

# living with energy

IN IOWA



JULY 2018

What's New for the Annual Meeting of Members this year? See Pages 4-5

**YOUTH TOUR 2018**

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

Access Energy Cooperative's 2017 Annual Report is enclosed



## UPCOMING EVENTS

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| July 2           | Access Energy Cooperative's 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday                                       |
| July 9           | Annual Meeting ballots will be mailed. Be sure to vote!                                     |
| Aug. 7           | Annual Meeting of Members and Election of Directors   |
| Aug. 9-19        | Visit us at the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Booth at the Iowa State Fair                |
| Aug. 28-30       | Farm Progress Show - Boone  |
| Aug. 30- Sept. 3 | Midwest Old Threshers Reunion Drive-A-Tractor event, sponsored by Access Energy Cooperative |
| Sept. 3          | Co-op office closed for Labor Day   |

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.



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://www.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:** Cherity Wibben

**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

## We've made some changes for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members!

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Please join us on August 7 at McMillan Park for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members and Election of Directors. We look forward to gathering with you to catch up, hear what you have to say, and enjoy some good food, fun and fellowship.

We've made some significant changes to the meeting this year to make things more efficient for you, the members. All of the changes are outlined on the next page, but please call our office if you have any questions.

We hope these updates will improve your Annual Meeting experience:

- Make your first stop at the Registration Booth. Everything you need will be there.
  - Get meal tickets for you and your family.
  - Dividend checks will be distributed in the same line.
  - Attendance gifts will also be available at registration.
  - We won't be mailing out the 2019 Access Energy Calendars. You can pick one up at the Registration Booth – or at our office after August 7.
- Your voting materials will be mailed July 9 and will look different to you. They'll arrive in a standard envelope and will contain everything you need to vote, your registration card and dividend card.
- You'll be voting on proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. Details on these proposals will be included with your voting materials.
- Your 2017 Annual Report is

included as part of this issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine, rather than being mailed with your voting materials.



The Annual Meeting not only is a chance to visit with members of our co-op community – it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Access Energy Cooperative and get to know your co-op's staff.

Our Annual Meeting makes it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

It's also an occasion for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op, by voting for the upcoming year's Board of Directors. Access Energy Cooperative isn't owned by faraway investors, and isn't run by an appointed Board of Directors. We're run by a democratically elected Board of Directors – a board that's given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

Our Directors are members of your community. They're concerned with the issues you face every day, because they face them too. And remember – all members of Access Energy Cooperative are eligible to run for the board – even you!

We remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and efficient service, and we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. Please join us on August 7 at *your* Annual Meeting. We have a great evening planned! ⚡

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 7, you can still vote for Directors running in the 2018 Election. Your ballot will be mailed to you on July 9. Vote and mail your ballot in the envelope provided so it's received by 4:30 p.m. on August 6 to be eligible.

# Look at what's new at the Annual Meeting next month!

When you arrive at the Annual Meeting at McMillan Park in Mount Pleasant at 5 p.m. on August 7, please go directly to the Registration Booth under the grandstands.

# NEW!

## One stop for everything

You no longer have to stand in separate lines for registration and dividend checks. At the Registration Booth, you'll be able to:

- Register for the meeting and get your free gift.
- Vote for Directors.
- Pick up your dividend check.
- Get your meal tickets.
- Receive a 2019 Access Energy Calendar.
- Get a bag to put everything in.

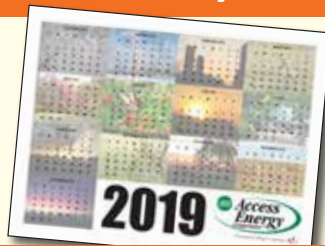


## Meal Tickets are required to receive meals

- Pick up your meal tickets at the Registration Booth when you register for the meeting – **before** you get in line for a meal.
- Tell staff at the Registration Booth how many people are attending with you, so you'll receive the correct number of meal tickets.

## The 2019 Access Energy Cooperative calendars will not be mailed this year

- To save on postage, pick up your calendar at the Registration Booth.
- Until they run out, the calendars will also be available at our office after the Annual Meeting.



## Voting materials have a new look

- Voting materials for the 2018 Election of Directors will be mailed July 9 and will have a new look. They'll be mailed in a regular-sized envelope and will contain your ballot, registration form and dividend card.
- Your 2017 Annual Report is included in this edition of *Living With Energy in Iowa* magazine as an insert in the center. You will not receive one with your voting materials.
- You'll be voting on amendments to the Articles of Incorporation by marking **yes** or **no** on your ballot. Details of the proposed amendments will be included with the voting materials.



# Win a cordless compact drill/driver kit that offers full-size performance

Good things come in small packages:

The Ryobi Model P1811 Compact Drill/Driver Kit includes the drill, two 18-volt lithium batteries that also



can run more than 100 other Ryobi tools, a quick charger and a storage bag. The retail price of the kit is \$99, plus we're adding a bonus Model P4001 Drain Auger worth \$70! For details on both products, go to [ryobitools.com](http://ryobitools.com).

Enter the contest by visiting the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than July 31, 2018. ⚡

## JULY ENERGY SAVER

Cover liquids and wrap or bag foods stored in your refrigerator and freezer. Uncovered foods release moisture, raising humidity and causing the compressor to work harder. ⚡



SAFETY MATTERS

# Maintain a safe zone around the big green box

The pad-mounted transformers in your area serve a serious purpose: distributing high-voltage electricity to several homes or businesses on the street. More specifically, the transformers inside the boxes convert high voltage to the voltages you use in your home for heating, cooling, electronics, appliances and lighting.

Certainly, the big green boxes are safe, but they need to be treated with the same respect (and distance) as all of Access Energy Cooperative’s equipment. They’re not designed for kids sitting, climbing or playing on them – or adults hiding them behind shrubs, flowers or fences.

While co-op member-owners seldom see technicians working on the pad-mount transformers unless there’s a power outage, the equipment is regularly inspected by co-op crews riding through neighborhoods that can see fault indicators from the road. In fact, one of the biggest concerns for co-op crews is safe access when they need to make repairs or component adjustments.

That’s why it’s important that landscaping and other barriers be kept at least 10 feet away from the transformer box’s doors and 4 feet away from its sides and rear. ⚡



Pad-mounted transformers are connected to primary high-voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions. Contact Iowa One Call online at [www.iowaonecall.com](http://www.iowaonecall.com) (or call 811) – and check with Access Energy Cooperative – before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems or digging where you could damage underground lines.

FROM THE BOARD

## ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Access Energy Cooperative will be held at the McMillan Park in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., on August 7, 2018, 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 three years each.
3. Consider and vote on proposed amendments to the Articles of incorporation clarifying joint membership eligibility, modifying voting procedures to allow for voting by electronic means and adding dispute resolution provisions. A full copy of the text of the Amendments is provided with this notice.
4. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of 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. I: Joseph Heckethorn  
Marvin Larson

District No. II: Glen Mc Collum  
Larry White

District No. III: Robert Chesnut III  
Jerry Francy

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.  
Robert Smith, Secretary

SAFETY MATTERS



Lineman would like your help in keeping them safe while they work on your electric lines. If you see them, move over to the other lane and slow down. Our lineworker’s families thank you!



**TIP #5**

## What's the difference between the mobile app and the Web version of SmartHub?

Our mobile apps are native applications you can download and install on your compatible mobile phone or tablet device. The Web version is internet accessible from any web-enabled device. Both the apps and the Web version give you secure access to maintain your account information, view your bills, see payment history, make payments on one or more accounts and set up recurring payments. They also

allow you to monitor and manage your usage with graphics and special markers.

The Web version also allows you to register your accounts to receive notifications for account milestones, such as an approaching or missed due date. The Web includes a profile page for maintaining your personal information, password, security passphrase and stored payment methods.



iOS

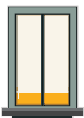


Android



## Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



### NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



### LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE



### REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Nominating Committee of Access Energy Cooperative, duly appointed by the Board of Directors, hereby nominates the following members of the Cooperative for the office of Director for the ensuing term of three (3) years each, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held August 7, 2018.

#### THREE-YEAR TERM (Three to be elected)

|                          |                    |               |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <u>DISTRICT NO. I</u>    | Joseph Heckethorn  | Marvin Larson |
| <u>DISTRICT NO. II:</u>  | Glen Mc Collum     | Larry White   |
| <u>DISTRICT NO. III:</u> | Robert Chesnut III | Jerry Francy  |

DATED at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018 and posted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018, in the office of the above-named Cooperative.

Chairman Randy White

Secretary Myrna Folker