

living with energy

IN IOWA



JANUARY 2017

For information on our Youth Tour and Scholarship Programs, visit www.accessenergycoop.com

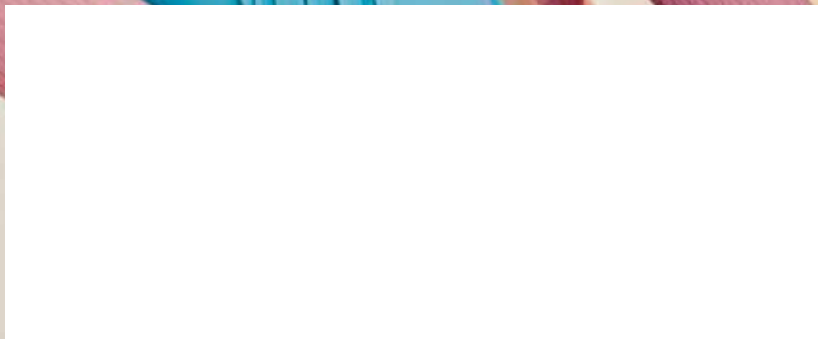
Eat healthy:

Recipes from Iowa's co-op cooks

Electric cooperatives are ready to work with elected officials

Think you'll need a portable generator? Plan ahead!

We're celebrating a 75-year legacy of cooperative values



UPCOMING EVENTS



- Jan. 10** Welcome Back Reception for Legislators in Des Moines

- Feb. 21** Access Energy Cooperative Capitol Visit

- March 22** REC Day on the Hill

- Aug. 1** Annual Meeting of Members

Remember, if you have a special event going on in southeastern Iowa that you would like our members to know about, please add it to our online calendar at www.accessenergycoop.com.



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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Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

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

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Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Robert Smith	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Electric cooperatives are ready to work with elected officials

BY KEVIN WHEELER

As the nation prepares to welcome a new administration and Congress, America's electric cooperatives are ready to welcome back old friends and introduce ourselves to newcomers.

The co-ops' message to elected officials, both old and new, Republican and Democrat, will be the same: We all need to work together to protect consumer access to safe, reliable and affordable electric service. We have reason to believe this message will be well received. After all, co-ops speak for more than 42 million electric consumers, a sizeable constituency by any measure.

Whatever you thought of the 2016 campaign, one message came through loud and clear: many people don't believe their concerns are being heard. For cooperatives, listening to people is at the heart of our business model – and we carry our members' concerns to public officials every day.

As co-ops reach out to engage with elected officials, they will build on the strength of Co-ops Vote, the grassroots initiative to reverse declining voter turnout in rural areas. Co-ops Vote did more than register voters. This initiative sent a strong message to the country's elected officials that rural electric consumers matter.

Co-ops will be reinforcing this message with a request that policymakers keep the needs of consumers front and center. Needs such as funding for infrastructure, especially transmission lines and access to natural gas. Increasing the efficiency of the electric system. Determining the future of hydropower and nuclear energy. Elected officials will be making decisions affecting every aspect of the electric system.

Advocating for these issues is nothing new. In fact, we've been doing it for years. And we're ready to continue the fight on your behalf, reaching out to *all* elected officials, new and returning.

Here at Access Energy Cooperative, we will be reaching out to local, state and federal officials. In initial conversations we will be explaining the unique member-owned, not-for-profit co-op business model. And we will be reminding longtime politicians of our co-op's commitment to its members.



In Washington, D.C., our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, will be conducting similar introductions, speaking with key agencies and departments within the new administration. It is likely many of these new policymakers will know little or nothing of the co-op model.

Forging an energy future that serves rural consumers – and protecting access to safe, reliable and affordable electric power – will be a bipartisan effort. Electric co-ops are optimistic. As we work with our elected leaders, we hope to renew a spirit of cooperation in the nation's capital and in statehouses across the country.

After all, cooperation is what co-ops do best! ⚡

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

IN THE COMMUNITY

Survey winners announced



Access Energy Cooperative would like to thank all the members who shared their opinions on our recent communications survey. We will be reviewing the results and sharing them with you soon.

The randomly chosen survey participants who won a \$50 bill credit were William Benjamin, Bob Heaton, and Stacy and Rob Swigart. ⚡

Here are the deadlines for youth programs and photo contest

Check our website at www.accessenergycoop.com for details on contest rules and deadlines for programs at Access Energy Cooperative:



Youth Tour
Application deadline
Feb. 24, 2017



Scholarships
Application deadline
March 15, 2017



Photo Contest
Deadline
March 31, 2017

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Thank you, lawmakers, for attending our annual fall conference!

Attending the legislative meeting were (from left): Sen.-elect David Kerr, Sen. Rich Taylor, Rep. Jerry Kearns, Rep. Curt Hanson, Sen. Kevin Kinney, Rep. Dave Heaton, and Access Energy Cooperative board members Robert Smith and Larry White.

The Access Energy Cooperative board and staff would like to thank our legislator-elect and legislators for attending our annual fall legislative meeting. This session is an excel-

lent opportunity for us to meet and discuss the upcoming session and issues of concerns to the members of Access Energy Cooperative and the energy industry. ⚡

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an early-warning emergency radio!

Your list of things to keep handy in case the power goes out should include a flashlight with fresh batteries, an AM/FM portable radio and a fully charged backup battery for your mobile phone or tablet. The Midland ER310 emergency radio incorporates all of these things – plus weather alerts, an SOS beacon and an electronic, ultrasonic whistle rescue dogs can hear.

Suggested retail is about \$70; go to



www.midlandusa.com for more details. Enter the contest by Jan. 31, 2017, at the all-new *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com. ⚡

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Access Energy Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.asc.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 to 202-690-7442 or by e-mail at program_intake@usda.gov. This is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ⚡



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Iowa Fertilizer Company honored with Iowa Venture Award: Outstanding Business of the Year

On behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), last month recognized seven distinguished Iowa companies with an Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines.

Nominated by Access Energy Cooperative, Iowa Fertilizer in rural Lee County near Wever received the 2016 Outstanding Business of the Year Iowa Venture Award. The company is historic in many ways, including being the state's largest single-site construction project, spanning 500 acres, and having a capital investment of \$2 billion. This is the first greenfield nitrogen fertilizer facility constructed in the United States in 30 years, and the plant is expected to deliver 1.5 to 2 million metric tons of fertilizer products annually to farmers in Iowa and the Midwest. During construction, 3,000 workers were employed, and the project created more than 700 ancillary jobs in the area. More than 200 permanent employees will work at the facility, creating a lasting, positive impact on the region.

"The Iowa Venture Awards luncheon provides a forum to celebrate the courage, contribution, innovation, responsibility and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs," said IADG president Rand Fisher. "IADG, on behalf of our



Pictured at the 2016 Iowa Venture awards are (from left): Rand Fisher, IADG; Kim Davis, Access Energy Cooperative; Larry and Shelia Holley, Iowa Fertilizer Company; Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture; and Marvin Newton and Kevin Wheeler, Access Energy Cooperative.

sponsors, is proud to recognize these seven outstanding companies for their contribution to their community, region and state."

The six additional businesses recognized with an Iowa Venture Award for their significant contributions in diversifying and strengthening Iowa's economy were Bratney Companies of Marshalltown; Christensen Farms & Feedlots, Inc., in Payton; Concrete Machinery Inc. of Iowa in Paton; Great Lakes Communication Corp. of Spencer; Maassen Dairy Farms of Maurice; and Mogler Farms/Pig Hill West of Alford. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Bill Northey assisted in presenting the awards and honoring the Iowa companies and their leaders. ⚡

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

Who is up for election?

Your 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 3 years. Terms that will expire with the 2017 annual meeting to be held Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017, are:

- **District 1** – David Hollingsworth
- **District 2** – Jerry Barker
- **District 3** – Marvin Holtkamp

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 will be appointing a Nominating Committee that 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; the list will be posted in our office, on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com and in this magazine – or you can call our office at 866-242-4232. ⚡



David Hollingsworth



Jerry Barker



Marvin Holtkamp

IN THE NEWS

Employees honored at statewide electric co-op event

Jim Mills and Chuck Rila were recognized at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives last month for their 25 years of service to Access Energy Cooperative. Shown during the presentation are (from left) Chuck Soderberg, IAEC executive vice president and general manager; Mills; Rila; and Steve Seidl, IAEC board president. ⚡



Annual Meeting Notice for Access Energy Cooperative

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 2017 Nominating Committee.

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

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

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

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. ⚡

ANNUAL MEETING



Save the Date!

Aug. 1, 2017 @ 5 p.m.

Access Energy Cooperative
Annual Meeting of
Members

Everything is FREE!