



# Current News

Volume 69 Number 11 November, 2023

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

## Cooperative personnel participated in Ag Safety Day event

The Cooperative's new high-voltage trailer was used at the Ag Safety Day event Sept. 20 at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton. Electrical safety messages were shared with junior high students. Andy Koopmann, Wilton line foreperson; Austin Anderson, journeyman lineworker; and Jake Nietfeldt, apprentice lineworker, conducted the safety demonstrations.



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Cooperative members can also switch their *Current News* subscription to an electronic edition which would be emailed each month. The *Current News* is provided free of charge to all Eastern Iowa REC members.

To switch to an electronic *Current News* subscription email your name, mailing address and Cooperative account number to [info@easterniowa.com](mailto:info@easterniowa.com).



## Cooperative was part of Fall D.C. fly-in

Eastern Iowa REC was part of a group of Iowa electric cooperative officials who traveled to Washington, D.C. Sept. 25-27 to meet with federal lawmakers and their staffs. Representing the Cooperative were, from the left, Gary Kester, director; Don Roth, division manager of member relations; Ken Purdy, director; Michael Bixler, director; and Kathrine Wunderlich, director.

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# Crews complete poletop rescue training exercise



As part of the ongoing Eastern Iowa REC safety training program, Brady Broders, journeyman lineworker (left), and Matt Nebel, DeWitt line foreperson, along with other Cooperative lineworkers, completed poletop rescue training following the safety meetings Sept. 12-13.

## REC gift certificates make great gifts

It's never too early to start considering holiday gift shopping. If you are struggling to come up with a unique gift idea, Eastern Iowa REC can help.

Everyone deals with a pile of monthly bills and the bills seem even tougher to handle during the holidays. A Cooperative gift certificate might be the perfect gift to ease some of those worries. Gift certificates are available in any amount.


Consider the gift of power this holiday season. Brighten the lives of friends and family with an Eastern Iowa REC gift certificate.

Contact any Eastern Iowa REC member service representative for complete details, toll free, 1-800-728-1242 or email [billing@easterniowa.com](mailto:billing@easterniowa.com).



## The high voltage trailer was part of Ag Safety Day event

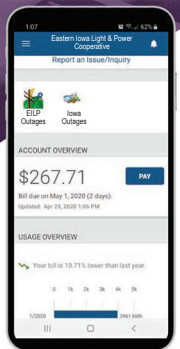
Austin Anderson, journeyman lineworker (left), and Jake Nietfeldt, apprentice lineworker, provided electrical safety demonstrations for Tipton junior high students at the Ag Safety Day event held at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton Sept. 20. The Cooperative constructed the trailer to be part of our safety education program. Andy Koopmann, Wilton line foreperson, also participated in the event.



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*Comments from the CEO*

# Cooperative is entering a busy planning period

November always seems to be a pivotal month. It brings a change of seasons with cooler temperatures, shorter days and leaves falling off the trees. We will all soon be busy with shopping, decorating for the holidays and preparing for family gatherings.

This time of year is also pivotal for the Cooperative as crews are working to finish projects ahead of the winter weather and the Cooperative's management staff looks ahead to the new year by completing the budgeting process for 2024.

**From the Boardroom, September, 2023**

- Approved the participation agreement for the health care plan for 2024.
- Reviewed Cooperative business insurance plan renewals.
- Reviewed the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- Elected directors to serve on the New Ventures board: Glenn McCulloh, Michael Moes, Mike Shuger, Robert Schneider Jr. and Brad Weiss.
- Reviewed the composition of the Cooperative's voting districts.

*The next board meeting will be held on November 30, 2023.*

The Cooperative's budget process involves staff members studying the past year's expenditures and looking ahead for the needs of 2024. The Cooperative's operating and capital budgets will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration this month. Details regarding the 2024 Cooperative budget will be included in the December issue of the *Current News*.



**Kirk Trede**  
CEO

The budgeting process has become more complicated by the current state of doing business in our country. The cost of almost all material supplies is rising, supply chain issues cause uncertainty, and weather emergencies seem to be occurring on a more frequent basis.

All this puts extra stress on the organization and how we plan for the future. As the Cooperative completes the 2024 budget process and forecasts

for our needs in the next several years, all these factors will need to be taken into consideration.

Eastern Iowa REC has always tried to do its best in planning for the future and ensuring our budget allows the organization to maintain the high level of service that is expected by our members without excessive spending.

The new challenges faced by the Cooperative will be incorporated into this process as we move forward. At this time, these challenges have not impacted our work plans, but we will need to embrace and accept the ever-changing business environment.

Over the past eight decades, the organization has faced a number of challenges and has prided itself on overcoming each obstacle it has faced. This will be no different. Eastern Iowa REC will continue to provide those it serves with a source of safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

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On behalf of everyone at Eastern Iowa REC, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

# Assistance available for home heating bills

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

You can apply immediately for the 2023-2024 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) if you are 60 or older or disabled. All other households can apply from November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024.

This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights, and has been established to help qualifying families meet home heating costs.

Low-income Iowa homeowners and

renters can obtain assistance to help pay for a portion of their primary heating costs through LIHEAP.

The assistance is based on household income, size, type of fuel used to heat the home and type of housing.

For information concerning household income maximums, see the chart. For more information about LIHEAP, contact your local community action agency or write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

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.

Anyone applying for assistance will need social security numbers for all household members, proof of income for the past three months for all household members over the age of 19 and a current heating and electric bill.

## Save with the Super Off Peak Rate option

Super savings are available to Eastern Iowa REC members who take advantage of the Super Off Peak Rate.

The Super Off Peak Rate runs from midnight to 6 a.m., seven days a week, at \$0.044 per kWh.

The On Peak Rate runs from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., seven days a week, at \$0.183 per kWh. The Off Peak Rate is all remaining hours, seven days a week, at \$0.082 per kWh.

Anyone interested in the Super Off Peak Rate option should contact a Cooperative energy advisor. Email [member.service@easterniowa.com](mailto:member.service@easterniowa.com).

**Super Off Peak Rate**  
Midnight to 6 a.m.  
Seven days a week

**REC**  
EASTERN IOWA

**Energy Assistance**

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

*Note--For households with more than eight members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.*



# VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served  
We Thank You For Our Freedom!



Dan Fratzke  
Grounds & Facility  
Coordinator  
\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. Army  
1989 - 1991  
Specialist E-4  
Artillery



Chad Ruden  
Member Service Lead  
Staking Technician  
\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. Army  
1991-1996  
Specialist E-4  
Fuel Handler



Eric Tackenberg  
Wapello Area  
Supervisor  
\*\*\*\*\*

IA National Guard  
1982 - 1989  
Staff Sgt. E-6  
Engineering



Patrick Dipple  
Technology Systems  
Analyst  
\*\*\*\*\*

IA National Guard  
2001-2007  
Specialist E-4  
Food Service Specialist



Dillon Wilhelm  
Apprentice  
Lineworker  
\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. Marine Corps  
2017-2021  
Corporal  
Infantry Rifleman



Trenton Kruse  
Apprentice  
Lineworker  
\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. Air National Guard  
2017-Present  
Staff Sgt. E-5  
Security Forces



## Current News Monthly Quiz

### Quiz Winners:

Marj Schnoebelen,  
Riverside

Kevin Licht,  
Tipton

Larry Ion,  
Princeton

Robert Dean II,  
Muscatine

Mail your answers to Current News,  
P.O. Box 3003, Wilton, IA 52778 or  
email answers to [info@easterniowa.com](mailto: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

Name one person who represented the  
Cooperative at the 2023 Fall D.C. Fly-In?

#### Question 2

What is the time period for the  
Super Off Peak Rate?

#### Question 3

When is the last day you can apply  
for LIHEAP assistance?



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.

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