

# living with energy

IN IOWA



JUNE 2018

Access Energy Cooperative's Photo Contest winners are announced ▶ See Page 13

## What you don't know about electric cars could thrill you

We talk with students from the first Youth Tour – in 1958!

Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

**Will solar power work for your home?**

Meet the candidates running for director at **Access Energy Co-op's Annual Meeting**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



- July 4** Office closed for Independence Day
- July 9** Annual Meeting ballots mailed. Be sure to vote!
- Aug. 7** Annual Meeting

You can access your account information 24 hours a day and 365 days a year on our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), through our SmartHub for mobile devices or by calling the office at 866-242-4232.

**Happy 4th of July!**



*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](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop](https://facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/AccessEnergyC](https://twitter.com/AccessEnergyC)

**E-mail:** [contactus@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:contactus@accessenergycoop.com)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Call our office 24/7: 319-385-1577.

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

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

**Officers and Directors:**

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

# Energy bill provides affordability

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Access Energy Cooperative applauds our state legislators who voted for passage of Senate File 2311, an energy bill that has several sections beneficial to member-owners of Iowa's electric cooperatives – especially regarding affordability. Further, we want to applaud Gov. Kim Reynolds for not believing the distortions of truth surrounding the bill, and instead signing the bill into law last month.

Many myths hovered around this energy bill. First and foremost, this bill does not eliminate our cooperative commitment to renewable energy or our successful energy efficiency programs that were in practice decades before state government made such programs mandatory.

This bill provides much-needed regulatory parity and clarity for electric cooperatives. With a business model grounded in local control and governance, we're in business solely to serve you – our member-owners – with safe, reliable and affordable power.

The energy efficiency sections of SF 2311 have gained a great deal of attention. Nothing in this bill changes the requirement that Access Energy Cooperative will offer energy efficiency programs. As part of these offerings, the bill will ensure these programs are cost-effective – meaning that you won't foot the bill for a program that isn't financially responsible. The legislation also eliminates time-consuming and duplicative reporting to the Iowa Utilities Board, which will save our employees valuable time and resources that could be directed to further serving you.

Providing robust energy efficiency

programs and services has long been the foundation of our commitment to environmental stewardship, even

before there was a mandate to do so. During the past 10 years, Iowa's electric cooperatives have invested more than \$120 million in energy efficiency measures, saving at least 6 billion kilowatt-hours. The bill signed into law by Gov. Reynolds does nothing to

change our commitment to energy efficiency.

In addition, our dedication to the environment doesn't stop with energy efficiency. Through sensible investments in renewable energy and innovations in technology, we take pride in our communities and strive to maintain the integrity of the land's most precious resources.

The energy landscape has dramatically changed during the past 30 years, leading to more federal rules, regulations and mandates. When there are comprehensive federal policies in place, additional state mandates quickly become repetitive and unnecessary. This bill will require the Iowa Utilities Board to consider existing federal regulations before establishing similar state mandates. Again, this is beneficial for keeping your cooperative's business operations efficient and cost-effective.

Providing reliable and affordable energy is core to our cooperative mission and purpose. Gov. Reynolds' signature on this important bill gives us more power to stabilize rates and ensure affordability for our member-owners well into the future. ⚡

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



Happy Father's Day to all the dads who keep your power on



**MOVE OVER  
AND SLOW DOWN  
FOR OUR  
LINEMEN!**



**MOVE OVER  
SLOW DOWN**

Most of the lineworkers at Access Energy Cooperative have kids waiting for them to come home from work each night. Help our dads celebrate a happy Father's Day this year. Keep them safe by moving over and slowing down wherever you see them working.



**TIP #4**

**You have 24/7 access to energy savings with SmartHub**

Did you know that you can control your energy use with the Access Energy Cooperative SmartHub App on your mobile device?

SmartHub allows you to set a maximum usage limit on your account and alerts you if you go over that limit. This helps give you control to monitor your activities and meet your energy-saving goals.



iOS

Android



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST**

**Win a wireless smoke alarm kit, and install a home fire safety network in just minutes**

Endorsed by the American Red Cross, this Kidde



Home Protection Kit includes two Kidde Model P4010DCS-W photoelectric smoke alarms that interconnect wirelessly – so they'll both go off to warn your family in the event of a fire. You can add more alarms to the wireless system, such as an ionization smoke detector, for the most complete fire detection system – and even monitor the system from your smart phone.

To enter the contest for the \$80 Home Protection Kit, visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than June 30, 2018.

## HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

# Meet the candidates running for director at this year's Annual Meeting on Aug. 7

The Nominating Committee of Access Energy Cooperative, duly appointed by the Board of Directors, nominated the following candidates to run for 3-year terms, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members.

## District 1

### Joe Heckethorn

Mr. Heckethorn and his wife, Mel, live on a farm northeast of Stockport where they raise cattle. Joe was in the Marine Corps and served in Vietnam; then he was station manager at ANR Pipeline in Birmingham, where he retired after 30 years. Joe is an active member of the American Legion in Stockport and has been on the Spencer Cemetery Board for many years. He's been on Access Energy Cooperative's board of directors for 6 years.



### Marvin Larson

Mr. Larson and his wife, Mary, live in rural Jefferson County. Marvin attended Iowa State University and was a heavy equipment mechanic in the military. He was a mechanic at Duke's Yamaha and John Deere in Fairfield and an inspector for the DOT. He also farmed his home farm, but is now retired. Marvin was a 4-H leader and was inducted in the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. He was a member of the Jefferson County Extension Council and a board member of his church.



## District 2

### Glen McCollum

Mr. McCollum and his wife, Linda, live east of Mt. Pleasant. Glen has a bachelor's degree from Truman State University and a master's degree in elementary education. He retired after 37 years as a teacher/principal and coaching football, basketball and track. He is a member of the United Methodist church, the Henry County and Ft. Madison Saddle Clubs – and supervised the Henry County Nature Center and worked with 4-H kids.



### Larry White

Mr. White lives in Tipppecanoe Township in rural Mt. Pleasant. After earning his Class A lineman certification, Larry became a master electrician. He worked for Access Energy Cooperative as a foreman and serviceman technician for 28 years before retiring. He's been on the Access Energy Cooperative board of directors 12 years and is secretary/treasurer for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives board of directors. Larry is a former member of the Henry County Rescue Squad and was a Henry County Special Deputy for 8 years.



## District 3

### Robert Chesnut III

Mr. Chesnut and his wife, Jean, reside in rural Lee County. He has a degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Southeastern Community College. Robert is retired after 27 years at the Lee County Sheriff's office. In addition, he worked for 8 years at Plains LPG and continues part-time employment there. He also helped to open Kempker's True Value in Mt. Pleasant and was a truck driver for Progas. Robert has many years dedicated to the Ft. Madison 3<sup>rd</sup> ward council, as well as the board of 911, Paws in Ft. Madison, Lee County Fair and the Lee County Airport Commission.



### Jerry Francy

Mr. Francy resides in rural Henry County with his wife, Diane. He attended Kirkwood Community College, where he obtained a degree in ag technology. Jerry is a farmer, and he worked for JJ Nitching for 16 years and Kruse Implement for 4 years. He is on the Henry County Committee of Farm Services Agency and is a former Baltimore Township trustee and Farm Bureau representative. ⚡



## ANNUAL MEETING

# Save the Date!

## Aug. 7, 2018 5:00 p.m.

Access Energy Cooperative  
**Annual Meeting of Members**  
 Ballots will be mailed July 9. You may vote by mail by Aug. 6 – or come to the meeting to vote.



## JUNE ENERGY SAVER

Use rubber or wool dryer balls in the dryer to help separate clothing, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. ⚡

# Congratulations to the Photo Contest winners!

This year's winning Photo Contest entries will appear in the 2019 Access Energy Cooperative calendar, and each will receive \$50. Thank you to everyone who submitted entries.

The calendar won't be mailed with this year's Annual Meeting materials to reduce postage costs. The calendars will be available for you to pick up at the Annual Meeting – or you can stop by our office after Aug. 7. ⚡



**December 2018**  
*A Splash of Color*  
Jeanette Avery



**January 2019**  
*Heavy Frost*  
Dave Schneider



**February 2019**  
*Sunsets and Silos*  
Rachel Kempker



**March 2019**  
*Untitled*  
Mary Raymer



**April 2019**  
*Country Colors*  
Donna Wooldridge



**May 2019**  
*Soft Landing*  
Mary Adkins



**June 2019**  
*A New Day*  
Haylee Boecker



**July 2019**  
*Freedom Walk*  
Mary Adkins



**August 2019**  
*End of Picnic*  
Jenn Borgomainerio



**September 2019**  
*Wildflowers*  
Jeanette Avery



**October 2019**  
*Perfect Sunrise*  
Jodi Campbell



**November 2019**  
*Field Edge*  
Rachel Kempker



**December 2019**  
*Sunset*  
Jenn Borgomainerio

NEW EMPLOYEE

## Welcome to our engineering intern!

Trent Gonzalez is working part-time this summer in the Access Energy Cooperative Engineering Department, while continuing his education at SCC. He'll be assisting with the update of our mapping system. ⚡



IN THE COMMUNITY

## Students learn about careers at co-op

Staff from Access Energy Cooperative talked with students about careers at Access Energy Cooperative during the Iowa Wesleyan University STEM and Career Festival in Mt. Pleasant. Shown are (*behind table, from left*) Gabrielle Stokes, system engineer; Kevin Wheeler, general manager/CEO; and Don Roach, chief operations officer. ⚡

