



Current News

Volume 70 Number 5 May, 2024

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

2024 scholarship winners announced

The 2024 Eastern Iowa REC scholarship winners have been chosen and some changes have been made to the program.

The Cooperative has expanded the scholarship program by increasing the number of scholarships given to students attending four-year schools to four per district and increasing the amount for all Cooperative scholarships to \$2,500.

All money for scholarships comes from unclaimed patronage funds and does not affect the Cooperative's rates.

The four-year college/university scholarship winners for 2024 are: Lilly

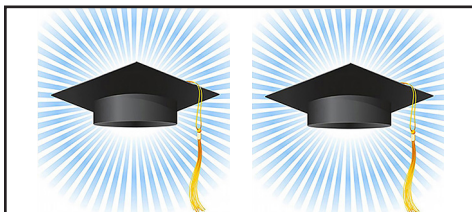
Fuglsang, Kaitlyn Hansen, Nathan McGarry, Isaac Wilhelm, Ava Barrett, Morgan Kelley, Casen Reid, Maelyn Wainright, Michael Iossi, Lillian Shuger, Landon Migawa, Meliah Martin, Isabelle Krueger, Taylor Bartholomew, Joe Hall, Ashley Hutmacher, Gabriella Vega, Emily

Hemphill, Kamdyn Hammond, and Caden Schwenker

The six trade school scholarship winners for 2024 are: James Adams, Coy Petersen, Grady Claussen, Corbin McClure, Gunner Garvin, and Evelyn Dorris.

All 2024 scholarship winners will be recognized at the district meetings being held this summer.

Complete details on the 2024 Cooperative scholarship winners can be found at www.easterniowa.com/news-safety/news/news-events/scholarships.



2024 District Meetings will return to indoor format

The Eastern Iowa REC District Meetings will once again be held this summer. These meetings include elections for positions on the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

For the past four years, these meetings have been held as drive-in events at various school parking lots due to concerns related to the COVID-19 virus.

The Board of Directors made the

decision to return to the indoor format this year. The meetings include director elections, recognition of the 2024 scholarship winners, a report from the Cooperative CEO, door prizes and refreshments.

Complete details about the 2024 District meetings will be included in future issues of the *Current News*.

Bell wins the 2024 Youth Tour contest

Congratulations to Teghan Bell who was selected to represent Eastern Iowa REC on the 2024 Youth Tour.

Bell, daughter of Angie Johnston of Muscatine will be a senior at Muscatine High School next fall. Johnston works as a storekeeper at the Cooperative's Wilton service center.

"I enjoy traveling and seeing new sites in the U.S. and also get joy from learning about the history of places I visit," Bell said. "I also know that on this trip I will learn more about electrical co-ops and I want to pursue a career in electrical engineering."

The National Rural Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour program has been bringing high school students to Washington, D.C. for more than 50 years.

During the week-long stay in Washington June 15-21, the students learn about electric cooperatives, American history, U.S. government and

develop a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen, visit with their legislators and explore the sights and sounds around the nation's capital.

For more information on the Youth Tour follow Youth Tour on Facebook.



Teghan Bell



2024 DISTRICT MEETINGS
Meetings will return to the indoor format.

July 15	District 5--Mediapolis Presbyterian Church
July 24	District 2--St. Mary's Church Hall, Tipton
July 25	District 3--Durant Community Center
July 29	District 1--DeWitt Community Center
Aug. 5	District 4--Lone Tree School Cafeteria

All meetings start at 7 p.m.

Look for more information in future issues of the *Current News*.



Register online to be an exhibitor

Reservations for exhibitors are now being taken for the 2024 Eastern Iowa REC annual meeting at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport, Sept. 5.

The exhibitor registration form can be found at www.easterniowa.com/news-safety/news/news-events/exhibitors.

Items that are not food or beverages may be exhibited. Consumable items are not allowed because of conflicts with fairgrounds concession contracts.

Exhibit space will be reserved on a first come, first reserved basis. Each exhibitor will be allowed a space eight by 10 feet in size.

Exhibitor fees are \$20 for Cooperative members and \$45 for non-members. Tables and chairs are available for an additional charge.

The registration deadline is July 1.



Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Eastern Iowa REC encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

“We’re excited to participate in this cooperative effort to shine the light on local volunteers,” remarked Kirk Trede, Cooperative CEO. “So many friends and neighbors throughout our service area deserve to be recognized for making a positive impact.”

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa’s electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Eastern Iowa REC, you’re a co-op member-consumer and we invite you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community.

The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and on social media.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination.

Cooperative lineworker volunteers to be part of Guatemala mission

A group of 14 electric cooperative lineworkers from Iowa and Minnesota will be traveling to Guatemala next month to bring electricity to two remote village. Eastern Iowa REC will be represented on this trip by Andy Koopmann, line foreperson. The group will be working in La Hortiga, Guatemala in June.

Koopmann has been with the Cooperative for 17 years and volunteered for this project to broaden his work experience.

“It will be a new experience for me and I’ll be seeing stuff I’ve never seen before,” Koopmann said. “I’m looking forward to seeing how things we do here are done differently by other folks in other areas.”

In addition to updating his vaccinations, making sure his passport is in order and other trip preparations, Koopmann has been helping make preparations for his family at home.

“I’ve been working with my wife (Andrea) on the logistics of keeping our household with three little kids running smoothly while I’m away,” Koopmann said.

The villages where the crew will be working are in the mountainous region of the country with an elevation of approximately 10,000 feet. They will build 3.1 miles of line to the villages. The poles will be set but the crew will need to frame the poles and string the conductor between the poles. All this work will be done by hand as there are no basket trucks available.

This means long, 12-hour days, climbing poles. The crew will also wire 15 homes for lighting and outlets. In



Andy Koopmann

addition to the electrical work, the team will bring water filtration containers from Ecofiltro, a Guatemalan-based company committed to providing clean water to rural Guatemalan families. The United Nations and UNICEF estimate half of all Guatemalan households do not have access to clean drinking water or sanitation.

All the lineworkers taking part in this project have volunteered to continue the electric cooperative mission of bringing electricity to rural homes and farms. This began 89 years ago when the Rural Electrification Administration was founded to bring electric power to the rural areas of the U.S. Now, following the Seventh Cooperative Principle “concern for community,” this group of Iowa and Minnesota cooperative employees is carrying this mission to small villages in Guatemala.

Enjoy the ease & convenience of an electric grill!

- ✓ Great grilled and smoked taste.
- ✓ Easy to use, simply plug in!
- ✓ Costs less to operate.
- ✓ Variety of sizes and options.
- ✓ Priced to fit any budget, starting at just \$115.

MECO
CORPORATION



Contact a Cooperative Energy Advisor for more information, call toll free, 1-800-728-1242.

Comments from the CEO

Eastern Iowa REC supports the communities it serves

The Eastern Iowa REC scholarship program was started in 1987. Over the past 37 years, more than 400 area students have received scholarships from the Cooperative to assist with their post-high school educational plans.

The Cooperative is happy to announce an expansion to the scholarship program that both increases the amount awarded and increases the number of scholarships the organization provides.

The scholarships money comes from unclaimed patronage funds and does not affect the Cooperative's rates.

All Eastern Iowa REC scholarships are now worth \$2,500 and the organization will now be awarding four scholarships per district to students attending four-year colleges or universities. The Cooperative also awards five scholarships to students who plan to pursue a trade-related degree at a community col-

lege, technical school or power line school.

The organization congratulates the group of 2024 Eastern Iowa REC scholarship winners. Each year, the group of independent judges who select our scholarship winners comment on the outstanding quality of the applicants. This year's group represents another selection of fine young people from our service territory. The winners are profiled on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com/news-safety/news/news-events/scholarships.



Next month, the Current News, will include information about the 2024 district meetings which will be held in July and August. An important part of these meetings are the elections held for positions on the Cooperative's board of directors. The profiles of those Cooperative members seeking election to the board will also be posted on the Cooperative's website in June. Please take time to attend your district meeting

and participate in the director election process.

Another program the Cooperative will be involved in this summer is a mission being undertaken by a group of lineworkers from electric cooperatives in Iowa and Minnesota to extend electric service to villages in Guatemala.

This is part of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International, which has empowered communities in Latin America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. This is done by providing access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Andy Koopmann, an Eastern Iowa REC foreperson, will be part of the latest group of electric cooperative lineworkers traveling to Guatemala in June.

This project will bring electricity to village homes that were previously without electric power. All this harkens back to the electric cooperative pioneers that erected the first power lines bringing electricity to rural eastern Iowa 89 years ago.

We are proud of Andy for volunteering to be part of this mission to improve the lives of the Guatemalan villagers and we are proud to be part of an organization that is looking to help improve the lives of people around the world.

From the Boardroom, March, 2024

- Approved a resolution recognizing April 8 as Lineworker Appreciation Day.
- Reviewed the Cooperative's Strategic Corporate Plan.
- Reviewed 2024 Annual Meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on May 30, 2024.

Report outages and get outage updates through SmartHub[®]

SmartHub[®] can be used to report power outages. You can report a power outage through both the SmartHub website at www.easterniowa.com or by using the SmartHub Mobile App.

When using the SmartHub website, after logging in to your SmartHub account there is a button in the top right corner of the screen that says "Report an Issue/Inquiry".

Click this button and choose "Power Outage". Your account number will appear. If you have more than one account, be sure to have the correct account selected, then choose an outage

description. If none of the descriptions fit your outage situation, choose the most fitting one and please add additional comments. Click "Continue".

A green checkmark will appear to let you know your outage has been submitted. You may then exit SmartHub[®], or there are two options in the bottom right corner to either report another outage or view the status of your outage.

To report an outage using the SmartHub Mobile App start by clicking "Report an Issue/Inquiry" on the home screen. Next, click on the line that says "Power Outage" then click "Continue". It will ask you to



select an outage description and comments may be added. Click "Send", a message will appear to let you know an outage has been submitted.

Power outages may still be reported by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling 1-800-728-1242.

Access SmartHub by visiting the Eastern Iowa REC website, www.easterniowa.com, or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).

If you have questions, please contact an Eastern Iowa REC member service representative, toll free, 1-800-728-1242 or via email at billing@easterniowa.com.

Updated records needed for patronage payments

Eastern Iowa REC will return patronage this year. The board of directors will be approving the patronage amounts at an upcoming meeting.

If there has been a change to your joint membership due to death or divorce, the Cooperative would like to correct its records.

In the case of divorce, the patronage will be split between both members. If only one party maintains an active Cooperative membership, their portion of the patronage will be deducted from their bill. The second

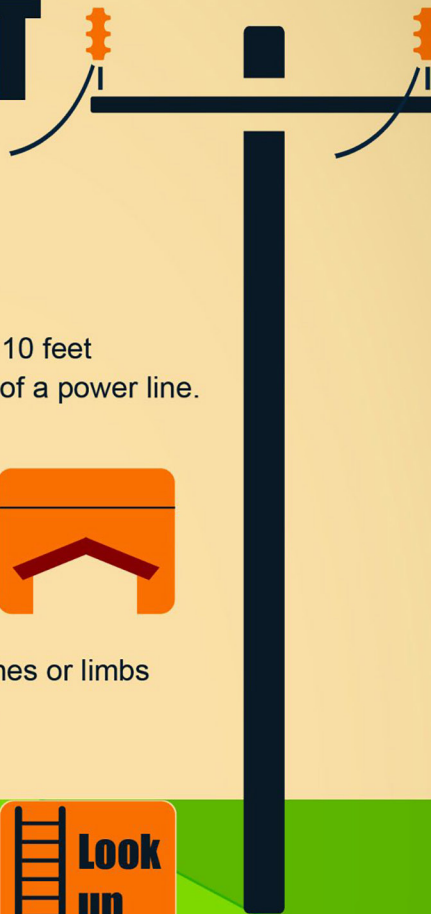
party will receive their portion in the form of a check. If neither party in a divorce maintains an active Cooperative membership, both parties will receive a check.

Contact the Cooperative's patronage department, toll free, 1-800-728-1242 or email bryanne.bell@easterniowa.com by May 24 so your account can be reviewed and any necessary changes can be made.

Please provide the account number, name on the account, and reason for making a change (divorce, death, etc.).

LOOK OUT

FOR POWER SOURCES



Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.



Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Be careful when carrying long or tall objects such as ladders or poles.



Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.



Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.

MAY 

IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Safe Electricity.org

Current News Monthly Quiz

Quiz Winners:

Jodi McConaha,
Moscow
Sandra Isenhour,
Clinton

Todd Engler,
Donahue
Patricia & Kevin
Lendt, Atalissa

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

Who is the 2024 Youth Tour winner?

Question 2

When are Iowa & Minnesota lineworkers going to Guatemala?

Question 3

How much is the donation if you are selected as a Shine The Light contest winner?



Name

Address

REC Account

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

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.