



Current News

July, 2024

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

Contested elections in Districts 1 & 3 highlight 2024 series of district meetings this summer

The following are profiles of Eastern Iowa REC members seeking election to a position on the Cooperative's board of directors. Each potential candidate was asked to complete a petition with the signatures of 15 members from their district and a questionnaire which was used to create these profiles. The nomination paperwork was available at all Cooperative service centers and on the Cooperative website beginning Jan 2.

Incumbent Director Glenn McCulloh of DeWitt is running against Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright Jr. of Charlotte in District 1.

In District 2, Denise Timmerman of New Liberty is running unopposed as she was the only candidate who turned in nomination paperwork. Gary Bruns of Wilton, Danny Foster of Blue Grass and Jessica Schroeder of Durant will be up for election in District 3. Incumbent Directors Ken Purdy, District 4, and Gary Kester, District 5, are running unopposed this year. In Districts 2 and 3, incumbent Directors Michael Moes of Tipton and Bill Petersen of Muscatine are not seeking re-election.

Glenn McCulloh of DeWitt is the District 1 incumbent director seeking re-election to the board. McCulloh has been a Cooperative member since 1958 and has served on the board since 1985.

McCulloh and his wife, LaVonne, live in DeWitt. The couple have six children, twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Education/Career/ Job History: "I graduated in 1955 from DeWitt High School. I grew up on our home farm and I own and farm it."

Other Activities/Interests: "I am a director of the Low Moor Lions Club and have received the Warren Coleman Lions Club award. I am a member of the DeWitt Methodist Church and am a past director of the Iowa Cattlemen."

Why are you seeking re-election to the Cooperative board of directors? "Because of my experience of all the years I have served on the Eastern Iowa board of Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative."

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors if elected? "I have held all of the offices of the executive board. I have served on all different committees. I have been a leader of different organizations outside of the board--District 6 director of the Iowa Cattlemen and beginning member of Low Moor Lions Club."



Glenn McCulloh

How would you describe the role of a Cooperative director? "As a director he or she is to listen very intently at all board meetings and discuss the different issues that are discussed. If a consumer on the lines has a question, bring it to the board."

What do you see as the most important issues facing the Cooperative? "In the changing times there are issues that the board needs to discuss at length."

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? "A director is to discuss issues that are brought before the board and agree on items that brought forth to benefit Eastern Iowa Cooperative. I have told different members that Eastern Iowa Light and Power is a good cooperative."

Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright Jr. of Charlotte is a candidate for election for director in District 1. He has been a Cooperative member since 2009. "Peggy and I have been married 17 years and share 8 children and 14 grandchildren. We like to say, 'We're in the grand-baby business.'"

Education/Career/Job History: "I am the first of my family to graduate from college. A community college graduate, I continued to obtain a Ph.D. from NC State University and later an MBA from the University of Maryland. After 19 years, I retired as a Professor/Extension Specialist from Texas

A&M University in 2009. In 2009, I moved to Iowa, taught advanced chemistry courses before becoming Dean of Health, Human Services, and Science at Ashford University until 2016."

Other Positions Held: "1982-1984—Research Physiologist at USDA, ARS—Russell Research Center in Athens, Georgia; 1984-1991 was Lead Scientist, Research Leader, Laboratory Director of the USDA, Agricultural Research Service Laboratory at Georgetown, Delaware."

Other Activities/Interests: "Member and officer of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charlotte. Apologist with Reasons to Believe, Voice of the Martyrs, & Friday a.m. Bible Study. Very active grandparent. As always, my goals focus on helping each generation achieve their highest and best potential."

Why are you seeking election to the Cooperative's board of directors? "My interests always focus on sciences & technology, agriculture, youth, and community service. I wish to assist our community's development as an advocate for a reliable power supply which is convenient and economic so families and businesses can thrive."

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors? "Specialized knowledge in sciences, technology, environment and land use enables me to understand and communicate concerns between the cooperative



Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright Jr.



Denise Timmerman

and the citizens served. I have experience delivering technology to rural communities and advocating for agricultural families and businesses that should be beneficial.”

How would you describe the role of a Cooperative director? “To effectively address the immediate needs and future direction of the Cooperative so that dependable, clean, safe and economic power can be delivered and be sustained for the welfare of our members’ businesses and personal needs.”

What do you see as the most important issues facing the Cooperative? “Conflicting demands regarding sources of power and proper land & environment use are more divisive than ever. Conflicting demands from government, outside interests, lobbying industries, subsidies, hidden agendas and long-term impacts should be exposed. Cooperative members need strong representatives and advocates to protect their interests.”

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? “The cooperative is a member-owned enterprise that allows individual members’ a voice in decisions that affect long-term provision and cost of electric power. The cooperative is the conduit for member concerns during this time of conflicting technological issues.”

Denise Timmerman of New Liberty is a candidate for election for director in District 2. She has been a Cooperative member since 1986. Timmerman’s family includes her husband, Brian, and children Amanda (Justin) Moeller, Marissa (Todd) Denkman, Christopher (Payton) Timmerman, and five grandsons: Wesley, Brody and Preston Timmerman, and Braxton and Sawyer Denkman.

Education/Career/Job History: “Scott Community College. Work at LattaHarris, LLP for 25 years current position is Accounting Leader. I prepare financial statements, tax/sales/payroll returns, and process payrolls, for many states and clients. This is a supervisory position. I actively participated on a committee tasked with revising our mission and policy statements.

Prior to this position I was payroll administrator/bookkeeper.”

Other Positions Held: “Accountant/bookkeeper at Davis Farm Equipment for six years. Prepared monthly financial statements for submission to Case IH headquarters. Processed all accounts payable and account receivable.”

Other Activities/Interests: “Enjoy traveling and boating with family and friends. Active member at Wakhonsa. Find golfing to be a great opportunity to socialize and enjoy the outdoors. Active member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Wilton, currently vice-president of the parish council and trustee member.”

Why are you seeking election to the Cooperative’s board of directors? “I am deeply committed to ensuring our community has reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy. I bring a good knowledge of finances. I aim to bring fresh perspectives and strategic insights to address our members’ needs.”

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors if elected? “I have expertise in the financial acumen, strategic planning skills, community engagement experience, effective communication, leadership, confidentiality, integrity, accountability, and commitment to the cooperative values.”

How would you describe the role of a Cooperative director? “Provide governance, financial oversight, setting policies, community engagement, risk management, and advocacy. Provide strategic leadership, ensure financial stability, represent members’ interests, manage risks, and advocate for the mission of the coop.”

What do you see as the most important issues facing the Cooperative? “Infrastructure modernization, regulatory compliance, member satisfaction, cybersecurity, and workforce development. While ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy to our members.”

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? “It’s focus is on serving its members’ needs, as it operates



Gary Bruns



Jessica Schroeder

under a member owned structure. This ensures that decisions prioritize affordability, reliability, and sustainability, aligning closely with the community’s interests rather than purely profit driven motives.”

Gary Bruns of Wilton is a candidate for election for director in District 3. He has been a Cooperative member since 2006. Bruns’ family includes his wife, Sue, daughters Amie (Scott) Vandervoort and Erica (Tim) Duran and six grandchildren.

Education/Career/Job History: “BS and MS in Agricultural Education from Iowa State University. Taught high school agriculture in Wilton and Maquoketa, Iowa State University Extension (Muscatine County) and State Manager of Iowa One Call (Call Before You Dig).”

Other Positions Held: “Board of Trustees and Stewardship Board of Zion Lutheran Church, Wilton FFA Advisory Committee, Master Teacher of CASE (Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education) 15 years.”

Other Activities/Interests: “Enjoy landscaping and following Iowa State University sporting events.”

Why are you seeking election to the Cooperative’s board of directors? “As a retired Ag Ed/FFA instructor I now have the time to devote to an organization that provides a reliable and efficient energy source to rural Iowa. The future holds many unknown challenges in the production of our energy and I desire to be a part of the problem-solving needed to obtain solutions!”

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors? “I am very approachable. Any member can contact me and know I will listen to their concerns and suggestions. Our membership can offer expertise in different areas and assist the REC in operating efficiently. I would also list my problem solving skills and diverse background as strong assets I can bring to the board.”

How would you describe the role of a Cooperative director? “A director needs to be able to look to the future, identify poten-

tial problems and dissect all of the potential solutions so as to be a strong advocate for the membership on selecting the solutions that will assist the REC in continuing to provide efficient and reliable energy to its members."

What do you see as the most important issues facing the Cooperative? "The energy industry is facing many challenges as it moves into the future. The energy grid, renewables and new efficiency standards will be just a part of new proposed policies, regulations and mandates. It will be our job to properly inform policy makers of the needs of our membership and the consequences of their future decisions."

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? "The REC is member-owned. Members have directors that represent them. Members are invited to participate in district and annual meetings, and are asked to speak about and vote on issues and resolutions important to the membership and overall operation of the REC."

Danny Foster of Blue Grass is a candidate for election for director in District 3. He has been a Cooperative member since 1984. Foster is divorced after 45 years with a son (married) with 2 ½ grandkids.

Education/Career/Job History: "MBA—St. Ambrose University 1989, BS Architecture—University of Illinois 1975. 2023-present ALM Positioners, semi-retired quoting engineer; 1999-2022 Genesis Systems Group, Global Business Development Manager, Business Development-Japanese Automotive, Operations Manager, Market Segment/Program Manager; 1996-1999 Brammer Manufacturing Co., Plant Manager (3 facilities), Engineering & Quality Manager, Environmental Manager; 1994-1995 Flexsteel Industries Corporate Quality Manager of all eight manufacturing facilities; 1981-1994 Sears Seating (formerly Sears Manufacturing) Vice President-Engineering, Chief Engineer-Advanced Products."

Other Positions Held: "1985-present Hickory Hills 2nd Annex Home Owners Association, president for past 8 years, water directors since I can remember; Dan's Handyman Services; 1965 to present Foster Family Farms; 1968-2022 Musician in rock 'n roll band."

Other Activities/Interests: "Gardening, fishing, travel, music, woodworking, construction."

Why are you seeking election to the Cooperative's board of directors? "It seems like a logical thing to do with my past business and personal experiences."

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors? "Management skills, business analysis, project management experience, regulatory compliance experience, legal and patent experience, and construction experience."

How would you describe the role of a Cooperative director? "Analysis of recommended plans and policies, staying current with regulatory requirements, advocate for members, budget oversight."

What do you see as the most important



Danny Foster

issues facing the Cooperative? "Regulatory compliance, cost controls, infrastructure."

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? "Greater control over direction and policy."

Jessica Schroeder of Durant is a candidate for election for director in District 3. She has been a Cooperative member since 2015. Schroeder's family includes her spouse, Jason Schroeder and children Peyton, 14; Lane, 12; Shealynn, 9; and Tuff, 3 months.

Education/Career/Job History: "Attended Kirkwood for agriculture business. Worked for the Postal Service from 2009-2014, ever since worked on our family farm with my husband and kids."

Other Activities/Interests: "My greatest joys are my family whether it's running them to practice or working cows on the farm. We enjoy the occasional neighbor stopping by or helping someone."

Why are you seeking election to the Cooperative's board of directors? "What greater way to learn more about REC than becoming part of a board to help members with their needs."

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors if elected? "My greatest strengths are not only easy to communicate with, but a strong listener of needs and able to help problem solve."

How would you describe the role of a Cooperative director? "The link between owner/customer and the business. We value the opinions of the customers."

What do you see as the important issues facing the Cooperative? "Inflation and rising cost to produce and obtain electricity."

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? "Each member gets a voice in how the business is run."

Ken Purdy of Columbus Jct. is the District 4 incumbent director seeking re-election to the board. Purdy has been a Cooperative member since 1976 and has served on the board since 2012. He lives in Columbus Jct. His brother is Art Purdy of Davenport and his sister is Miriam Orr of Muscatine.

Education/Career/Job History: Master of Science Degree – Mathematical Statistics. 28 Classes with National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) relating to the electric cooperative business. Eastern Iowa Light and Power REC (EILP) Director 12 years, Vice President 1 year, EILP Treasurer 2 years, EILP Assistant Secretary 2 years, Louisa County Board of Supervisors 8 years serving as chairman 3 times, High School Mathematics and Computer Instructor 34 years, Wrestling coach 18 years, Track coach 30 years.

Other Positions Held: Chairman of the Louisa County Zoning Board of Adjustment, Current President of the Washington Flyer's Club. Past chairman and a founding member of the Louisa County Community Foundation, Founding board member of the Louisa Development Group, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning, Southeast Community Action, Advisory Board for Southeast Iowa Regional Transit, Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency, Southeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging chairman, and the Louisa County Board of Health.

Other Activities/Interests: Still flying, water skiing, boating, pickleball, playing cards, and computer work. Flying tow plane for Eastern Iowa Glider Club in Muscatine. Fly Piper Archer out of Washington. I am a Certified Flight Instructor for Powered Parachutes and one of only a few Powered Parachute pilots with a private pilot rating in the nation. I am a founding member of the Columbus Jct. Lions Club.

Why are you seeking re-election to the Cooperative's board of directors? "I want to give back to the Cooperative that has given so much to my communities and neighbors. I consider it an honor. I have 12 years of experience on the REC board of directors and I obtained national accreditation with a Credentialed Gold Director Award and Board Leadership Award after taking 28 National Rural Electric Cooperative classes. I have the experience, contacts, and proven ability to make decisions after reviewing the



An electric tabletop grill, Presto electric griddle, DeWalt radio headphones, cordless hedge trimmer, and AstroAI cordless tire inflator air compressor will be awarded to winners from each district meeting.



Ken Purdy

facts. I want to continue the good work REC does and will strive to help the Cooperative provide a reliable, safe, and environmentally friendly source of power at an affordable cost. I enjoy working with people and making informed logical decisions with a positive attitude.”

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors if elected? “Positive upbeat person that fits the nature of Cooperative Directors. I have the ability to read and digest information and make informed decisions. I have a masters degree in mathematical statistics with an analytical mind. Leadership experience in other organizations such as eight years as a Louisa County Supervisor and teaching HS mathematics and computer classes and coaching track and wrestling 34 years has helped me deal with the public and make important decisions. Through my position on the Louisa County Board of Supervisors I have gained many contacts in Johnson, Washington, Muscatine and Louisa counties and I have met with our federal and state legislators as a positive representative of REC. I’m Co-owner of CP Enterprises, a successful apartment rental business.”

How would you describe the role of a

Cooperative director? “Advise and counsel the CEO. Represent the interests of members in a positive way. Make informed decisions as to budget matters and patronage allocation (profits) to our members, make long term decisions for the cooperative, and set policies for the Coop.”

What do you see as the most important issues facing the Cooperative? “To provide the member-owners the most reliable service at the least cost, to keep the Cooperative financially sound, to make sure we have enough base load generation facilities to support renewable energy growth and to develop new policies dealing with solar and wind generation, battery storage, and distributed generation in general. To be ready to take advantage of new technologies to benefit the members while making sure those technologies provide reliable power.”

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? “It is member owned and every member-owner is working for the same common goal – reliable service with safety while keeping costs affordable. There are no stock holders. Since we are a non-profit organization, margins (profits) are returned to the member-owners as patronage. The directors are member-owners also and are working for the best for all cooperative member-owners. (any entity that has an EILP REC meter is a member-owner)”

Gary Kester of Burlington is the incumbent director seeking re-election in District 5. Kester has been a Cooperative board member since 2012 and a Cooperative member since 1979. Kester and his wife, Nancy, have three children, JoAnna Kester, Emily (Brian) Borrison and Conner (Danni) Kester.

Education/Career/Job History: Media-polis Comm. School, Southeastern Com-munity College, Iowa Wesleyan University. Job—farming, volleyball-boys basketball coach- Mediapolis Comm. School.

Other Positions Held: Past board member-Sperry Union Store & FSA, clerk – Benton Township, Northern Des Moines County Fire and Ambulance.

Other Activities/Interests: Hope Haven Area Development, Sperry Methodist Church, volleyball and basketball referee.

Why are you seeking re-election to the Cooperative’s board of directors? “To con-



Gary Kester

tinue to serve the members of the Coop and District 5, utilizing the knowledge and experience that I have garnered during my years on the board.”

What strengths would you bring to the board of directors if elected? “I always try to be available to the membership who have issues or concerns. I research topics brought before the board to make the best decisions, always mindful of the reliability and cost.”

How would you describe the role of a Cooperative director? “Working with the staff and other board members to resolve issues for the best interest of the Coop. Board members have the responsibility for strategic planning, review of board policy and to insure financial strength.”

What do you see as the most important issues facing the Cooperative? “The possibility of power outages due to increasing pressure from less carbon emissions. Maintaining and service our designated service territories. To keep and maintain our relationships with our state and federal legislative officials.”

What do you feel is the greatest benefit of a cooperative business? “Being part owner in the business that serves you, having the opportunity to actively be involved in the decision making that effect the membership.”

The 2024 District Meetings start later this month

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

The 2024 series of district meetings will start on July 24 at the St. Mary’s Church Hall, 209 Mulberry St, Tipton, for members in District 2.

The remaining meetings will be held July 25 at the Durant Community Center, 606 5th Ave, Durant, for members in District 3; July 29 at the DeWitt Community Center, 512 10th St, DeWitt, for members in District 1; Aug. 5 at the Lone Tree school cafeteria, 303 S Devoe Street, Lone Tree, for members in District 4; and finally Aug. 6 at the

Mediapolis Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St, Mediapolis, for members in District 5.

Elections for positions on the Cooperative Board of Directors will be held at the district meetings.

Candidate profiles for the 2024 director elections begin on page 1.

Members are able to review district meeting items on the Cooperative’s website, www.easterniowa.com. Click on the “Meetings” link on the homepage to find: official 2024 district meeting notices, minutes of the 2023 district meetings, and 2024 candidate information.

Qualifications to serve as a director,

voting district maps and director nomination and election process information can be found under the “My Cooperative” 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 and they are used for the prize drawing at each meeting.

These prizes include: an electric tabletop grill, Presto electric griddle, DeWalt radio headphones, cordless hedge trimmer, and AstroAI cordless tire inflator air compressor.

Comments from the CEO

Make plans to participate in the board election process

The 2024 District Meetings start later this month and 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 1 and District 3 meetings. Two incumbent directors, Michael Moes in District 2 and Bill Petersen in District 3, will not be seeking re-election to the board of directors. On behalf of the organization, I would like to thank Michael and Bill for their service to the Cooperative.

I 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.

While we have avoided the situation in our immediate area, electric consumers in the United States have been confronted with regional power outages and rolling blackouts in recent years.

Unprecedented heat waves, wildfires, polar vortexes and summer storms, transformer shootings, utility cyberattacks, supply chain crunches, government regulations and widespread

price inflation, have placed unprecedented stress on the ability of electric utilities to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy.

In February, 2021, Winter Storm Uri left more than 5 million people without power, most of these outages were in Texas. The extreme cold temperatures froze natural gas delivery systems and many of the wind turbines in the state. This led to shortages in power available to meet the high demand as people turned up thermostats to stay warm. To protect the entire electric grid from failing, utilities instituted firm load interruptions and took circuits off-line for short periods of time in a controlled manner until generation units could produce enough power to meet the demand for electricity.

Under normal weather conditions, members can anticipate the strong reliability they have come to expect from Eastern Iowa REC. However, in certain extreme conditions, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), may be forced to initiate temporary controlled load curtailments—known as firm load interruptions.

MISO acts like an air traffic controller of the electric grid to manage real-time generation within its footprint



Kirk Trede
CEO

across the middle U.S. and parts of Canada, including about 90% of Iowa, and ensure electric supply and demand are balanced. Eastern Iowa REC's power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), participates in MISO to buy and sell generation as needed.

If the Cooperative is asked to begin firm load interruptions, members will be notified of peak alerts through telephone and email messaging, the Cooperative's Facebook page and website, www.easterniowa.com. In addition, this situation will affect a large area of the region so many electric utilities will be issuing peak alert notices.

Potential shortfalls in generation are due to several factors, including a significant increase in electric usage and power plants that are closing faster than new, dispatchable sources of generation can replace them. The growing number of wind and solar resources in Iowa greatly assist in overall energy production, but they only provide intermittent power.

As a member of Eastern Iowa REC, you can help conserve energy and reduce the potential for controlled temporary outages or interruptions in power.

The more members we have conserving energy, the better for our Cooperative. Energy prices are very high during peak periods and that impacts the power supply cost to everyone. If we all become more energy aware and make a few modifications in when we use energy, we can make a difference together.

From the Boardroom, May, 2024

- Approved CliftonLarsonAllen proposal for audit services for 2024 through 2026.
- Approved the amended tariff.

The next board meeting will be held on July 25, 2024.

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 ½ 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, 1-855-938-3616 or email billing@easterniowa.com to obtain a joint membership form. The form is also available on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com/my-account/account-resources/update-account-information/.

DON'T
MISS US!



CEDAR COUNTY FAIR- JULY 10, 11, 12
MUSCATINE COUNTY FAIR- JULY 17, 18, 19
JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR- JULY 23
LOUISA COUNTY FAIR- JULY 26



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.

Electric Tariff Updates

Eastern Iowa REC recently updated its electric tariff, which will become effective August 1, 2024. The electric tariff documents the REC's rules and policies for electric service. A complete copy of the tariff can be accessed on our website at www.easterniowa.com. As part of this update, some of the REC's fees have been modified.

Posting Fee

If a member fails to timely pay their electric bill, which causes the REC to post a disconnection notice at the member's residence, the member will be charged a \$150 fee.

Disconnection Fee

Eastern Iowa REC requests members provide at least 48-hour advance notice to disconnect service. Members who do not provide advance notice, or are disconnected

involuntarily, will be charged a disconnection fee. If disconnected remotely, the member will be charged a \$50 fee. If disconnected manually, the member will be charged a \$150 fee.



Reconnection Fee

Following disconnection, if a member requests service reconnected, the member will be charged a reconnection fee. If reconnected remotely, the member will be charged a \$50 fee. If reconnected manually during regular working hours, the member will be charged a \$150 fee. If any portion of reconnection occurs after regular working hours, the member will be charged a \$300 fee.

Service Call Fee

Finally, if a member requests REC investigate a service issue and the issue is found to be caused by the member's equipment rather than REC facilities, the member will be charged a \$150.00 fee during regular working hours and \$300.00 during overtime hours, plus the cost of any materials used.

Don't miss Eastern Iowa REC fair appearances

County fairs are a big part of an Iowa summer and Eastern Iowa REC will be joining in the fun this summer.

The Cooperative will have displays at four county fairs this month starting with the Cedar County Fair in Tipton July 10*, 11 and 12. Look for the Eastern Iowa REC exhibit at the Muscatine County Fair in West Liberty July 17, 18 and 19.

The Cooperative will be at the Johnson County Fair in Iowa City July 23 and at the Louisa County Fair in Columbus Jct. July 26*.

The highlight of the Cooperative exhibit will be the live line safety display which provides a vivid example of some of the causes for power outages and how to stay safe around power lines. Cooperative line personnel will be available to discuss the power restoration process and show some of the tools and safety equipment they use on the job.

Information about the Eastern Iowa REC's rebate program, SmartHub and other Cooperative programs will also be available.

** Live line display will not be available on these dates.*



The Cooperative's live line safety display will be part of Eastern Iowa REC's county fair exhibits at most dates this summer.

Iowa's electric cooperatives will be at the State Fair!

Iowa electric cooperatives are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2024 Iowa State Fair.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from August 8-18, 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!

Electricity provides powerful value

By Maura Giles, NRECA

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become sort of a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent. A morning latte was costing me about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink was setting me back \$10, and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses totaled around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Even as I started packing my own lunch, my latte was still costing me about \$120 a month. This got me thinking—is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57, and the average monthly electric bill is \$140. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold

food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, Eastern Iowa REC does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and

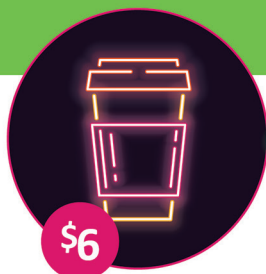
generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, Eastern Iowa REC always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort and savings.



Caulk

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



Weatherstripping

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



Insulate

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature, reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com

Do not overlook overhead power lines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead power lines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of power lines.

Be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding. Also:

- Do not trim trees near power lines;



instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.

- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

Review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 9-1-1 to report it.

Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch.

Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant.

For additional electrical safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Current News Monthly Quiz

Quiz Winners:

Donald Block,
Grand Mound
Shelby Yankee,
Blue Grass

Mike Goodall,
DeWitt
Karen Zimmerman,
Riverside

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 running to represent District 2 on the Board of Directors?

Question 2

What is one of the county fairs the Cooperative will have an exhibit at this year?

Question 3

According to the EIA, what is the average daily cost for electricity for a household?

Name

Address

REC Account

Safety Tip

All thunderstorms contain lightning. If a thunderstorm approaches when you are swimming or near water, get out of the water and stay away from the beach. If you are golfing, put down your clubs, get away from metal golf carts, take off your golf shoes and get inside as quickly as possible.



Safe
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Current News



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