

# living with energy

IN IOWA



APRIL 2019

Access Energy Cooperative selects 2019 Youth Tour winners ▶ See Page 12

## Spring safety tips

Creating beautiful  
and edible gardens

Access Energy  
Cooperative  
new rebates  
coming

Access Energy  
Cooperative  
salutes our  
lineworkers

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 8** National Lineman Appreciation Day

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- April 19** Office closed for Good Friday

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- April 21** Happy Easter!

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- May 27** Closed for Memorial Day

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

ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date!



Mark your calendars for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members on **August 6** at McMillan Park in Mt. Pleasant. Come out and drive a tractor! ⚡



*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

# The commitment of an electric lineworker

BY KEVIN WHEELER

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for a good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.



Access Energy Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. It takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

### Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system

at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be more difficult.

### Community commitment

In Access Energy Cooperative's territory and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

### Thank you

Lineworkers are celebrated in April (and every month for us!). Given the dedication of Access Energy Cooperative's lineworkers, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. ⚡

SAFETY MATTERS

## Taking safety to the community

Access Energy Cooperative's new Safety Director, Jim Mills, dove right into his newly assigned duties at the cooperative, as he delivered a safety presentation to the Henry County Roads Department in Mt. Pleasant. The cooperative prides itself on our safety program. Commitment to Community is one of the principles under which we operate. Part of that commitment to community is providing safety education and information. ⚡



**MOVE OVER  
SLOW DOWN  
LINEMAN  
APPRECIATION  
DAY**



The best way to show appreciation to our linemen and other servicemen for National Lineman Appreciation Day is to help them stay safe. If you see ANYONE alongside the road when you are driving, move over to the other lane if possible and slow down. That person's life may depend on it. Their families are counting on you to help keep them safe. ⚡

**Win a  
KitchenAid®  
Stand Mixer!**



The Kitchen Aid® Classic Series 10-speed mixer with a tilt-up head is powerful enough for nearly any task or recipe, whether you're stirring wet and dry ingredients together, kneading bread dough or whipping cream. Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) to enter the contest no later than April 30, 2019. ⚡



TIP #9

**With SmartHub  
you can:**

- Check your usage
- Contact our office
- Pay your bill
- Check our news feed
- Report a service interruption
- Access custom widgets



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

**Statement of non-discrimination**

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Recipients are required to notify applicants with disabilities and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons of their right to free language assistance and accommodations and provide free language assistance and accommodations upon request.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. ⚡

## YOUTH LEADERS

# Area students selected for Youth Tour

Elizabeth Smith of Danville and Shelby Ryan of West Burlington have been selected to attend the 2019 Youth Tour on June 14-20. The event is an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Access Energy Cooperative.

Elizabeth and Shelby will join approximately 40 other Iowa students and nearly 1,800 students from across the country who have been selected by their electric cooperative to attend the annual Youth Tour.

While on tour, Elizabeth and Shelby will learn about American history and government. They will visit historic sites, including monuments, museums, the U.S. Capitol, federal agencies and other points of interest. They will also have an opportunity to meet with their legislators in the House and Senate.

Access Energy Cooperative has

been a part of the Youth Tour program for more than 50 years and currently selects two students each

year to participate in the five-day trip. The students are selected through an application and interview process. ⚡

## Elizabeth Smith



Elizabeth is a junior at Danville Community High School and is the daughter of Penne Smith. She participates in soccer, volleyball, basketball, large group and individual speech, school musicals and plays, Leo Club, Student Council, choir, show choir, National Honors Society and the praise band for her church. She is also employed at Burlington Neurology and Sleep Clinic as a Medical Records Assistant.

## Shelby Ryan



A sophomore at West Burlington High School, Shelby is the daughter of Shaun and Amy Ryan. She is active in band, choir, speech, track, silver cord and multiple school clubs. She is also involved in community and volunteer activities, as well as being a pianist at her church.

Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. • June 14-20

## LEGISLATIVE VISIT

# REC Day on the Hill

Access Energy Cooperative is active on the political scene to make sure the cooperative's interests are conveyed to legislators at the federal, state and local levels.

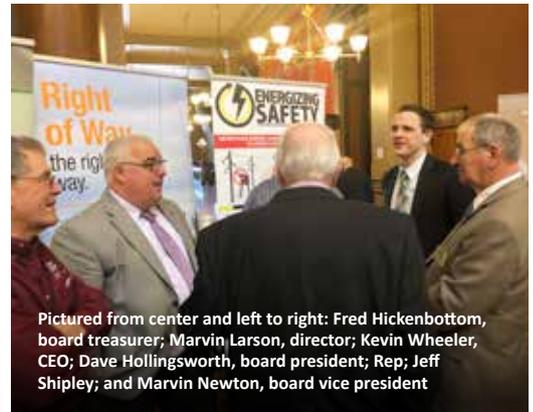
The staff and board of directors maintain relationships with our local legislators. We visit with them frequently to make sure they understand the cooperative business model. Rest assured that local legislators are working on your behalf.

In March, electric cooperatives throughout the state joined together for REC Day on the Hill at the State Capitol. The cooperatives set up displays in the rotunda for the legislators. The displays ranged from safety to energy efficiency. Our goal is to make sure they can make informed decisions on issues regarding the cooperative. We also made personal visits with the legislators to talk about issues that may impact your cooperative and the utility industry.

We thank our legislators for taking time out of their busy day to meet with us! ⚡



Pictured from left to right: Marvin Larson, director; Rep. Joe Miller; Dave Hollingsworth, board president; Marvin Newton, director; and Kevin Wheeler, CEO



Pictured from center and left to right: Fred Hickenbottom, board treasurer; Marvin Larson, director; Kevin Wheeler, CEO; Dave Hollingsworth, board president; Rep. Jeff Shipley; and Marvin Newton, board vice president



Pictured from left to right: Larry White, director and Alan Raymer, member services representative

# New rebates available April 1

The Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors approved incorporating new rebates from our power supplier, Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. into our rebate program for our members.

The list below is a schedule of the rebates available at Access Energy Cooperative effective April 1. Projects dated prior to April 1 will not qualify.

The details for each rebate available will be posted on our website. You can also call our office at 319-385-1577 for more information. ⚡



Residential Rebate & Incentive Program	
<b>HEAT PUMPS</b>	
<b>Ground source heat pump must be at least 19.1 EER</b>	
• Ground source heat pump (indoor unit & loops)	\$750 per ton
• Replace existing ground source heat pump (indoor unit)	\$400 per ton
<b>Dual Fuel, Mini-Split, Air-to-Air source heat pumps must be a least 17 SEER</b>	
• Dual fuel source heat pumps	\$250 per ton
• Mini-split air source heat pumps	\$250 per ton
• Air-to-air source heat pumps	\$100 per ton
<b>ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES</b>	
• Energy Star® window air conditioner	\$50
• Electric water heater, new construction	\$250
• Electric water heater replacing gas water heater	\$250
• Electric water heater replacing electric water heater	\$150
• Heat pump water heater, new construction or replacing gas or electric water heater	up to \$700
• Advanced thermostat	\$50
<b>HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
• Home Energy Efficiency Improvements	50% cost up to \$500
<i>Weatherization &amp; insulation improvements must be suggestions derived from a FREE energy audit conducted by Access Energy Cooperative.</i>	

## Commercial Rebate & Incentive Program

<b>HEAT PUMPS</b>	
<b>Ground source heat pump must be at least 19.1 EER</b>	
• Ground source heat pump (indoor unit & loops)	\$750 per ton
• Replace existing ground source heat pump (indoor unit)	\$400 per ton
<b>Variable Frequency Drives for HVAC pumps &amp; fans</b>	\$50 per Brake horsepower of motor driven by VFD
<b>Dual Fuel, Mini-Split, Air-to-Air source heat pumps must be a least 17 SEER</b>	
• Dual fuel source heat pumps	\$250 per ton
• Mini-split air source heat pumps	\$250 per ton
• Air-to-air source heat pumps	\$100 per ton
<b>ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES</b>	
• Electric water heater, new construction	\$250
• Electric water heater replacing gas water heater	\$250
• Electric water heater replacing electric water heater	\$150
• Heat pump water heater, new construction or replacing gas or electric water heater	\$150
• Programmable timer - ie: engine block heater	\$15
• High efficiency motors	based on HP size
<b>ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING</b>	
Rebates are based on the amount of energy saved. Members should call Access Energy Cooperative prior to any work being done on a project to start the process for a potential lighting rebate.	

SEE OFFICIAL REBATE FORMS FOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

### THANK YOU

#### To Access Energy Cooperative:

Thank you for the quick service in restoring power during the bad weather. Kudos to everyone for working in those conditions.

Richard Brombaugh  
Stockport

*Thanks!*