

living with energy

IN IOWA



APRIL 2017

Save the Date: Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 1, 2017. ▶ Members are encouraged to attend!

Deer me! What's eating your landscape?

Youth Tour winners
selected for trip
to Washington, D.C.

GFCIs are your
protection from
electrocution

New methods of
energy storage may
challenge batteries

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



- April 10** **National Lineman Appreciation Day**

- April 14** **Good Friday (office closed)**

- April 22** **Earth Day – Plant a tree!**

OFFICE CLOSING

The Access Energy Cooperative office will be closed April 14 for Good Friday.

You can reach our office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for answers to billing and account questions, paying your bill and service interruptions by calling 866-242-4232.



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

Office: Access Energy Cooperative
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641
Phone: 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232
Fax: 319-385-6873
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-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 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
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.

STUDENT LEADERS

Youth Tour winners selected for trip to Washington, D.C.

Meghan Ryan of West Burlington and Lucas Lee of Mount Pleasant have been selected to attend the 2017 Youth Tour on June 9-15. The event is an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Access Energy Cooperative.

Meghan and Lucas will join 38 other Iowa students and more than 1,700 students from across the country who have been selected by their electric cooperatives to attend the annual Youth Tour.

A junior at West Burlington High School, Meghan is the daughter of Amy and Shaun Ryan. She's been active in basketball, dance team, show choir and jazz band.



Meghan Ryan

Outside school, she's involved in Girl Scouts and two local church groups, where she's also a lector. Meghan is a VolunTeen at Great River Medical Center and has worked at the West Burlington pool and Hy-Vee.

Lucas is a sophomore at Mount Pleasant Community High School and is the son of Meredith and Benny Lee. He's been involved in symphonic,

marching and jazz bands; chamber and show choir; school plays; musicals; football; trap; and soccer. Lucas is also a member of the Silver Cord volunteer program, Boy Scouts, Scouting's National Honor Society – the Order of the Arrow, 4-H, Midwest Old Threshers, Southeast Iowa Soccer Officials Association, the Community Band, Opus Honor Choir, the Iowa State Fair's Little Hands on the Farm and his church.



Lucas Lee

While on tour, Meghan and Lucas will learn about American history and government. They'll visit historical sights including monuments, museums, the U.S. Capitol, federal agencies and other points of interest – plus have an opportunity to meet with their legislators in the House and Senate.

Access Energy Cooperative has been a part of the Youth Tour program for more than 50 years and currently selects two students each year to participate in the 5-day trip. The students are chosen through an application and interview process. ⚡

Daughter of co-op employee wins association-sponsored trip

A junior at Danville High School, Amber Lewis was the lucky "at-large" winner of an all-expenses-paid Youth Tour trip from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC). Each cooperative can nominate one student – usually the child or grandchild of an employee, but sometimes a student from the community – and IAEC randomly selects the winner. The daughter of Susan and Russell Lewis (her mother is an accountant at Access Energy Cooperative), Amber is a yearbook designer and student assistant. Her other interests include photojournalism, creative writing and robotics. ⚡



Amber Lewis



April 22, 2017

Access Energy Cooperative visits the Iowa State Capitol

BY KEVIN WHEELER

There's a saying in the cooperative world that "we were born in politics, and we will die in politics." President Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 that provided federal loans for the installation of electrical distribution systems to serve isolated rural areas of the United States. From the inception of Southeast Iowa Cooperative Electric Association in 1938, to a name change in the year 2000 to Access Energy Cooperative, your co-op remains very active on the political scene to make sure the cooperative's interests are conveyed to legislators on the federal, state and local levels.

To this day, the staff and board of



directors maintain relationships with our local legislators. We visit with them frequently to make sure they understand the cooperative business model. Rest assured that local legislators are working on your behalf.

Every year, we spend a few days at the Iowa State Capitol discussing issues concerning the cooperative with legislators. In March, electric cooperatives throughout the state converge on the Capitol for REC Day on the Hill. The cooperatives take over the rotunda to set up displays, ranging from safety to energy efficiency, for the legislators.

In addition to REC Day on the Hill, your board spends another day visiting with legislators about topics

pertinent to the cooperative. Our goal is to make sure they can make informed decisions on issues affecting the cooperative. Our contacts are not only personal visits at the Capitol, but also include e-mails and phone calls with questions that might arise.

Whether you like politics or not, we're involved because of need. We make sure that the interests of Access Energy Cooperative's members are in the forefront when we visit with legislators. Even if we don't have issues directly affecting the cooperative, we still maintain the relationships. Sometimes, when they face contentious issues, we're a friendly face to them. ⚡

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

Access Energy Cooperative thanks Iowa's legislators for meeting with our board, manager and staff to discuss legislative issues that concern the members of the cooperative.



Reps. Mary Gaskill and Curt Hanson



Rep. Jerry Kearns



Sen. Rich Taylor



Sen. Kevin Kinney



Sen. Thomas Greene

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a hybrid transfer pump!

Whether your sump pump is out or you just need to transfer water from one spot to another, the Ryobi Model P750 Hybrid Transfer Pump will get the job done. It runs on AC power or an 18-volt battery pack. For your chance at winning this \$100 pump, fill out the entry form on the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com by April 30, 2017. ⚡



CO-OP VIPS

Meet the co-op's new and promoted employees

Access Energy Cooperative is excited to welcome three new faces and announce two promotions in our Operations Department. Congratulations!

New employees



Wyatt Phillips **Zach Green** **Richard Clark**

Wyatt Phillips – apprentice lineman, Mt. Pleasant
Zach Green – apprentice lineman, Mt. Pleasant
Richard Clark – apprentice lineman, Fairfield

Promotions



Tony Brown **Levon Mullen**

Tony Brown – district foreman, Fairfield
Levon Mullen – line foreman, Fairfield ⚡

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

Do you know the advantages of being a member of an electric cooperative?



Our mission is simple

Electric co-ops were established to provide at-cost electric service. Providing safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and affordable power has remained our mission since day one.

We're guided by a set of principles

All co-ops operate according to the same set of Seven Cooperative Principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. These principles guide every decision made by the co-op.

We're not-for-profit

Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the greatest profits for stakeholders, electric co-ops don't earn profits. Instead, after all expenses have been paid, any margins or revenue remaining are returned to members in the form of capital credits. Capital credit returns are based on each member's years of participation in the co-op.

We're a local, community-focused business

Because we're owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable power, electric co-ops are involved in local community development programs and projects, Youth Tour and other youth engagement programs.

We're committed to innovation

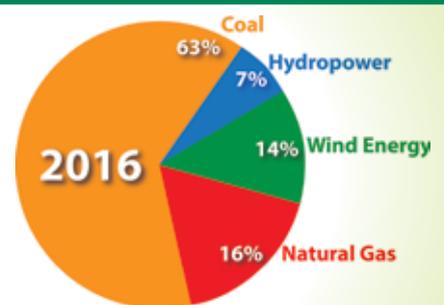
Because we answer to local members rather than far-away shareholders, electric cooperatives are more nimble and able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We're committed to experimenting and innovating in ways that benefit the local communities and members we serve.

You're a member, not a customer

Cooperatives are unique businesses because they're owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and have the ability to run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative. ⚡

ABCs OF ELECTRICITY

Your power comes from a diverse mix of fuels



Having a diverse power supply is important for providing reliable electricity. Our power supply includes a mix of renewable energy resources such as wind and hydro, as well as economical and efficient baseload sources like coal and gas. When generation output from a solar array or wind turbine doesn't coincide with the demand for resources to meet our members' peak load, it's important to have our baseload resources ready to provide your power. ⚡

Summer help wanted!

Operations Department
Access Energy Cooperative

Seasonal help is needed this summer in the Access Energy Cooperative operations department. Applicant must have graduated high school by summer 2017 and must enroll in post-secondary education in the fall. Contact Diane Magnani at dmagnani@accessenergycoop.com.

Nominating committee names board candidates



Members of the 2017 Nominating Committee were (clockwise from lower left) Brandon Ledger, Myrna Folker, Susie Greiner, Kenny Whitham, Bob Scarff, Robert Wilson, Bill Schurk and Dean Mabeus.

Thank you to the 2017 Nominating Committee for your active involvement in your cooperative. The Nominating Committee is charged with the responsibility of nominating qualified members to run for a seat on the board of directors.

The following members have been nominated by the committee to run

in this year's election to be held at the Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 1, 2017:

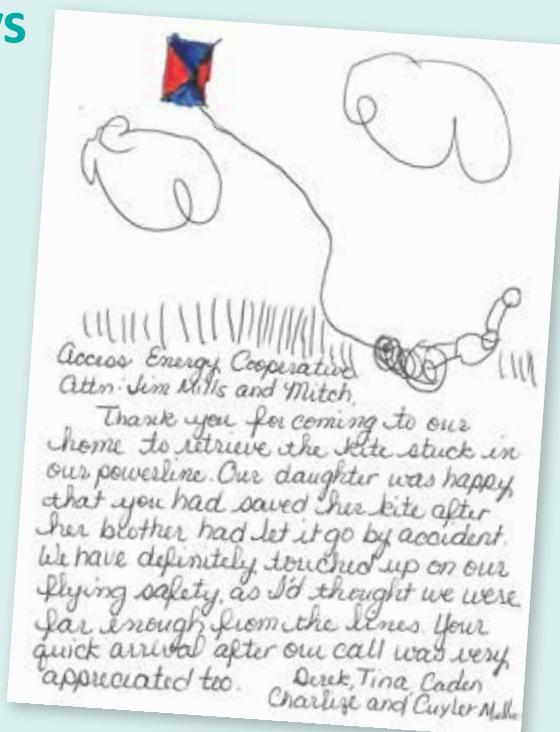
- **District 1:** David Hollingsworth, Michael Ledger
- **District 2:** Jerry Barker, Duane Graber
- **District 3:** Marvin Holtkamp, Bradley Lake ⚡

NOTE OF THANKS

Member says "thanks" for the help – and a safety reminder

We're thankful this member called us to help with a kite that was stuck on a power line. It's never safe to try to retrieve a kite yourself from a power line or a tree with limbs that are touching power lines.

Be safe: When in doubt, call us! ⚡



SAVE THE DATE!



Annual Meeting entertainment is Beau Jangles!

Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

Aug. 1, 2017 @ 5 p.m.

Everything is FREE!

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Approved contractors are working in our area

Companies working for Access Energy Cooperative will be driving trucks with the logos shown here.

They also may have an Access Energy Cooperative logo on their trucks. Boyle Built Enterprises is from Selma, and Tom's Tree Service is from Albia.



In addition, our engineering department has a mapping project in progress, so you may find contractors from Global Mapping Solutions LLC (GMS) working around our service area. They'll be working for us into the summer from trucks and four-wheelers. ⚡

