



Current News

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

Cooperative personnel answer South Carolina call for mutual aid

Eastern Iowa REC sent four lineworkers to Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, based in Columbia, SC, to help in their power restoration efforts following Hurricane Helene. The crew left Sept. 30 and returned to Iowa on Oct. 10.

Eli Hogan, journeyman lineworker; Jake Neitfeldt, apprentice lineworker; Zack Leu, apprentice lineworker;

and Mark Henning, line foreperson traveled to South Carolina and took a Cooperative basket truck, digger-derrick truck, service truck and pole trailer.

At the time they left, Mid-Carolina had nearly 20,000 members without power and more than 200 broken poles.

Sending Cooperative personnel and equipment to aid another electric cooperative is part of the sixth Cooperative

aid assistance following major ice storms or a derecho, your Cooperative is reaching out to assist another electric cooperative in their time of need.

This mutual aid assistance from Iowa was coordinated by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Along with Eastern Iowa REC, personnel and equipment from 11 other Iowa electric cooperatives were part of this response.

In addition to Mid-Carolina, Iowa crews are assisting Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Pickens, SC, and Little River Electric Cooperative, Abbeville, SC.

Principle, "Cooperation among Cooperatives."

Just as Eastern Iowa REC has received mutual



From left: Eli Hogan, journeyman lineworker; Jake Neitfeldt, apprentice lineworker; Zack Leu, apprentice lineworker; and Mark Henning, line foreperson, traveled to South Carolina to assist in power restoration efforts following Hurricane Helene.



High winds from Hurricane Helene caused a great deal of damage to the Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative system with downed trees and broken poles. The Eastern Iowa REC line personnel were part of an army of more than 200 lineworkers that answered the mutual aid call to assist the Mid-Carolina crews restore power to their membership following the storm.



Cooperative sponsors loan for new DeWitt Family Practice facility

Eastern Iowa REC sponsored a \$1.2 million zero-interest loan through USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for the new DeWitt Family Practice healthcare clinic. This USDA program provides funding for projects that create and retain employment in rural areas. The Cooperative is a proud supporter of projects that benefit the rural communities our members belong to. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Sept. 13, several community members were in attendance to congratulate Dr. Michael Cloos, his family and his entire team. Pictured from the left are: Cooperative Director Joel Carstensen, Dr. Cloos, Cooperative Economic Development Director Stephanie Miene, and Cooperative Director Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright.

Iowa electric cooperative representatives advocate in D.C.

As part of our cooperative commitment to advocacy, Iowa's electric cooperatives regularly coordinate meetings with state and federal legislators through the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC). The week of September 23,

approximately 20 electric co-op representatives traveled to Washington, D.C., to talk with federal legislators face to face, including Cooperative Directors Henry Bentley, Mike Bixler, Kurt Olson, Brad Weiss and Gary Kester.

During the legislative visits, Iowa electric co-op advocates expressed concerns about recent cuts to the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG) program and also highlighted continued threats to the reliability and affordability of power in the wake of the Environmental Protection Agency's recent mandates on power plants. America's electric cooperatives oppose the EPA's power plant rules on the grounds that they are unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable.

Crews complete poletop rescue training exercise



As part of the ongoing Eastern Iowa REC safety training program, Andrew Mueller, apprentice lineworker (left), and Austin Johnson, apprentice lineworker, along with other Cooperative lineworkers, completed poletop rescue training following the safety meetings Sept. 10-11.

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, 1-855-938-3616 or email billing@easterniowa.com.




November

CHILD SAFETY & PROTECTION MONTH



November is National Child Safety & Protection Month. Children are naturally curious. If you have little ones in your home, remember to cover electrical outlets with childproof covers and dispose of any frayed or damaged electrical cords. Teach your children about the potential dangers of electricity. Early education can save lives. #ChildSafety

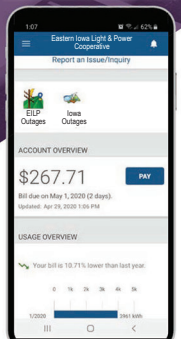


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For more information about SmartHub call 855-938-3616 or go to www.easterniowa.com.

Cooperative is entering a busy planning period

This time of year marks a series of changes as the temperatures cool, days become shorter and leaves fall from the trees. Soon, we will all be busy preparing for the holidays and our family gatherings. This time of year is also a very busy one around the Cooperative. Crews are working to finish projects ahead of the coming winter weather and our management staff is looking ahead to 2025 by completing the budgeting process for the new year.

This process involves staff members studying the past year's expenditures and looking ahead for the needs of 2025. The Cooperative's operating and capital budgets will be presented

to the Board of Directors for consideration this month.

Details regarding the 2025 Cooperative budget will be included in a future issue of the *Current News*.

The budgeting process has become more complicated by the current state of doing business in our country. From grocery store shelves to repair parts for vehicles, we've all had firsthand experiences with supply chain issues in recent years.

So much so that the supply chain has become a convenient scapegoat anytime a business falls short of our expectations. But when it comes to your local electric cooperative, supply chain challenges are very real and often troubling. Inflation is another issue we are dealing with at the Cooperative. As was discussed at both the District and Annual Meetings, costs for all materials and equipment we use has risen dramatically in recent years.

As the Cooperative completes the

2025 budget process and forecasts for our needs in the next several years, these factors, along with the increasing occurrence of severe weather, will need to be taken into consideration.

Eastern Iowa REC will continue 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 Cooperative will incorporate and adapt our process to address these challenges. They have not, up to now, impacted our work plans, but we need to remain vigilant in our efforts to meet the changing business environment we find ourselves in today.

As we begin our 90th year of operation in 2025, the organization can look back with pride in how it has overcome each obstacle it has faced. This will be no different as we move forward, Eastern Iowa REC will continue to provide those it serves with a source of safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

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



Kirk Trede
CEO

From the Boardroom, September, 2024

- Approved the participation agreement for the health care plan for 2025.
- Reviewed Cooperative business insurance plan renewals.
- Reviewed the 2024 Annual Meeting.
- Elected directors to serve on the New Ventures board: Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright, Allan Duffe, 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 15, 2024.

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 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) if you are 60 or older or disabled. All other households can apply from November 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.

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://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap> to contact your local community action agency.

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.

Super Off Peak Rate

Midnight to 6 a.m.
Seven days a week





Energy Assistance	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$30,120
2	\$40,880
3	\$51,640
4	\$62,400
5	\$73,160
6	\$83,920
7	\$94,680
8	\$105,440
Note—For households with more than eight members, add \$10,760 for each additional member.	

The Cooperative patronage treasure hunt

Each year, a list of names is published of former Cooperative members whose patronage or other checks were returned to us as undeliverable, and we were unable to find a valid address or whose checks were not returned but were not cashed.

If you know any of the people on the list, have them contact the Cooperative patronage department, toll free, 1-855-938-3616.

The list can be found on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com/community/treasure-hunt/.

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



Patrick Dipple
Technology Systems
Analyst

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



Noah Bierman
Auto/Diesel Mechanic

IA National Guard
2016-2024
Specialist E-4
Infantry



Dillon Wilhelm
Apprentice
Lineworker

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



Current News Monthly Quiz

Quiz Winners:

Delores Gingerich,
Riverside

Richard Brennan,
Tipton

Randall Agne,
Tipton

Wulfcrest Farm Inc.,
Grand Mound

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

Which electric cooperative did our crew help in South Carolina?

Question 2

Name one director who serves on the New Ventures board?

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; Gary Bruns, Joel Carstensen, Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright, Allan Duffe, Tom Hotz, Gary Kester, Robert Schnieder Jr., Mike Shuger, Denise Timmerman, 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, 1-855-938-3616.

General Information.....info@easterniowa.com

Billing Questions.....billing@easterniowa.com

Service Questions.....member.service@easterniowa.com

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