

living with energy

IN IOWA



JUNE 2017

Save the Date: Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 1, 2017. ▶ Members are encouraged to attend!

Boating this summer? Keep electrical safety in mind

Take your
favorite sandwich
on a picnic!

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

Meet this year's
Board of Directors
candidates

Move over, slow down
around Access Energy
Cooperative vehicles

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 4 Independence Day

August 1 Annual Meeting of Members

OFFICE CLOSING

The Access Energy Cooperative office will be closed July 4 for Independence Day. 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.



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
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

After Hours and Report Outages: 319-385-1580 or 800-452-7819

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:

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

We're structured to serve you

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Whether you're a new member-owner of Access Energy Cooperative or you've been with us for decades, you know that electric cooperatives are unique. We make a habit of sharing this information because we're proud of what it means to the member-owners we serve and the communities in which we live and work.



We don't take for granted what it means to be different from other electric providers. We appreciate and embrace our differences because it means we can serve our member-owners in a manner that best meets your needs. While there are dozens of ways electric cooperatives differ from other utilities, everything we do revolves around our unique business model and our local, not-for-profit structure.

We're locally owned by the members we serve and governed by an elected board of directors made up of member-owners of the cooperative. Committed to powering lives and empowering communities, electric co-ops have been guided by seven core principles since the beginning. You'll see these principles demonstrated in everything we do:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Members' economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives power the lives of 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties and are committed to delivering power that's safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally

responsible. Iowa's co-ops own and maintain enough power lines to wrap around the equator two-and-a-half times!

Because we serve primarily rural areas with sparse populations, we literally cover more ground than other types of utilities. In fact, 80 percent of Iowa's land mass is served by electric cooperatives. While investor-owned utilities in

Iowa serve 27 meters and generate \$72,600 of revenue per mile of line on average, electric co-ops serve 4 meters and generate \$10,700 of revenue per mile of line on average. Iowa municipalities average 54 meters per mile and generate \$129,000 of revenue per mile of line.

These realities mean that Iowa's electric cooperatives must maintain more infrastructure with less revenue per mile, compared to other electric utilities in the state. Because of our not-for-profit structure, our rates and fees are designed to recover costs only. We don't seek to make a profit on the services we provide. When we do have excess capital, it's reinvested into our systems and returned to our member-owners in the form of patronage.

To achieve economies of scale with services and to collaborate on issues that are important to the cooperative business structure and member-owners at every point on co-op lines, Access Energy Cooperative is a member of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. We're proud that our association is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. In the coming months, we look forward to sharing more details of the many ways electric cooperatives are powering and improving the lives of Iowans! ⚡

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

Look for your Annual Meeting packet in the mail

The 2017 Annual Meeting of Members will be held Aug. 1, 2017, at McMillan Park in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. A free meal will be served starting at 5 p.m. There will be country music by Beau Jangles, pony rides, inflatable rides, Drive-A-Tractor, sno cones and live line safety demos for the kids.

Pick up your registration gift and dividend check, vote for your directors and check all of the information available on energy efficiency, renewable energy and activities happening at the co-op.



All members are encouraged to attend. Everything is FREE!

Then stay for the business meeting that starts at 7 p.m. Door prizes will be given out during the meeting. You must be present to win!

Look for complete information in your Annual Meeting packet that will be mailed on July 6. ⚡

What's the difference between a power strip and a surge protector?

Power strips fulfill a very simple function – sort of like an extension cord. They're inexpensive, and the quality is pretty much on par with the price. Here are some factors to consider when purchasing a power strip:



- Make sure you know the amperage rating of the outlet into which you're connecting the strip and other equipment so you don't overload the circuit.
- Look for a power strip with a built-in circuit breaker. If you connect too many electronics and devices, the strip will kick out its circuit breaker rather than causing the breaker in your electric panel to trip.
- Get a smart strip. One outlet serves as a master, receiving power all the time. The other outlets don't receive power until the master device is turned on, which is ideal for computer and home entertainment setups.

If you're plugging in expensive electronics, you may want to consider the plain power strip's more talented cousin, a **surge protector**. Here, price is even more important; a cheap surge strip can fail but still provide power, all without any indication that its surge-protecting abilities are gone.

Here are some factors to consider when buying a surge protector:

- Go for a high joule rating, which indicates how much protection the strip offers.
- Consider built-in cable and Internet connection protection too, as surges can enter computer or home entertainment equipment via any wired connection.
- Look for an indicator light that shows if protection has burned out. ⚡

CO-OP VIPs

Happy Father's Day to all our dads!



Access Energy Cooperative wishes all dads everywhere a very happy Father's Day, with a special tribute to the dads at Access Energy Cooperative. These dads work hard every day to keep your power on – and to keep your

electric cooperative running as safely, efficiently and reliably as possible. When you next switch on a light, remember all the hard work of the men at Access Energy Cooperative that cause that light to come on for you. ⚡

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a food dehydrator!

Cabela's 10-Tray Deluxe Dehydrator features a rear-mounted, 900-watt heater and 6.5-inch fan for even drying, along with side air slots that eliminate the need for rotating the trays.

To enter this month's contest for the \$200 Cabela's dehydrator, please go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com and complete the entry form no later than June 30, 2017. ⚡



Meet this year's director candidates

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 to be held Aug. 1, 2017.

District 1

David Hollingsworth



David and his wife, Jody, live in rural Packwood. They have two sons and three daughters. He's earned the Credentialed Cooperative

Director status in his first 3 years as a cooperative board member. A graduate of Pekin High School, David is a farmer and a sales representative for Pioneer Hybrid. He served on the Pekin Community School board as president for 12 of his 17 years in office and is an active member of the Packwood Christian Church. David has been a member of the Packwood Fire Department for 33 years, and he currently serves as chief. In his spare time, he enjoys running the scoreboard for Pekin volleyball and basketball and is a member of the Pekin football Chain Gang.

Michael Ledger



Michael and his wife, Patricia, live in rural Fairfield. He has one daughter, two sons and five grandchildren. Michael graduated from Pekin High School in

1973 and has farmed his entire life. He raised hogs and cattle for many years and is currently raising corn and soybeans with his son, Aaron. Michael is involved in the community and has participated in many organizations, such as Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Soybean and Corn Growers, Farm Bureau, Jefferson County Pork Producers Board, Pork Congress (delegate), Packwood Lions Club and FSA (county committee vice-

chairman). He's also an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and is a 4th degree Knight of Columbus.

District 2

Jerry Barker



Jerry and his wife, Jean, reside in Henry County. They have a daughter, Carmen (Dave) Smith, and a son, Darrell (Diane) Barker, and three grandchildren. Jerry earned a B.S. degree from Iowa Wesleyan College and did graduate work at Western Illinois University. He completed the Dale Carnegie Human Relations and Effective Speaking course. Jerry was a manager at Blue Bird Midwest for 40 years. For 3 years, he was sales manager at Blockbuster, Inc., and is now retired. He also has been involved in reforestation management and Christmas tree production and sales. Jerry has been active in the community, including Cub and Boy Scouts, Youth Leader, board member and organizer of the Southeast Iowa Blood Center, Lions Club, and Lay Leader and board trustee at the First United Methodist Church. He has served 9 years on the board of directors – 3 years as secretary and 3 years as president. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director status and holds both a Board Leadership Certificate and a Director Gold Certificate as certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Duane Graber



Duane and his wife, Phyllis, have lived on a farm for 45 years in rural Henry County. They have two daughters, one son and five grandchildren. Duane is a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School. He worked at Goodyear for 28 years and is currently

operating a cow/calf farm in Henry County. Duane was a 4-H leader for 10 years, and he served on the board of the Henry County Cattlemen's Association. He is currently on the Henry County Board of Review and is president of the Food Resource Bank of Henry County.

District 3

Marvin Holtkamp



Marvin and his wife, Sue, reside in rural Lee county. He's a graduate of Iowa State University. He has been on the board of Access Energy Cooperative since 2005 and recently served as president of the cooperative. He's a Credentialed Cooperative Director and holds both a Board Leadership Certificate and Director Gold Certificate as certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Marvin continues to manage his grain and livestock operation, is involved in various local organizations and enjoys restoring antique tractors.

Bradley Lake



Bradley and his two children, Hailey and Harley, live in rural West Point. He is a graduate of Fort Madison High School and Northeast Iowa Community College, with an Associate in Applied Arts degree in John Deere Agricultural Technology. Brad is a self-employed mechanic-technician and knows the value of a dollar. He has taken many refresher courses to update his skills. He was a reserve officer for the Fort Madison Police Department for 4 years. He's volunteered his time preparing chicken for the West Point Sweet Corn Festival and was involved in 4H and active in FFA as well. For the past 5 years, he has served on the nominating committee for Access Energy Cooperative. 🌿

OPERATIONS UPDATE

We're testing poles for safety and reliability

Access Energy Cooperative tests all of our poles for safety and reliability on a rotating basis.

Please note that you may see

Access Energy

Cooperative employee Gary Stevens testing poles around the entire service area this summer and into fall.

If you ever have a question about a worker on your property, please call our office to verify their identity at 866-242-4232. ⚡



IN THE NEWS

Winners of Photo Contest announced!

This year's Photo Contest is going to result in a beautiful 2018 Access Energy Cooperative calendar. Reminder: The calendar will be included in your Annual Meeting

packet – so watch for it in the mail after July 6.

Thank you to everyone who submitted entries. And congratulations to this year's winners! ⚡

Photo Contest Winners

December 2017	April 2018	September 2018
Jeanette Avery Henry County <i>Winter Barn</i>	Carol Klesner Lee County <i>Exploring Shimek Forest</i>	Dave Schneider Van Buren County <i>Late Evening Fall Harvest</i>
January 2018	May 2018	October 2018
Dave Smith Henry County <i>Reaching for the Stars</i>	Donna Wooldridge Des Moines County <i>Disappearing Sun</i>	Jeanette Avery Henry County <i>Old Bridge – Geode State Park</i>
February 2018	June 2018	November 2018
Tina Starnes Jefferson County <i>Puppy Love</i>	Melanie Patton Henry County <i>Evening Glow</i>	Dave Schneider Lee County <i>Late Evening at the Farm Pond</i>
March 2018	July 2018	December 2018
Lindi Harryman Van Buren County <i>Peaceful Sunset</i>	Melanie Patton Henry County <i>God Bless America</i>	Dave Smith Henry County <i>Winter Walk in the Park</i>
	August 2018	
	Bea McDowell Henry County <i>Another Farm Day Done</i>	

CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

IOWA 811 ONE CALL

Go to iowaonecall.com from your phone, tablet or computer at least 48 hours before digging or excavating to have utilities located at no charge to you. It's the law!

Please ... move over, slow down for emergency and utility crews

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.