



Current News

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A monthly publication for the members of Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative

Apply today for Youth Tour 2023

A group of high school students sponsored by Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives, including one from Eastern Iowa REC, will be traveling to Washington, D.C., June 17-23 for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The Iowa students will join other student leaders from across the nation to learn more about cooperatives, U.S. history and government.

Eastern Iowa REC is sponsoring an opportunity for the son or daughter of a Cooperative member in their sophomore or junior year of high school to be part of Youth Tour 2023.

Applications and more information about the 2023 Youth Tour can be downloaded from the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com, under the "News & Events" tab.

Students will be asked to complete an application, have a consent form signed by their parents or legal guardian and answer a series of essay questions.

The student's name and address will

be redacted and then the anonymous applications will be reviewed by a group of Cooperative employees who will select the winner.

Winners will be selected based on

their answers to the essay questions, participation in extra curricular activities and community service.

All 2023 Youth Tour applications are due by March 17, 2023.



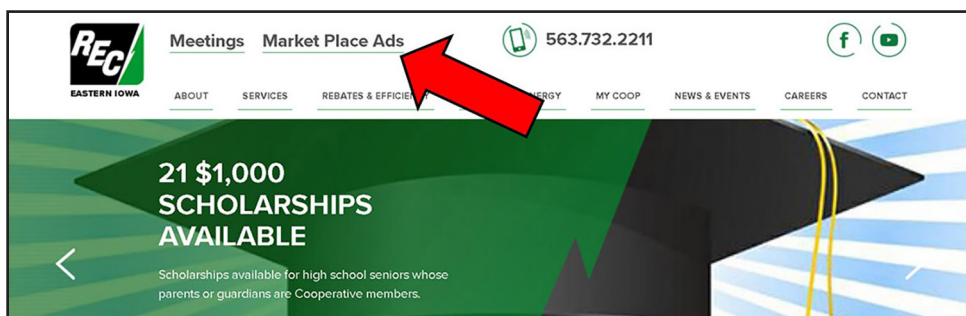
The 2022 Iowa Youth Tour group was able to meet with Sen. Chuck Grassley while in Washington, D.C.

Market Place ads are now found at www.easterniowa.com

The Market Place ads have been moved to the Eastern Iowa REC website, www.easterniowa.com. You can find the Market Place link at the top left side of the homepage.

Cooperative members can still place ads at no cost, but the size limit has increased to 300 characters and pictures can now be included. Members must use the form on the website to place their ads.

Members cannot place ads by mail, phone call or email. Ads will run for 30 days and a reminder email will be sent five days before



the ad is to expire with the option to renew the ad. Ads will appear on the website as

soon as they are reviewed by Cooperative personnel.

2023 scholarship applications are due March 10

The 2023 Eastern Iowa REC scholarship program includes 21 \$1,000 scholarships.

The "Bob Wiemerslage Memorial Scholarship" is awarded to a student whose parents or guardian is a member of the Cooperative and who plans to major in accounting. Wiemerslage was the Cooperative's Division Manager of Accounting until his passing in 2019.

The deadline for applying for the scholarship program is March 10, 2023.

Fifteen scholarship winners will receive a \$1,000 award, three in each district, that can be used to help defray the costs of attending any accredited college or university.

Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students planning to pursue a trade-related degree at a community college, technical school or power line school.

The Cooperative's scholarship program is open to all 2023 high school

seniors, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative. This includes children of Cooperative directors and employees.

For complete scholarship program details and to obtain an application form for a 2023 scholarship, download the application from the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com, under the "News & Events" tab.

All scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 10, 2023.

Years of Cooperative service are recognized

The success of Eastern Iowa REC over the past 87 years can be directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of the employees who work each day to ensure Cooperative members receive the best possible service. Each year Eastern Iowa REC recognizes employees for their years of service to the organization. In 2022, 16 employees were honored for a combined 255 years of service to the Cooperative.



Tom Quiram
Project Coordinator
45 Years



Kirk Trede
CEO
30 Years



Tim Iossi
Mgr. Operation Technology
25 Years



Lance Talbott
Journeyman Lineworker
25 Years



Chris Dorris
Sub. Serviceperson Foreperson
15 Years



Aaron Healy
Member Service Supervisor
15 Years



Andrew Koopmann
Wilton Line Foreperson
15 Years



Vicki Meester
Mgr. of Billing & Records
15 Years



Will Thoma
Wilton Area Supervisor
15 Years



Tanner Gardner
Journeyman Lineworker
10 Years



Cody Johnson
Journeyman Lineworker
10 Years



Deirdra Land
Dispatcher/GIS
10 Years



Kyle Paulsen
Journeyman Lineworker
10 Years



Bryanne Bell
Member Service Rep.
5 Years



Stephany Richardson
Purchasing Manager
5 Years



Michelle Walker
Div. Mgr. Admin. Services
5 Years

Comments from the CEO

Beating the peak helps the entire Cooperative

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Eastern Iowa REC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. The Cooperative must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." For Eastern Iowa REC, these "peak hours" are from 4-9 p.m. in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including your Cooperative, typically pay more for electricity during those "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when

heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use

approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every Cooperative member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

The Eastern Iowa REC website has information about opportunities for members who wish to serve on the Cooperative's board of directors, the Cooperative's scholarship program and the 2023 Youth Tour. Elections for positions on the board will be held this summer. Nomination paperwork and other election material is available online.

Scholarships are available for students planning to attend a four-year college or those planning to attend a community college or technical school. See the story on page 1 for complete scholarship program details.

The Cooperative will be sponsoring an opportunity for a local high school student to join the group from Iowa who will spend a week in Washington, D.C. learning about cooperatives, U.S. history and government.

Application materials for all these items are available at www.easterniowa.com, under the "News & Events" tab.



From the Boardroom, December, 2022

- Approved the tree trimming agreement with Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
- Approved resolutions for the disposition of uncollectible bills.
- Received a report on the Cooperative's cybersecurity program.
- Approved a donation to the NRECA International Foundation.

The next board meeting will be held on February 23, 2023.

Take advantage of all the SmartHub options

SmartHub can be used as a convenient way to access your Cooperative energy bill and to report power outages.

The SmartHub portal provides members a convenient way to access and pay their monthly energy bills online.

Cooperative bylaws are available

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, copies of the bylaws of Eastern Iowa REC are available to anyone interested, either members of the Cooperative or the general public, at the reception counter of the headquarters office at Wilton, Iowa, and at the Cooperative's service centers at Wapello, DeWitt, and Lone Tree, Iowa.

If you want a copy of the Cooperative's bylaws, please ask at any Cooperative office or visit www.easterniowa.com/my-coop.

Using SmartHub through a computer, smart phone or tablet, Cooperative members are able to:

- Pay your bill
- View current & previous billing statements
- Review electricity use
- Enroll in an automatic payment plan
- Sign up for paperless billing statements
- Report power outages
- Receive email &/or text notifications



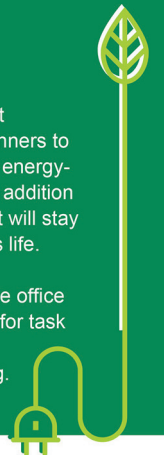
regarding your bill

You can access SmartHub by visiting the Eastern Iowa REC website, www.easterniowa.com, or download the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



Start the director election process

The first step in the Eastern Iowa REC director election process is the submission of an address verification form, which enables the Cooperative to ensure the potential candidate is eligible to run within the district they indicate on the form.

The next step is for the candidate to complete a petition signed by at least 15 memberships of their district by April 3.

Nomination packets, along with information regarding the district boundary map, qualifications to seek election, direc-

tor compensation, director duties, responsibilities, Standards of Conduct and characteristics of a director can be found on the Cooperative's website, www.eastern-iowa.com under the "My Coop" tab, Director Elections or call 1-800-728-1242 to request the information.

All candidates who submit qualifying petitions will then be asked to fill out a brief biographical form and return it to the Cooperative by May 15. The elections will be held during the 2023 district meetings.

Assistance is available for winter heating bills

Help is again available for Iowa residents who may struggle to meet winter home heating costs.

You can apply now for the 2023-2023 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights, and helps qualifying families meet home heating costs. Qualifying Iowa residents can submit applications until April 30, 2023.

For information about household income maximums and contact information, see the chart.

INCOME MAXIMUMS	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940
6	\$74,380
7	\$83,820
8	\$93,260

For each additional household member, add \$9,440
 If you are not sure where to apply, Dial 2-1-1, or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/> where-apply to contact your local community action agency, or write to:
 LIHEAP
 Iowa Department of Human Rights
 Capitol Complex
 Des Moines, IA 50319



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

Current News Monthly Quiz

Winners:

Holly Best, Muscatine
 Darren Miller, Tipton
 Staci Kirkman, Moscow
 Jared Bentrott, Lowden

Mail your answers to Current News, P.O. Box 3003, Wilton, IA 52778 or email the answers to info@easterniowa.com. Be sure to include your name, address and Eastern Iowa REC account number on all quiz answer entries.

Four winners will be drawn from all submissions with the correct answers. The winners will receive a \$25 bill credit.

Question 1

How many collective years of service are represented by the 2022 service award honorees?

Question 2

Where can you obtain a copy of the Cooperative bylaws?

Question 3

What is one of the SmartHub capabilities?

Name

Address

REC Account

Current News



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tom Hotz, president; Kathrine Wunderlich, vice president; Ken Purdy, secretary; Kurt Olson, treasurer; Dan Heater, assistant secretary; Henry Bentley, Michael Bixler, Joel Carstensen, Allan Duffe, Gary Kester, Glenn McCulloh, Michael Moes, Bill Petersen, Mike Shuger, Ron Stover.

Kirk Trede
CEO

Jim Williams
Communications Director

DeWitt
500 South Fifth St.

Wapello
101 Surrey Drive.

Lone Tree
309 W. Commercial St.

Wilton
1705 West Third St.

Call toll free, 1-800-728-1242.

General Information.....info@easterniowa.com

Billing Questions.....billing@easterniowa.com

Service Questions.....member.service@easterniowa.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.