



# Current News

Volume 70 Number 6 June, 2024

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

## The district meetings start next month

Each summer, Eastern Iowa REC members have the opportunity to take a direct role in the operation of their Cooperative by attending and participating in their district meeting.

The Cooperative will be going back to indoor meetings after holding drive-in events the past four years due to concerns related to the COVID-19 virus.

**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 2024 series of district meetings will start on July 24 at the St. Mary's Church Hall in Tipton for members in District 2.

The remaining meetings will be held July 25 at the Durant Community Center for members in District 3; July 29 at the DeWitt Community Center for members in District 1; Aug. 5 at the Lone Tree school cafeteria for members in District 4; and finally Aug. 6 at the Mediapolis Presbyterian Church for members in District 5.

Elections for positions on the Cooperative Board of Directors will be held at the district meetings. The incumbent directors whose terms expire 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.

Incumbent McCulloh will be running against Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright of Charlotte in District 1. In District 3, Gary Bruns of Wilton, Danny Foster of Blue Grass and Jessica Schroeder of



Glenn McCulloh



Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright



Denise Timmerman



Gary Bruns



Danny Foster



Jessica Schroeder



Ken Purdy



Gary Kester

Durant will be running. Incumbent Director Bill Petersen chose not to run for re-election.

In District 2, incumbent Director Michael Moes chose not to run for re-election. Denise Timmerman of New Liberty is running unopposed. Incumbent Directors Purdy (District 4) and Kester (District 5) are running unopposed.

Members attending their district meeting will be able to vote once they register for the meeting. All memberships registered will receive a \$25 bill credit.

## The Cooperative conducted a member survey

Eastern Iowa REC partnered with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to conduct a survey of a random sample of our residential members this spring.

This survey gathered information about member knowledge of Cooperative programs and services; member participation in Cooperative events; and member interest in renewable energy.

The Cooperative's member survey was online. Those randomly selected to participate received an email and were asked to complete the survey via a special website.

The Cooperative last conducted a member survey in 2020.

We appreciate your help and hope all

Members are able to review the following district meeting items on the Cooperative's website, [www.easterniowa.com](http://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.

**More MEETINGS see page 2.**

those selected took a few minutes to fill out these surveys!



**Eastern Iowa REC now has a new, toll free, phone number to:**

- Make bill payments by phone
- Report power outages
- Receive power outage updates
- Contact a Cooperative representative



# Joint membership applications are available

Elections for directors will be held at the district meetings this summer. Your name must appear on the Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative membership in order to participate in the election process.

An example: 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.

If both parties plan to attend the district meeting and disagree about a candidate, 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 member-

ship will ensure that the person who does attend is able to vote in the election.

Any non-person account, such as a church or business must have the designated voter listed on the account present at the district meeting to vote.

Contact a member service represent-

ative, toll free, 1-855-938-3616 or email [billing@easterniowa.com](mailto: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/](http://www.easterniowa.com/my-account/account-resources/update-account-information/)

## District Meeting information available online

### MEETINGS from page 1.

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.

More district meeting details will be included in the July *Current News*.

## Take the opportunity to Shine the Light on community volunteers

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Iowa's electric co-ops are excited to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest 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.

Members and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nom-

inate local volunteers during the month of June. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Go to [www.IowaShineTheLight.com](http://www.IowaShineTheLight.com) to review the contest rules. Contest entries will be accepted until June 30. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and nominate a local volunteer who is serving your community.



## Summer temperatures could result in peak load

Eastern Iowa REC has peak hours. These are the times when many people are using electricity at the same time. It costs utilities more to generate electricity when the demand soars. That means the cost of your electricity may also rise.

Using less electricity during peak periods can save you and your Cooperative money. Here's how you can help during the peak hours, which generally are on the hottest summer days from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.:

✓ Shift household activities away from the  
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peak periods. Run your dishwasher when you go to bed, for instance.

✓ Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you get a highly efficient one.

✓ Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.

The Cooperative can help. Rebates are provided for energy efficient central air conditioning units and other electric equipment.

Use the energy you need, but use it wise-

ly! You'll help your Cooperative avoid building expensive new power plants, and that, in turn, will help keep your electric rates stable.



Iowa's electric cooperatives are dedicated to advocacy. Recently, 20 co-op representatives traveled to D.C. to meet with federal legislative staffers through IAEC. Eastern Iowa REC Directors (from left) Gary Kester, Kathy Wunderlich and Mike Bixler were part of the group. They discussed supply chain challenges, power reliability, and funding for rural programs. The trip included briefings on emerging trends and a conference on maintaining reliable electricity. Learn more at [IARuralPower.org](http://IARuralPower.org).



## Comments from the CEO

# Make your voice heard at the 2024 District Meetings

Summer officially begins later this month, but Cooperative employees have already started preparations for the series of summer district meetings. At these meetings, Cooperative members elect fellow members to positions on the Board of Directors, hear reports on the state of the Cooperative and discuss operations with Cooperative staff and management. This year, the 2024 district meetings will return to indoor events.

The most important part of the district meeting is the election for positions on the Board of Directors.

All Cooperative members are encouraged to attend and participate in their respective district meeting.

I look forward to Eastern Iowa REC's district meetings. You, the members we serve, always bring

value to the discussion, and I know our Cooperative team is energized by these interactions.

If you've never attended your district meeting, I'd encourage you to participate. Why? Because input from members like you matters and helps drive the direction of the Cooperative.

At the district meetings, we report on current initiatives and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years.

This year's items under consideration will include a discussion on electrical generation capacity deficits and how it affects the Cooperative, how the Cooperative is addressing cybersecurity threats, and technologies being used to enhance the quality of the Cooperative's electrical service to the membership. And equally important, this is an opportunity for Eastern Iowa REC to hear from you.

This is also a time to vote for new directors who will represent you and

our community's interests in the Cooperative. As a member of Eastern Iowa REC, you have the power to help shape our community's energy future.

Electric cooperatives are democratically controlled by the members we serve, which means you have a say in who governs our Cooperative. By voting in the director election, you can weigh in on the leaders who will make important decisions about the future of the cooperative and our local energy needs.

Eastern Iowa REC's board of directors are community-minded individuals with different skill sets. We rely on them to help us make more informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments.

Profiles of those running for positions on the Board of Directors and candidate videos can be found by clicking on the "Meetings" link on the homepage at [www.easterniowa.com](http://www.easterniowa.com).

If you've never been to a district meeting or it's been a while, we hope you'll stop by. All members who attend the event will receive a \$25 bill credit. We look forward to seeing you at your district meeting. Complete district meeting details can be found on page 1.



Kirk Trede  
CEO

### From the Boardroom, April, 2024

- Approved allocation of 2023 margins totalling \$4,059,312.
- Approved retirement of patronage totalling \$2,670,180 including \$1,788,721 in deferred patronage for years 2008-2009.
- Approved the 2023 audit report submitted by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.
- Reviewed 2024 District and Annual Meetings.

*The next board meeting will be held on June 26, 2024.*

## Register online to be an exhibitor at the 2024 annual meeting

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 online at [www.easterniowa.com/news-safety/news/news-events/exhibitors](http://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.



## Eastern Iowa REC follows the EEO guidelines

Eastern Iowa REC is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

It shall be the policy of the Cooperative that all applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees without discrimination in rates of pay or other opportunities for advancement

because of the employee's race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

Eastern Iowa REC shall not discriminate against applicants for employment who are mentally or physically disabled, disabled veterans, or Vietnam era veterans, recently separated veterans, or veterans who served on active duty during a war, or campaign, or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized provided they are otherwise qualified for the job.

The employment practices shall continue to ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination towards the disabled, disabled veterans, or Vietnam era veterans recently separated veterans, or veterans who served on active duty during a war, or campaign, or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized in promotions, transfers, training, rates of pay, terminations, and accessibility for jobs.

# Keep safety code in mind when making your grain bin plans

On the farm, as with any business, safety is important. Maintaining proper clearance around electric lines is a key safety element. When moving or building a grain bin, plan for specific clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the State of Iowa.

Eastern Iowa REC and Central Iowa Power Cooperative can help create a safe environment for everyone working and living near grain handling equipment.

The diagrams printed with this article show the specific clearances required by the ANSI and the State of Iowa. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact a Cooperative energy advisor.

Overhead power lines should be at least 18 feet above the tops of newly erected grain bins, according to the National Electric Safety Code. These clearances were established to allow for movement of large equipment in the area. The code also specifies distances power lines must be from the loading and non-loading sides of a bin.

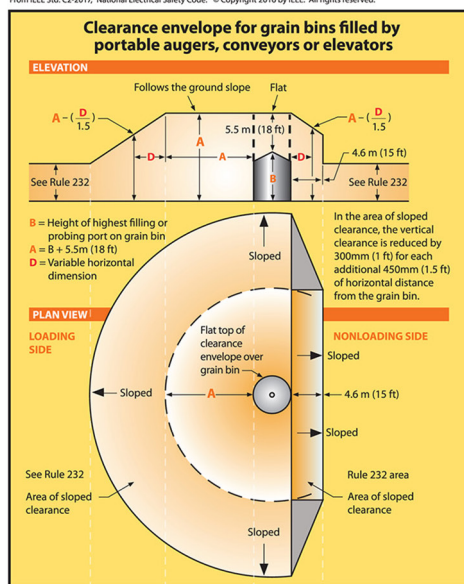
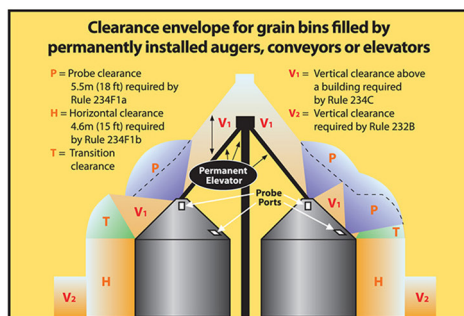
The Cooperative may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line if the bin location does not provide the clearances required by ANSI C2-2017 "National Electric Safety Code," Rule 234f as adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board.

Electric cooperatives are required by the IUB to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants and city and county zoning officials.

If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please contact an Eastern Iowa REC member service specialist before any new grain bin plans are finalized. Call, toll free, 1-800-728-1242.

*Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition*

*of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.*



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## Current News Monthly Quiz

### Quiz Winners:

Janet Ford,  
Tipton  
Kelly Braley,  
Walcott

Bonnie Ohland,  
Blue Grass  
Sandy McAvan,  
Delmar

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

What is the Cooperative's new toll free phone number?

### Question 2

Who is one of the director candidates in District 3?

### Question 3

What is the fee to be an exhibitor at the 2024 Cooperative Annual Meeting?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

REC Account \_\_\_\_\_

## Memorial Day kicks off the summer grilling season Enjoy the ease & convenience of an electric grill

- ✓ Great grilled taste.
- ✓ Easy to use, simply plug in!
- ✓ Costs less to operate.
- ✓ Variety of sizes and options.
- ✓ Priced to fit any budget, starting at just \$120.

Contact a Cooperative energy advisor for more information about electric grills. Call, toll free, 1-855-938-3616



## 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  
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