



Current News

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

District Meetings start later this month

The first of the five District Meetings will be held July 26 for members in District 2 at the Tipton Middle School, 725 West 7th St., Tipton.

The Cooperative will again be using a drive-in format for the 2023 District Meetings. The events will be held at area school parking lots and the meetings will be broadcast via an FM radio transmitter. Members attending will sit in their vehicles and listen to the proceedings.

Each meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Members will not be able to register for the meetings until after 6:30 p.m.

The remaining meetings will be held July 31 at the Central DeWitt High School parking lot, 519 East 11th Street, DeWitt, for members in District 1; Aug. 3 at the Mediapolis High School parking lot, 725 North Northfield St., Mediapolis, for members in District 5; Aug. 7 at the Durant High School parking lot, 408 7th St., Durant, for members in District 3; and finally Aug. 8 at the Lone Tree school parking lot, 303 Devoe St. South, Lone Tree, for members in District 4.

All members attending their district meeting will pull up to a registration tent at each site. Members will stay in their vehicles through the registration process.

The bottom portion of the registration letter, which will be sent to every Cooperative member, will be used for



Michelle Walker, division manager of administrative services, and Tim Iossi, operations technology manager, registered members at the 2022 District 3 meeting in Durant.

the official registration count and the prize drawings.

Also at the registration tent, ballots will be distributed at meetings where there is a contested election. The 2022 annual report and other meeting documents will also be distributed. When there is a contested election, each member will then pull forward to turn in their completed ballot to Cooperative members serving as tellers who will count the ballots.

Members will then be directed to park and tune to a specific channel using their vehicle radio to listen to the meeting proceedings. Members who wish to ask questions or make comments during the meetings will be asked to honk their horn and

blink the lights of their vehicle and a staff member will come to their vehicle to relay their comment or question.

Members will be able to review the district meeting items on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com, click on the "Meetings" link at the top left of the homepage to find: official 2023 district meeting notices, minutes of the 2022 district meetings, and 2023 candidate information.

Qualifications to serve as a director, voting district maps and director nomination and election process information can be found under the "My Coop" tab on the website.

Official district meeting registration notices will be mailed to each membership prior to the meeting. Please bring the bottom portion of that notice to the meeting as they certify a member's eligibility to vote.

All Cooperative members who register at their district meeting will receive a \$20 bill credit. All members who register will also be entered in drawings for door prizes. The winners will be drawn after the meetings and all prizes will be delivered to the homes of the winners.

An electric tabletop grill, electric smoker, Instant Pot, rechargeable garden sprayer, and a Halo Bolt power bank and portable charger will be awarded to winners from each meeting.

Elections to be held at the 2023 District Meetings

Eastern Iowa REC members will have the opportunity to elect a fellow member to a position on the Cooperative's board of directors at their 2023 District Meeting.

The terms of five Cooperative directors are up and elections for these positions will be held during the 2023 District Meetings. The term of office is three years.

The terms of Directors Joel

Carstensen, District 1; Michael Bixler, District 2; Michael Shuger, District 3; Dan Heater, District 4; and Ron Stover, District 5, expire this year.

Incumbent directors in Districts 1 and 2 are running unopposed this year. In Districts 4 and 5, incumbent Directors Heater and Stover are not seeking re-election.

Gary Bruns of Wilton and Director Shuger of Wilton will be up for election

in District 3. In District 4, Terry Philips of Riverside and Robert Schneider Jr. of Riverside will be up for election. Bradley Weiss of Burlington is the only candidate running in District 5.

Full candidate profiles can be found at www.easterniowa.com/news-events/candidates. Candidate videos can be found by clicking on the "Meetings" link at the top left of the homepage at www.easterniowa.com.



Joel Carstensen



Michael Bixler



Michael Shuger



Gary Bruns



Terry Philips



Robert Schneider Jr.



Bradley Weiss



Safety training continues with transformer education classes

Eastern Iowa REC line personnel received transformer training and safety procedure instruction May 2-4. Miniature models of transformers were used to allow for hands-on

training. The session was led by safety and training personnel from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Shown at above-left are: Kyle Scho-

er, apprentice lineworker (left) and Andy Koopmann, line foreperson. Shown above-right are: Mike Gregg, journeyman lineworker, and Zack Leu, apprentice lineworker.

We are charging into summer



A Level 2 electric vehicle charger is now available at the Cooperative's Wilton service center. The charger is available 24/7. Payment options include: Zef Energy app or credit card. More chargers will be installed in other locations around the service territory.



Come see us at the 2023 Iowa State Fair!

Iowa electric cooperatives are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2023 Iowa State Fair. Eastern Iowa REC is proud to be part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member-consumers use energy wisely.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from August 10-20, make sure to stop by and see us in the air conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello!

Comments from the CEO

Make plans to participate in the board election process

The 2023 District Meetings will start later this month. We are again utilizing a drive-in style meeting that we used last year. I thank you in advance for taking part in these important events. Elections from the membership for positions on the Cooperative's Board of Directors are the key business function of these meetings.

Contested elections will be held at the District 3 and District 4 meetings. Two incumbent directors, Dan Heater in District 4 and Ron Stover in District 5, will not be seeking re-election to the board of directors. On behalf of the organization, I would like to thank Dan and Ron for their service to the Cooperative.

I would encourage you to attend your District Meeting. Take an active role in these events as we hope each meeting provides a platform for an interactive exchange between the members and Cooperative staff and directors.

"We're here to serve you." We've all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us--your local electric Cooperative--they

From the Boardroom, May, 2023

- A resolution acknowledging the contributions of Director Dan Heater was read.
- Approved transformer purchase for DeWitt Substation.
- Reviewed the Cooperative's Strategic Corporate Plan.
- Reviewed 2023 Annual Meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on July 31, 2023.

mean everything.

Eastern Iowa REC was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our Cooperative for the common good.

In many cases, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, Eastern Iowa REC helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.



Kirk Trede
CEO

If you're considering a solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle (EV) options. The Cooperative provides information about EV charging and electrical requirements to our members so you can make informed decisions about EVs.

Eastern Iowa REC is also actively involved in economic development efforts throughout the Cooperative's service territory. These efforts help existing businesses grow and expand, while also helping to attract new businesses to the area.

The Cooperative's scholarship program provides 21 \$1,000 scholarships to area high school students. We feel it's important to offer this support to the young people in our service territory as they are the future of our Cooperative and our communities.

So, the next time you hear Eastern Iowa REC use the phrase "we're here to serve you," we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.



Heater resigns

Director Dan Heater has resigned from his position on the Cooperative's board of directors. Board president Tom Hotz presented Dan Heater with a gift and plaque in honor of his three years of service to the organization at the May 24 board meeting.

Joint memberships are available

Elections for directors are held at the district meetings each summer. Your name must appear on the Eastern Iowa REC membership and you must be present at the meeting in order to participate in the election process.



If only one spouse's name appears on a membership, the other spouse cannot vote in the election. A joint membership will record both names of spouses, allowing both to participate if they wish. Joint memberships are also available for non-married couples who reside at the same address.

A joint membership will allow each to vote. Each membership is allowed one vote, so each voting party may cast 1/2 a vote. If one or the other is unable to attend the district meeting, the joint membership will ensure that the person who does attend is able to cast the full vote in the election.

Any non-person account, such as a church or business must have the design-

nated voter listed on the account present at the district meeting to vote.

Contact a member service representative, toll free, 1-800-728-1242 or email billing@easterniowa.com to obtain a joint membership form. The form is also available on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com/services/billing-options/.



PAPERLESS BILLING

Visit www.easterniowa.com for details.

Get instant access to your bill and declutter your life. Experience the convenience of paying your bill online. No more waiting for your paper bill.

How to sort the many choices in home generators

By Paul Wesslund, NRECA

If you're wondering whether to buy a home generator in case of a power outage, you're not alone. Backup power sources have gotten so popular that manufacturers now offer a wide range of choices.

Options run from pull-start gasoline models costing a few hundred dollars to permanent outdoor installations for several thousand dollars. That variety makes it easier to get exactly what you want, but harder to choose.

A good first step is to think about what you want a home generator to do. Do you just want to keep your phone charged? Do you want to make sure food doesn't spoil in your refrigerator? Do you want to make sure you have heat and air conditioning through an extended outage? Answering those questions will require you to know the wattage of the appliances you want to run so you know the capacity of the generator you need.

You might also ask if you really need a generator. The average U.S. home is without power about seven hours a year. Is that enough to justify the expense and attention?

Another part of your planning should be contacting your electric co-op to get their expert advice on the best and safest fit for your home.

Here's what to know about the four basic choices in home generators:

Portable generators are small enough that you might even take them on camping trips. The costs for these can vary—from more than \$2,000 to as low as \$400. Most should be able to run a refrigerator or a window air conditioner. Special attention to safety is required. They should never be used indoors, not even in a garage. The carbon monoxide they produce can be deadly in minutes. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that 85 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators. Portable generators should be operated more than 20 feet from the house and be connected only with outdoor extension cords matched to the



Most portable generators are powerful enough to run a refrigerator or a window air conditioner. Special attention to safety is required, and they should never be used indoors, not even in a garage. Photo Source: Canva



Most standby generators are permanently mounted outside the home, then connected to the home's electrical system. Standby generators run on propane or natural gas, and they must be installed by a professional electrician. Photo Source: Canva

wattage being used. Look for models with a carbon monoxide detector and automatic shutoff.

Appliances should be plugged in to the generator—the generator should never be plugged into an outlet or your home's electrical system.

You should also spend the money to have an electrician install a transfer switch. That acts as a mini-circuit breaker to protect your appliances and can be an easier way to connect the house to the generator.

Inverter generators are higher-tech versions of standard portable generators. The power they produce changes to match what the appliances are using, so although they are a little more expensive, they use fuel more efficiently and make less noise. The same safety guidelines apply to both inverter and standard portable generators.

Standby generators can cost \$7,000, plus installation, but they have the benefit of turning on automatically during a power outage and running your whole house. They're typically a permanently-mounted outdoor unit that's connected to your home electrical system and runs on propane or natural gas. It must be installed by a professional electrician.

Power stations, also known as batteries, charge themselves up while the power is on. They're not as powerful as some of the other options, and can be more expensive, but they're quiet, easy to operate, and some are designed to look good hanging on the wall. They can cost between \$400 and \$6,000. One common use of power stations is to pair them with rooftop solar panels so that electricity from the sun can be available even at night.

With the increased intensity of storms and our reliance on electronic devices, power outages can be a bigger concern these days. Technology now gives you many choices for how to react, whether you want to make sure you're never without power, or you're willing to just light a candle and wait for the lights to come back on.

Current News Monthly Quiz

Quiz Winners:

Tom Schott,
Tipton

Julie Knoche,
Lowden

Sovern Construction
& Home Center,
W. Burlington

Sandi Crawford,
Keota

Mail your answers to Current News, P.O. Box 3003, Wilton, IA 52778 or email 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

What is the date of the District 2 meeting?

Question 2

What is the name of the app used at the Cooperative's EV charger?

Question 3

How can you obtain a joint membership form?

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.

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