

living with energy

OCTOBER 2017

IN IOWA



Check Page 5 to see if you're on Access Energy Cooperative's Treasure Hunt list!

After Hurricane Irma: Iowa's electric co-ops sent 46 linemen to help with power restoration efforts



Cyber safety checklist: Keep hackers out of your home

A ductless heat pump won't blow your budget

Our history, our future: Looking back provides the path forward

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

IOWA STATE FAIR

Iowa agriculture secretary stops by Touchstone Energy booth at the fair



Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey (*center*) shows the location of his electric cooperative on the map in the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa booth at the Iowa State Fair. Also shown are Kim Davis (*left*) from Access Energy Cooperative, and Jolyn Hartson from Pella Cooperative Electric Association, who joined other representatives from electric co-ops to talk with member-owners about energy efficiency and other topics during the fair. ⚡



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

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Fax: 319-385-6873

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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

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

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Larry White	District 2	Director
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Marvin Newton	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Our history, our future: Looking back provides the path forward

BY KEVIN WHEELER

One of my favorite quotes has always been, “*Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*” Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month this October, it’s a great time to take a look back – and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. Access Energy Cooperative was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn’t generate enough profit, so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative. Once established, annual meetings were the “must attend” event of the year. The cooperative – on behalf of the member-owners – committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today – and

tomorrow. Access Energy Cooperative currently serves 8,800 meters in 10 counties. We’ve returned \$20,982,484 to the members over the lifetime of the co-op.

The spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not.

Although we started out just to provide electricity, with your support our impact in the community has grown. As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident that Access Energy Cooperative will commit to exploring new ways to help our members and our communities. Over the years, as we’ve listened to you and your fellow cooperative member-owners, we know that we have to keep pace as technology and member tastes evolve. As always, we welcome your participation as we plan for the future. ⚡



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

NOTE OF THANKS

August 21, 2017

To whom it may concern:

Often, and more often than not, we are all quick to complain about what we have experienced as “poor service.”

I would like to take the time to point out the positive experience we have had with your team of energy providers.

I would like to start out with Jim, Tony, as well as Bob and his crew. They have all been not only professional in their service, but courteous and friendly.

You are fortunate to have such a fine team to represent you in our community. It shows you must be doing something right.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Terry and Xenia Hemsworth

Do you know any of these people?

We're searching for these members whose dividend checks didn't reach them. If you know the whereabouts of any of the people

on the list below, please contact our accounting department by e-mailing finance@accessenergycoop.com or by calling 866-242-4232. ⚡

Adair, Steve E
 Adam, Jane A
 Adams, Steve S/Janice K
 Adkins, Michael A
 Agnew, Jon
 Allen, Samuel J
 Anderson, Patricia A/
 Robert L
 Arenz, James L
 Babbitt, Rodger/Denise
 Baker, Michael W
 Bear, Leslie (Estate)
 Benjamin, Doris I
 Biggs, Bryan/Maria S
 Binns, John W/Linda K
 Bittner, Tracie
 Blair (Helmick), Marlo J
 (Estate)
 Blankenship, Paul D
 Blint Concessions/
 Geode
 Bowen & Grote Farms
 Boyer's Machine Works
 Brendel, Peter/Celesta
 Brown, Gary E
 Brown, Gary W/Karen
 Brown, Mathew W
 Brush, Kurt/Tambrey
 Brusseau, Trent A/Nicole
 Buck, Philip T/Brenda
 Burkart, Brad J (Estate)
 Burmeister, Kurt L
 Burns, Janet A
 Buse, Jerry/Alicia
 Butler, Bob W/Kathy
 Canby, Robert/Barbara
 Carlson, Emer C/Debra/
 Barb
 Carr, Marilyn K
 Chase, Julie L
 Chase, Michael K/
 Kelley A
 Coffin, Danny R/
 Monnie L
 Coker, Violet B
 Cooke, Jeff/Susan
 (North)
 Corns, Henry C (Estate)
 Crile, Keith A
 Crouse, Bryan
 Danaher, Chris/Laura
 Davis, Brent/Darcie
 Degen, Robert/Ila Jane
 Dickinson, Harold/
 Juanita
 Dickinson, William/Lisa
 Diehus, John/Mary D
 Dill, George P
 Dillman, David E
 Dix, Janice
 Dixon, Dempsey/Linda
 Dorothy, Terry/Chrystal
 Duncan, Ray
 Dunkle, Michael L/Cathy
 Edgington, Roman J
 (Estate)
 Elliott, Lawrence/Vickie L
 Elmore, Marvin/
 Sandra S

Emerson, Mike
 Enright, Ernest/Margaret
 Evans, Everett E/Janet
 Fankhauser, Jeff/Danielle
 M
 Featherston, Susan
 Fitch, Thayne/DeMeth,
 Karen
 Fleming, James L/Hunter,
 Eleanor
 Fohey Family Farms Inc
 Foreman, Rodger W
 Fox, Thelma M
 Fritz, Wanda
 Gaddis, Scott M/Marjorie
 Garretson Equipment Co
 Garza, Alfredo/Jacinta
 Gibbons, John
 Glass, Dave
 Gray, Margery
 Greek, Leland/Candy
 Greenwald, David/Aurora
 Gregory, Winn H
 Grunwald, John S/Heidi
 GTE Mobil Net
 GTE Telephone
 Operations
 Hain, Scott/Dianne
 Haller, Cathy E
 Harding, Pamela/
 Petrillose, Karen
 Harkers Distribtuion Inc
 Harter, Jim H Jr/Crossett,
 Darlene
 Hawkins, William/Diana
 Hayes, Michael L
 Hayward, Frank E/Janet
 Health Software Inc
 Helmick, Charles
 Hendrickson, Elwin R/
 Dana
 Hensley, Steve
 Hill, Brian R/Lori D
 Hill, Robert L
 Hinman, David J/Terri L
 Hodson, Patrick L
 Hodson, Vicki
 Holden, Paul S/Barbara
 Holland, Samuel
 Hollander, Jim/Sally
 Holvey, Charlotte V
 Hudson (Hammer), Anita
 Hughes, Ron
 Hungerford, Mark/Anneta
 Hunter, Nellie M
 Hysell, Robert W/Joyce
 IES Utilities
 Iowa Beef Producers
 Irwin, Andrew
 Ivey, Beverly A
 Jackson, Darrell/Holly
 Jeffries, Doug/Melanie
 Johnson, Dennis W/
 Judy K
 Jones, Ezra E
 Kelly, Grant D
 Kelly, John/Linda M
 Keomala, Phouphane K

Knutson, Theodore M
 (Estate)
 Konhaus, John C/Sara
 Kramer, Gary C
 Kreiss, Troy L/Michelle
 Krueger, Larry
 Lake, Charles/Paula
 Lambert, Darrell
 Landeche, Lori M
 Lanferman, Margaret A
 Langford, Michael
 Larson, Randy/Marilyn
 Lay, Roy (Estate)
 Leffel, Patrick
 Lewis, Thomas D/Deborah
 Livestock Placement
 Lopez, Jessie J Jr/Rebecca
 Lowell Church
 Major, Jason A/Jodi
 Marlin, William C/Sala
 Marsh, Byron/Nichole
 Martin, Gerald A
 Martin, Randy L
 Masters, Jerry/Lucille
 McBride, Chester
 McConnell, L Wayne
 McConnell, Lawrence W
 McCurdy, David L/Judith
 McDonald, Sherry
 McGaffick, Mathew
 McLain, Ronn M/Christy
 McMahan, Louis/LaRayna
 McQuay, Virgil/Lura D
 Mead, Carl/Nana B
 Medical Resources Intl
 Mehaffy, Alan/Carrie
 (Wagner)
 Mid America Constr Co
 Miller, Leonard P/Michelle
 Miller, Rodney W/Tami
 Miller, Stephen A
 Mills, Michael J
 Moeller, Ray/Kathy
 Moore, Howard W Jr/
 Deborah
 Moore, J B
 Morrissey, Colleen R
 Morrow, David R/Toni
 Moser, Randy L
 Mount, Robert
 Murray, Raymond B/Diana
 Muschamp, Connie
 Naab, William H/Jane M
 Nelson, Delbert
 Newpath Communications
 Niggemeyer, Sharron K
 Northwestern Bell
 Oostra, David/Sheri
 Parker, Dallas D/Anita
 Pendry, Larry/Catherine
 Polton, Edward M
 Poss, Ronald/Tammy
 Potts, Terry W/Kristine L
 Praver, Barry
 Ramsey, Scott/Robin
 Ravey, Tom/Diane
 Richter, John B
 Riley, Michael D/
 Constance L
 Rockin M Ranch

Rockwell, Eunice M
 Rohde, Cheryl
 Roland, Ronald
 Rowe, Troy E/Parker,
 Cherish
 Rugg, Walter
 Rumpfelt, Virginia
 Rusk, Edward T
 Samir Corp
 Sanders, William H
 Savage, Darrell G/Swan,
 Penny
 Searcy, Earl R/Tracy L
 Schewe, Karen S
 Schillie, Lula
 Schlag, Dana/Yvonne
 Schmidt, Chris/Linda
 Schneider, Bernie A/
 Carrie
 Seering, Ronald J/Diana
 Settles, Dorothy L
 Shirley, William C
 Shull, Delores S
 Shuman, David
 Sinclair, Joseph S
 Smith, Alberta
 Smith, Fern
 Smith, Josephine
 Smith, Lela G (Estate)
 Sp Grove Mobile Homes
 Stakland, Steven K
 Stensland, Kelvin
 Stetson, Peter J/Jerre
 Steve's Rome Tap
 Stewart, Roger
 Stine, Phillip/Dawn
 Stogdill, Dan/Deb
 Stoner, Jeff S
 Stortz, Willard R
 Templeton, Scott/
 Eleanor K
 Terry, Martin/Twyla
 Thompson, Dan R/
 Susan M
 Townes, Polly
 Treimer, Todd/Amy
 Ullrich, Kimberly
 Underwood, Virginia F
 Upton, Scott/Sheryl
 Upton, Steve
 VanBlaricom, Larry
 Wagler, E Jean
 Walrod, Bob E
 Watkins, Wendell E
 Waugh, Janet M
 White, Larry R/Traci L
 Williams, Eric/Amanda J
 Williams, Larry W/
 Maranna
 Willis, Steve G/Jane A
 Wilson, Gerald A JR/
 Martha
 Wintermote, Rose
 Woodside, Robert/
 Winifred
 Woolbridge, Brian/
 Renee
 Worsh, Jill H
 Wymer, Carol

Win one of two \$150 Energy-Saving Gift Cards: Enter online or by mail!



We're going to give away two \$150 Energy-Saving Gift Cards this month – one for computer users and one just for folks who don't have a computer. If you win, you can use the gift card at your local hardware store, lumberyard or other business to buy \$150 worth of energy-saving products.

You may enter the contest once:

➔ **If you own a computer, mobile phone or other device to connect to the Internet:** Fill out the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website (www.livingwithenergyiowa.com). The deadline is Oct. 31, 2017.

➔ **If you don't have access to the Internet, enter the contest by mail.** Send a postcard or letter with your name, address, daytime phone number and electric co-op's name, postmarked by Oct. 31, 2017, to:

October Editor's Choice Contest
 Iowa Association of Electric
 Cooperatives
 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48
 Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

OFFICE CLOSING

The Access Energy Cooperative office will be closed Nov. 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. 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.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



EXTEND A HELPING HAND

Help others by contributing to RECare

RECare is a program where members help other members in need. You may make a one-time contribution to the RECare program, or you may enclose an amount each month with your monthly electric bill. Just \$1 a month will help others.

The Iowa Community Action Program administers this program, and recipients must meet its guidelines. ⚡



RECare
Because You Care
Help others with just \$1 per month!

Member Authorization Form

I would like to make a (check one):

One-time contribution of

\$ _____

Monthly contribution of

\$ _____
(That will be added to my bill)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Account # (if known) _____

CO-OPS HELPING CO-OPS

Iowa linemen gathered here for safety meeting before heading south for Hurricane Irma assistance

Line crews from electric cooperatives across Iowa traveled to the Access Energy Cooperative office in Mt. Pleasant on Sept. 10, in preparation for travel to Georgia for power restoration projects after Hurricane Irma. The workers met with John Dvorak, safety director for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, for safety instructions and travel preparations.

They discussed how to handle environmental conditions with which they weren't familiar, such as alligators and scorpions. They also were reminded that their first priority was to return home safely to their families.

"We're here to serve our co-ops and



Four members of Access Energy Cooperative line crews were part of the power restoration efforts in the South (from left): Richard Clark, Kurt Lowenberg, Tony Brown and Jon Trumpold. They have all returned home safely.

friends in Georgia and Florida," said Kevin Wheeler, general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative. "And, we wanted to go down there and help them – and try to get them back to a normal life as quickly as we could." ⚡



At 6:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 11, Iowa's crews departed in a convoy for Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation headquarters in Nahunta, Georgia. Once there, the linemen received their orders for restoring power to the area's electric cooperative members affected by Hurricane Irma.

SAFETY MATTERS

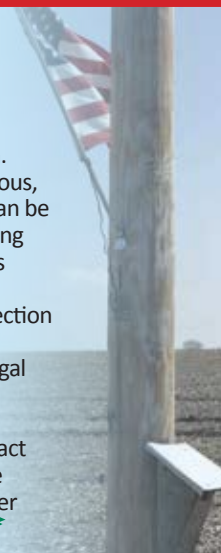
Items on utility poles are a safety hazard – and illegal

Although it may seem like a good idea, attaching items to utility poles creates serious safety hazards to Access Energy Cooperative line workers who must climb poles to restore power or perform routine maintenance. Satellite dishes, deer stands or other objects such as birdhouses, balloons, flags or a basketball net can create dangerous obstacles. In addition, the nails, tacks and screws left behind after an item is removed can snag utility workers' boots or puncture safety clothing, making line workers vulnerable to

slipping or even electrocution.

In addition to being hazardous, tampering with utility poles can be costly. Posting signs or attaching other objects to utility poles is in violation of Access Energy Cooperative's electric tariff, section 19. Individuals are subject to disconnection and possible legal action can be taken.

Access Energy Cooperative encourages members to contact local zoning officers to inquire about where signage and other items can be posted legally. ⚡



Here are the details on the new Photo Contest



Access Energy Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest, and winning entries will be shown in the 2019 Access Energy Cooperative calendar. We're looking for original photos of rural settings in southeastern Iowa – including landscapes, animals, buildings or people – during any season of the year.

Every photographer with an entry selected as one of the 13 photos to be featured in the calendar will win \$50. Submit all entries by March 31, 2018, to:

Photo Contest

c/o Access Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 440
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Contest Rules

- Entries are preferred in color.
- Entries must be in a horizontal layout.
- Original photos only. Photocopies and digital pictures printed from a computer printer will not be accepted.
- Minimum size for originals is 6 x 4 inches, and maximum size 14 x 8 inches. If you're sending professionally printed photos, be sure they are printed on glossy

photo paper. Please submit digital entries as electronic files with a minimum of 1808 x 1200 pixels. E-mail to kdavis@accessenergycoop.com or submit on a CD. (If a digital camera was used, a digital file must be submitted.)

- Entrants may enter more than one photo.
- Entries must include the following information on the back:
 - Entrant's name, address and phone number
 - Title of the photograph
 - County where photo was taken.

All entries will become the property of Access Energy Cooperative and may be used by Access Energy Cooperative for any purpose Access Energy Cooperative deems valid. Entrants agree to authorize Access Energy Cooperative to announce and publish their name, address (city only) and photograph in any forthcoming publicity without further remuneration, other than the prizes awarded in this contest. In addition, all entrants must have sufficient permission of any recognizable persons appearing in the photograph to be able to grant to Access Energy Cooperative the right to display their photographic submission online or in

Access Energy Cooperative helps fund state university research centers



Each year, Access Energy Cooperative contributes a portion of its gross revenues to the Iowa Energy Center at Iowa State University and the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research at the University of Iowa.

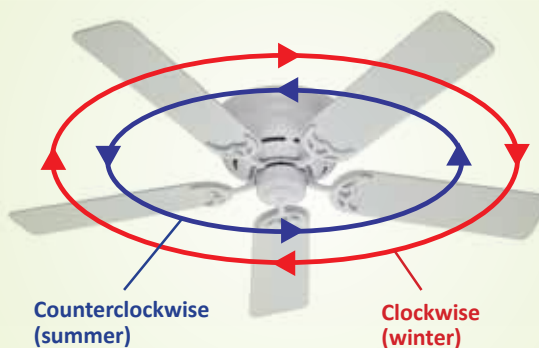
The Iowa Energy Center helps to promote, develop and advance energy efficiency programs and renewable energy research. In addition, the Center is available to answer questions on a variety of energy issues for the citizens of Iowa.

In 2017, Access Energy was assessed one-tenth of one percent of its gross operating revenue for electric for a total of \$29,014. All Iowa electric and gas utilities are required by the state legislature to help fund the two centers. ⚡

SAVING ENERGY

Reverse the spin and save

Ceiling fans can cut your electric bills year-round, but before you run out and buy one for every room, it's important to know how fans can help you save energy. Fans cool people, not rooms, so if you install a ceiling fan and don't adjust your thermostat settings accordingly, you may be more comfortable – but you also could be increasing your monthly electric bills.



During winter, flip the small switch on the side of the ceiling fan housing to reverse the blade rotation to clockwise. Run the fan on low speed so it creates a gentle upward breeze away from people in the room. This will push the warm air at the ceiling back down into the room, where it's needed. Because you'll feel warmer, you can set your furnace a few degrees lower to save energy (and a few dollars). ⚡