

living with energy

IN IOWA



JULY 2017

Access Energy Cooperative's Annual Meeting is Aug. 1, 2017 ▶ You're encouraged to attend!

2017 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

It was the **trip of a lifetime** – and for some students, maybe the start of a **career in public service or politics**

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 6 Packets mailed for Annual Meeting and Election of Directors

July 31 Mailed ballot deadline for Election of Directors

Aug. 1 Annual Meeting of Members: 5 p.m.



JULY ENERGY SAVER

Use energy-efficient window treatments or coverings such as blinds, shades and films to reduce heat gain in your home. They'll not only improve the look of your home, but also will reduce air-conditioning costs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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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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.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

**Access Energy Cooperative
Notice of Annual Meeting of Members**

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Access Energy Cooperative will be held at McMillan Park in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, at 7 p.m. on Aug. 1, 2017, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. The election of three (3) directors of the cooperative for a term of 3 years each; and
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of the directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the Committee on Nominations appointed by the Board of Directors of the cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws.

Three-Year Term (Three to be elected)

District No. 1:	David Hollingsworth	Michael Ledger
District No. 2:	Jerry Barker	Duane Graber
District No. 3:	Marvin Holtkamp	Bradley Lake

You are urged to attend the meeting, hear the reports of the officers, vote for directors and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

DATED this 6th day of July, 2017.

David Hollingsworth, Secretary

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Meet the cooperative's summer workers

Access Energy Cooperative has a couple of young men helping in the operations and engineering departments this summer.

- Tony Cristoforo (left), graduated from Mt. Pleasant and has been attending University of Northern Iowa for business. This is Tony's second summer working as an intern in the engineering department.
- Randy Young, a 2017 graduate of Danville High School, is working



with crews in the operations department. Randy plans to attend the Northwest Iowa Community College powerline program this fall. ⚡



More information:
www.accessenergycoop.com

Everything is Free 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Aug. 1, 2017 • 5 p.m.
McMillan Park, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

5-7 p.m.
Music By Beau Jangles

Free meal
Homemade ice cream

Pony rides
Drive-A-Tractor
Inflatable activities

7 p.m.: Business Meeting Starts

Call to order, Invocation
Welcome Remarks
Reading of 2017 Notice
Reading of 2016 Minutes
Nominating Committee Report
Call for Ballots From the Floor
Treasurer's Report
President's Report
General Manager's Report
Youth Tour Report
Election Results

Door Prizes (Must be present to win)

5-7 p.m.
Register
for door prizes

Pick up
dividend check

Pick up
registration gift

Information
booths

COOPERATIVE TOOLS

Building Power For You

RSVP on our Facebook Event at:
www.facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop



EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

If you win this contest, you might get your August power bill paid!

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (of which Access Energy Cooperative is a member) is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and it wants to make this a memorable event for a lucky member-owner at one of Iowa's electric cooperatives. So, it's going to pay the August 2017 power bill (up to \$150) for the randomly chosen winner of this month's Editor's Choice Contest!

Visit the magazine's website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com to

review the rules and to complete the entry form no later than July 31, 2017. If you don't have a computer, go to a library, senior center or other facility that offers computers for the public to use. And stay tuned: In October, we'll have a special mail-in contest just for those few folks who don't have a home computer! ⚡



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Here's what you'll miss if you don't attend *your* annual meeting next month

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Did you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters such as bylaw changes and, of course, give away great door prizes!

Access Energy Cooperative's annual meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors – or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the “errands of life,” and more of our interactions with others are online via social media, we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like Access Energy Cooperative to bring together all members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably



do a better job of staying connected to their neighbors (in part because we need to), it's not something we should take for granted.

The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both parties.

Access Energy Cooperative's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and

the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it's been a few years, we urge you to take the time to join your fellow co-op members.

We get out of life what we put into it. Access Energy Cooperative is connected to you by more than just power lines. We're your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at *your* annual meeting of members: 5 p.m. on Aug. 1, 2017, at McMillan Park in Mt. Pleasant. ⚡

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

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



Even if you can't make it to the annual meeting on August 1, you can still vote for directors running in the 2017 election. Ballots were mailed to you on July 6. Mail your ballot in the envelope provided so it's received by July 31 to be eligible.

IN THE COMMUNITY

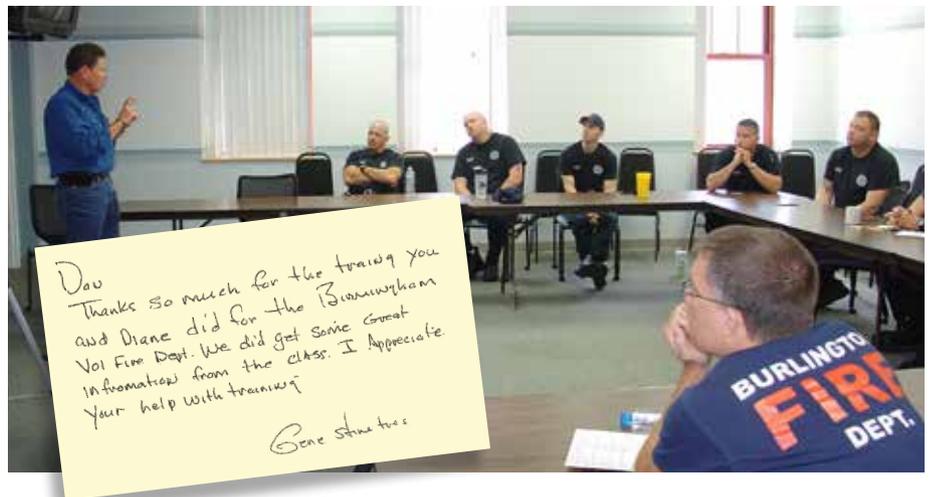
Area emergency professionals talk safety

One of the most important parts of the Access Energy Cooperative mission statement is safety. And one of the core principles on which we were founded is commitment to community. Access Energy Cooperative has teamed up our mission with our principles and formulated our commitment to providing safety education to our communities wherever possible.

As part of this commitment, Access Energy Cooperative safety director Daniel Philips has been working with area firefighters and first responders to bring them up-to-date on how to handle emergency situations involving electricity. They've been

working together as a team to talk about emergency action plans and how to handle electrical energy during

emergency situations. Philips also has been presenting general electrical safety information to them. ⚡



Dan
Thanks so much for the training you
and Diane did for the Birmingham
Vol Fire Dept. We did get some great
information from the class. I appreciate
your help with training.
Gene Strubbe

Access Energy Cooperative scholarships awarded

Six area high school graduates recently were named recipients of \$1,500 scholarships from Access Energy Cooperative. In 2017, the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors increased the cooperative awards from three \$500 scholarships to six \$1,500 scholarships each year, two 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.

Shea Dahlstrom of Packwood, daughter of Shawn and Jill Dahlstrom, will attend Iowa State University or Wayne State.



Michael Fritz of Brighton, son of Joseph and Lori Fritz, plans to attend Iowa State University to major in architecture.



Dalton Krum of Mt. Pleasant, son of Sarah Jacobs, plans to pursue his education in music business at the University of Iowa, Millikin University or Bradley University.



Cali Liechty of Mt. Pleasant, daughter of Jason and Mary Liechty, will be attending the University of Iowa to major in nursing.



Aaron Mark of Wever, son of Dan and Maureen Mark, plans to study network administration and cybersecurity at Southeastern Community College and then continue his education at Iowa State University.



Mikenna Pender of Burlington, daughter of Kenneth and Tracy Pender, will be attending Iowa Central Community College, majoring in veterinary science.



The co-op congratulates this year's winners and looks forward to meeting the new group of students next year. ⚡

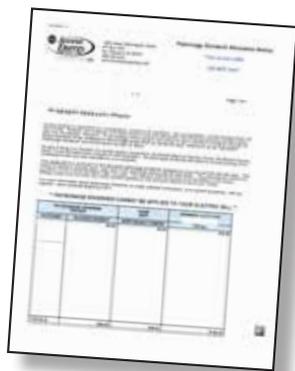
FROM THE BOARD

Dividends are coming!

Once a satisfactory level of margins or profits for 2016 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 2016.

Each member has a dividend account at the cooperative where your dividend allocations accumulate. When the board allocated the 2016 margins, your portion was moved to your dividend account. Notices were mailed May 15 with the amount that was allocated to your account.

This year Access Energy Cooperative allocated \$1,406,583 and passed through allocations from NE Power of \$854,293, for a total allocation of \$2,260,876.



The amount of total allocations the cooperative has stored in the dividend accounts was then reviewed by the Board of Directors 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 \$975,818. This refund is 40 percent of the remaining dividends for 1997, 59 percent of 2001, 25 percent of 2002, 18 percent of 2003 and 11 percent of 2016.

Dividend checks will be available to pick up at the annual meeting on August 1. Any checks not picked up will be mailed after the annual meeting to the most current address we have on file. The cooperative won't be printing checks for amounts under \$5; these amounts will be added to next year's refund. ⚡

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

Copies of co-op's bylaws are available

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 Street in Mt. Pleasant

or by visiting our website at accessenergycoop.com. ⚡

