

# living with energy

IN IOWA



JANUARY 2019

Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting Election Information ▶ See Page 12

**New year,  
new legislature,  
new opportunities**

**Legislators visit  
Access Energy  
Cooperative**

**Proactively reducing  
outage causes**

**Recipes for  
healthy eating**

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



- Jan. 15** Welcome Back Reception for Legislators – State Capitol

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- Feb. 19** Access Energy Cooperative State Capitol Visit

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- Feb. 25** Youth Tour Applications Due

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- March 5** Youth Tour Interviews

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- March 15** Scholarship Deadline

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- March 20** REC Day on the Hill

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- March 31** Photo Contest Deadline

Even when our office is closed, you can call us at 866-242-4232, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – or use our SmartHub App – for answers to billing and account questions, paying your bill and service interruptions.



*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):** 8-1-1  
**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.  
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
Marvin Newton	District 3	Vice President
Robert P. Smith	District 2	Secretary
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Treasurer
Marvin Larson	District 1	Director
Jerry Barker	District 2	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Robert Chesnut III	District 3	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

# Get to know your co-op network

## The power behind your power

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Every day, Access Energy Cooperative is hard at work to make sure all our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

Access Energy Cooperative purchases power from Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative (Northeast Power). Northeast Power purchases power from Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., which generates the power. We helped to create this second-tier co-op so that we have more control over power supply and pricing, which benefits our members.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. These organizations are also cooperatives. We use National Information Solutions Cooperative to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs, and send timely, accurate bills to you.



No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workmen's compensation. We are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

We partner with other co-ops to create Rural Electric Supply Cooperative, giving us the power to have quick access to the materials we need at the best price.

Access Energy Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials.

Access Energy Cooperative is also part of the Cooperative Response Center, which allows us to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible. ⚡

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

SERVICE AWARDS

## Congratulations to employees

Congratulations to our employees who received service awards:

- Jay Prichard (10 years)
- Sheryl Dorn (20 years)
- Steve Hyde (30 years)

Thank you for your dedication and service to the members of Access Energy Cooperative. ⚡



Jay Prichard



Sheryl Dorn



Steve Hyde

## SAFETY MATTERS



Access Energy Cooperative line workers work on dangerous equipment to keep your power on. The last thing they need to worry about is being hit by an oncoming vehicle. If you see them working on the side of the road, move over to the other lane and slow down. Their families thank you!

## LEGISLATIVE MEETING

# Thank you, legislators!



Access Energy Cooperative board members visit with Rep.-Elect Jeff Shipley, Rep. David Kerr, Rep.-Elect Joe Mitchell, Sen. Rich Taylor and Curt Meeks (not pictured; filling in for Sen.-Elect Mariannette-Miller Meeks).

Access Energy Cooperative's board and staff would like to thank the legislators and legislators-elect who attended our annual fall legislative meeting. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss the upcoming session and issues of concerns to the members of Access Energy

Cooperative and the energy industry.

Thank you to, Rep.-Elect Jeff Shipley, Rep. David Kerr, Rep.-Elect Joe Mitchell, Sen. Rich Taylor and Curt Meeks (for Sen.-Elect Mariannette-Miller Meeks) for visiting with us about the legislative upcoming session. ⚡

## EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

# Win a Sous Vide Cooker with Wi-Fi!

This smart sous vide precision cooker makes it easier than ever for home cooks to prepare a perfect meal. For details, visit [www.williams-sonoma.com](http://www.williams-sonoma.com) and enter 6561828 in the search bar. The retail value is \$200.



### Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest for a Sous Vide Cooker by visiting the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than Jan. 31, 2019. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. ⚡

## NEW EMPLOYEE

# Director of Engineering hired

Access Energy Cooperative welcomes our new Director of Engineering Tyler Thein. Tyler graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer in Iowa and Indiana, with 10 years' experience in the electric distribution utility industry.



Tyler comes to us from Muscatine, where he grew up. He is married with two sons (ages 2 and 4 months). In his free time, Tyler enjoys family adventures, home renovating, golfing and cheering on his alma mater!

**Welcome, Tyler!** ⚡

## LEGAL TOPIC

# Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible

Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Access Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. ⚡

## ANNUAL MEETING



**Aug. 6, 2019 @ 5 p.m.**

**Access Energy Cooperative  
Annual Meeting of  
Members**

**Everything is FREE!**

## YOUR ACCOUNT

## Account information updates

Thank you to all members who participated in the account information update that was sent out in your November bill. Keeping your account information up-to-date could mean faster service restoration in the event of an outage.

It is never too late to update your information. If you have a change in your phone number, email or mailing address, or any other information on your account, please let us know right away. We use this information for billing, communications and outage restoration.

Thank you for keeping your account information up-to-date! ⚡

## HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

## Who is up for election?

Your Board of Directors is elected by and from the membership of Access Energy Cooperative. Three seats are up for election, one in each of the three districts. Each board member is elected to a term of three years. Terms that will expire with the 2019 annual meeting to be held Tuesday, Aug. 6, are:

- **District 1** — Fred Hickenbottom
- **District 2** — Robert P. Smith
- **District 3** — Marvin Newton

In order to serve on the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors you must be a member of the cooperative and a bona fide resident of a premise served by the cooperative.



**Fred  
Hickenbottom**



**Robert P.  
Smith**



**Marvin  
Newton**

The board will be appointing a Nominating Committee who will select candidates to run for the expiring terms. Anyone interested in running for a seat on the board may contact a member of the Nominating Committee, which will be posted in our office, on our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) — and in these pages — or you can call our office at 866-242-4232. ⚡

# How to qualify to run for the board of directors

Pertaining to provisions set forth in RUS Bulletin 1790-1, we are providing you with a summary of the following prior to a meeting of the 2019 Nominating Committee.

## 2018 ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE BYLAWS. ARTICLE III.

### Section 2(a). Election and Tenure.

The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected from three Districts, numbered One (1), Two (2) and Three (3). The geographic areas of the three Districts shall be established by the Board of Directors and described in the By-Laws. The Districts shall be apportioned, and reapportioned as necessary, by the Board of Directors, so that the Districts contain as nearly as possible an equal number of members.

At each Annual Meeting of Members, one, and only one, Director from each of Districts One (1), Two (2) and Three (3), shall be elected for the term of three years, and until their respective successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Members attending and voting at an Annual Meeting or voting by mail or other electronic means as approved by the Directors as provided in the Articles of Incorporation shall vote only for candidates from the district in which they reside. The election of directors shall be by ballot, and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one vote for each director to be elected from that member's district.

### Section 2(b). District Boundaries.

Directors shall be elected from districts beginning with the election held at the 1990 Annual Meeting and as scheduled in the Articles of Incorporation. The three (3) districts will be comprised of the following territories:

**District I:** DAVIS: Salt Creek Twsp; JEFFERSON COUNTY: Blackhawk, Buchanan, Cedar, Center, Des Moines, Liberty, Locust Grove, Penn, Polk and Walnut Twsp; KEOKUK COUNTY: Steady Run Twsp; VAN BUREN COUNTY: Bonaparte, Cedar, Farmington, Harrisburg, Henry, Lick Creek, Union, Village and Washington Twsp; WAPELLO COUNTY: Competine, Pleasant and Washington Twsp; WASHINGTON COUNTY: Brighton and Franklin Twsp.

**District II:** HENRY COUNTY: Center, Jackson, Jefferson, Marion, Salem, Scott, Tippecanoe, Trenton and Wayne Twsp; JEFFERSON COUNTY: Lockridge and Round Prairie Twsp; LEE COUNTY: Cedar, Marion and Pleasant Ridge Twsp; LOUISA COUNTY: Elm Grove Twsp; WASHINGTON COUNTY: Marion and Washington Twsp.

**District III:** DES MOINES COUNTY: Burlington, Concordia, Danville, Pleasant

Grove, Union and Washington Twsp; HENRY COUNTY: Baltimore, Canaan and New London Twsp; LEE COUNTY: Charleston, Denmark, Franklin, Green Bay, Harrison, Jefferson, Van Buren, Washington and West Point Twsp.

### Section 3. Qualifications.

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident of premises served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members, or who within two (2) years preceding a director candidate nomination was an employee of the Cooperative, or who within seven (7) years preceding a director candidate nomination has received benefit from any collective bargaining agreement with the Cooperative, or is a close relative of a director or employee of the Cooperative, with close relative being defined as: spouse, cohabitant, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, brother, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and natural, step, and adopted children, or within fifteen (15) years preceding a director candidate nomination been convicted of a felony whether by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, plea of guilt, or plea of nolo contendere, or who is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of another director or employee, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of another director, and no person shall take or hold office as a Director who is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office other than on a school board, board of supervisors, township trustee, township clerk, or member of the State legislature; provided, however, that nothing in this Section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors. When a membership is held jointly, either one, but not both, may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications herein above set forth. Before the meeting of the committee on nominations for directors each year, the Board of Directors shall determine whether any director has ceased to be a bona fide resident of premises served by the Cooperative, and any director found by a two-thirds vote of all directors not to meet the residence requirement or any other qualifications of this Section, may continue to hold office only until the next annual meeting at which time the vacancy shall be filled by the members.

### Section 4. Nominations.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than one hundred sixty (160) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of three members from each District from which a Director is to be elected. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post, at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, a list of these candidates nominated for Director from each District from which a Director is to be elected, and the list shall include at least two candidates for each Director to be elected. Any fifteen or more members from a District from which a director is to be elected, acting together, may make other nominations for Director from their District by petition not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected from each District, and the names and addresses of the candidates from each district, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee and the nominations made by petition, if any. The ballots to be used for the election of Directors shall list the names of the candidates from each District nominated by the committee and the names of the candidates from each District nominated by petition, if any. The names of nominees shall be posted and listed on the ballots by District in alphabetical order.

The statement mailed by the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail or other electronic means as provided in this Section. Any member may cast their vote in person, by mail or by other electronic means, as may be approved by the Directors, for directors. A member voting shall mark the ballot in the manner instructed, selecting a number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected from that member's district. Upon completion, the ballot shall be delivered to the Cooperative or its representative in the manner instructed. When such ballot is received from any member in advance of the meeting, or at the meeting if voting in person, it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such member at such meeting. The provisions of this Section shall not be mandatory in the case of a recall of one or more directors as provided in Section 6 of Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation. 🌱