



Current News

Volume 70 Number 2 February, 2024

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

Apply today for Youth Tour 2024

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 15-21 for the 2024 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 2024.

Applications and more information about the 2024 Youth Tour can be downloaded from the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com/my-coop/community/youth-tour/.

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 2024 Youth Tour applications are due by March 15, 2024.



The 2023 Iowa Youth Tour group visited the Jefferson Memorial among the many sites they saw while in Washington, D.C.



Pictured from left are: Kerry Koonce, CIPCO vice president of communications and corporate relations; Charla Schafer, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine president; and Stephanie Miene, Eastern Iowa REC economic development director.

Cooperatives support local health clinic

Eastern Iowa REC and our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), facilitated the closing of a \$4.36 million Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) for the Mulberry Health Clinic project in Muscatine.

The expansion of the existing Unity Point Trinity Hospital in Muscatine is an \$18 million project that will expand the facility from 30,000 square feet to 42,000 square feet.

The new addition will include space for telehealth, primary care, behavioral health and community health.

The REDL program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create and retain employment in rural areas.

Years of Cooperative service are recognized

The success of Eastern Iowa REC over the past 88 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 2023, 5 employees and directors were honored for a combined 85 years of service to the Cooperative. The organization also welcomed seven new team members during 2023.



Tim Miller
Wapello Area Supervisor
30 Years



Mark Henning
Wilton Line Foreperson
25 Years



Jake Tackenberg
Journey person Lineworker
5 Years



Joel Carstensen
District 1 Director
15 Years



Kathy Wunderlich
District 5 Director/President
10 Years



Kyle Olderg
Information Technology
Specialist



Mike Gregg
Journey person Lineworker



Clayton Cooling
Apprentice Lineworker



Eli Hogan
Journey person Lineworker



Max Holst
Energy Advisor



Tammy Koch
Member Relations
Representative



Ashley Dixon
Member Relations
Representative



Reward yourself with energy efficiency

At Eastern Iowa REC, we want to provide you affordable, reliable, and safe electrical service. Part of the way we carry out that mission is offering you rebates.

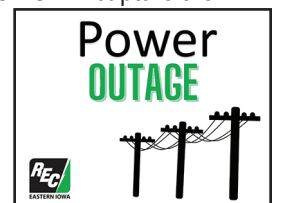
All Cooperative rebate forms are available online:
www.easterniowa.com/energy-center/rebates/.

New in 2024 is a \$75 rebate for induction cooktops and stoves.

If you have questions about the Cooperative's rebate program contact an energy advisor. Call 1-800-728-1242 or email member.relations@easterniowa.com

Use your phone or SmartHub to report power outages

During a major storm, the Cooperative uses its outage management system (OMS) to coordinate power restoration efforts. The OMS uses telephone numbers linked to member accounts in this process. This is why it is vital to call, 1-800-728-1242, or use SmartHub to report an outage. The OMS will capture the phone number when the call is made and a member's phone number is also part of their SmartHub account. To create a SmartHub account go to www.easterniowa.com and follow the SmartHub link on the home page.



Comments from the CEO

Applications are available for scholarships, Youth Tour, board elections

2024 got off to a stormy start as a pair of major snowstorms blew through the service area during the second week of January and that was followed by bitter cold temperatures. While Mother Nature will always have the last word when it comes to weather, your Cooperative will always do everything it can to maintain the high level of service you've come to expect from this organization.

The application period for two Eastern Iowa REC youth programs is now open. The first program is the Youth Tour. 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. A story on page 1 provides more details.

The second program is the Cooperative's scholarship program. Scholarships are available for students planning to attend a four-year college or those planning to attend a community college or technical school. More infor-

From the Boardroom, December, 2023

- Approved resolutions for the disposition of uncollectible bills.
- Approved participation in a project to build electric services in Guatemala.

The next board meeting will be held on February 29, 2024.

mation can be found on page 4.

Application materials for both programs are available online at www.easterniowa.com/my-coop/community/youth-tour/ and www.easterniowa.com/my-coop/community/scholarships/.

Cooperative members who are interested in serving on the Eastern Iowa REC Board of Directors can now start the application process. The application materials are available on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com under the "My Cooperative" tab, Director Elections or call 1-800-728-1242 to request the information. Nomination petitions need to be turned in by April 1, 2024.

Eastern Iowa REC's board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of men and women with a variety of work backgrounds. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the Cooperative's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people

with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That's why when we're seeking new directors, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We're seeking local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we're looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

While day-to-day operations decisions are made by Cooperative staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the Cooperative and the community it serves. Eastern Iowa REC board members typically provide input and guidance on budgets, Cooperative goals and direction, capital investments, upgrades in equipment and technology and the Cooperative's role and involvement in economic development. In addition, Eastern Iowa REC board members also advocate with our area legislators to support issues related to the Cooperative. Cooperative directors dedicate up to 30 days per year to Cooperative business.

Eastern Iowa REC's board elections will be held in the summer during the district meetings. While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn.



Kirk Trede
CEO

Electric co-op leaders welcome legislators back to Des Moines

Severe winter weather couldn't stop employees and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives as they discussed concerns and priorities with state legislators during our 2024 Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception on January 9 in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications

Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the

beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve.

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.



From left are: Joel Carstensen, director; Kurt Olson, director; Bradley Weiss, director; Kathy Wunderlich, director; Sen. Chris Cournoyer; Ken Purdy, director; Gary Kester, director; and Mike Shuger, director.

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 2023-2024 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, 2024.

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

INCOME MAXIMUMS	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For each additional household member, add \$10,280
 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

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 1.

Nomination packets, along with information regarding the district boundary map, qualifications to seek election, director 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 Cooperative" tab, Director Elections or call 1-800-728-1242 to request the information.

All candidates should note the time requirements of a director are more than just the 12 monthly meetings. Directors should be prepared to devote an average of 25-30 days per year to Cooperative business-related activities.

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 2024 district meetings.

The incumbent directors whose terms expire in 2024 are: Glenn McCulloh, DeWitt, district 1; Michael Moes, Tipton, district 2; Bill Petersen, Muscatine, district 3; Ken Purdy, Columbus Jct., district 4; and Gary Kester, Burlington, district 5.

Current News Monthly Quiz

Winners:

Kathy Preston, Muscatine
 Jon Meyers, Nichols
 Renee Fisher, Wellman
 Donna Tucker, Kalona

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

When does the 2024 Youth Tour take place?

Question 2

How many new employees joined the Cooperative team in 2023?

Question 3

What is the LIHEAP income maximum for a family of 4?

Name

Address

REC Account

Eastern Iowa REC Scholarship Program

21 \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

15 \$1,000 scholarships for students pursuing degrees at 4-year colleges or universities.

5 \$1,000 scholarship for students pursuing trade-related degrees at a community college, technical school or power line school.

The \$1,000 Bob Weimerslage Memorial Scholarship goes to a student planning to study accounting.

Deadline

March 11, 2024


For More Information :

800-728-1242

www.easterniowa.com/my-coop/community/scholarships/



Current News



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

Kirk Trede CEO	Jim Williams Communications Director
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DeWitt 500 South Fifth St. Lone Tree 309 W. Commercial St.	Wapello 101 Surrey Drive. Wilton 1705 West Third St.
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Call toll free, 1-800-728-1242.

General Information.....info@easterniowa.com
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 Service Questions.....member.service@easterniowa.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.