas to study computer science and/or software engineering.



**Allison Sporkman**, daughter of Mike and Brenda Sporkman of West Point, plans to attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., to major in business and minor in accounting.



**Don't forget!**

**Annual Meeting  
Aug. 2 • McMillan Park**

## Operations Update

# Summer help has arrived

Three students will be working for Access Energy Cooperative throughout the summer, until they return to school in the fall. Tony Cristoforo will be working as an intern in our engineering department, and Spencer White and Korte Maddy will be working with our operations crews.



Tony Cristoforo



Spencer White



Korte Maddy

## In the News

# Visit us at the Farm Progress Show

The Farm Progress Show, our nation's leading outdoor farm show, will be back in Boone, Iowa, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, and Access Energy Cooperative wants to see you there. Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative will be located in the southwest quadrant of the show, at the Rural Electric Cooperatives of Iowa lot.

Stop by to learn how to be safe around electricity, how to improve energy efficiency and much more. Members are encouraged to register for prizes and receive free water and popcorn (while supplies last) and stay for a high-voltage safety demonstration!

The Farm Progress Show features the most extensive state-of-the-art information and technology available for today's agricultural producers. This major agriculture event gives visitors the opportunity to see the latest equipment, seed, crop chemicals, field demonstrations, livestock handling, equine events, rural life programs, entertainment, arts and crafts, and more.

The 2016 show will be located at the Central Iowa Expo at 1827 217th St. in Boone. In the coming years, the show will continue to rotate annually between this site and one in Decatur, Illinois.

## Attending Farm Progress Show?



Stop by the Rural Electric Cooperatives of Iowa booth to enter in prize drawings and learn about electric safety and energy efficiency!

**August 30 - Sept 1  
Boone, Iowa!**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Bring this registration slip to the Rural Electric Cooperatives of Iowa lot at the **Farm Progress Show** to register for a chance to win a generator or freezer!

NAME\* \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\* \_\_\_\_\_

CITY\* \_\_\_\_\_ ST\* \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\* \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\* \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

My Electric Cooperative\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required information. \*\*Must be a member of a Rural Electric Cooperative in Iowa to win.

**The 2016 Farm Progress Show is Aug. 30-Sept. 1, at the intersection of Hwy. 30 and Hwy. 17 near Boone, Iowa.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives