

## 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.

**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 2025 series of district meetings will start on July 23 at the Durant Community Center for members in District 3.

The remaining meetings will be held July 28 at the DeWitt Community Center for members in District 1; July 30 at the Lone Tree school cafeteria for members in District 4; Aug. 4 at the Matthews Building at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton for members in District 2; and finally Aug. 5 at the Mediapolis High School for members in District 5.

**Please note the locations for the District 2 and District 5 meetings are new this year.**

Elections for positions on the Cooperative Board of Directors will be held at the district meetings. The incumbent directors whose terms expire are: Kurt Olson, Grand Mound, district 1; Allan Duffe, Wilton, district 2; Henry Bentley, Durant, district 3; Tom Hotz, Lone Tree, district 4; and Kathy Wunderlich, Danville, district 5.

Incumbent Bentley will be running

against Danny Foster of Blue Grass.

Directors Olson (District 1), Duffe (District 2), Hotz (District 4) and Wunderlich (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.

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 2025 district meeting notices, minutes of the 2024 district meetings, and 2025 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.



Kurt Olson



Allan Duffe



Henry Bentley



Danny Foster



Tom Hotz



Kathy Wunderlich

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*.

## Wilton drop box to be removed

Beginning July 1, 2025, the drop box at the Cooperative's Wilton service center will no longer be available. Eastern Iowa REC members will still have multiple methods to make energy bill payments.

These include payment kiosks available at Cooperative service centers in DeWitt, Lone Tree, Wapello and Wilton. The kiosks are available each day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Members can pay bills in person at the Wilton service center. The lobby is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Members can also pay bills, monitor their energy usage, report outages and more online through the SmartHub online portal. You can access SmartHub by visiting the Eastern Iowa REC website, [www.easterniowa.com](http://www.easterniowa.com), or by downloading the app on your mobile

**MORE DROB BOX SEE PAGE 4.**

## Cooperative will be part of four county fairs this summer

Eastern Iowa REC will have a presence at county fairs in Cedar, Des Moines, Johnson, and Muscatine Counties this summer.

The Cooperative will have a booth at the Cedar County Fair, in Tipton, July 10, 11; the Muscatine County Fair, in West Liberty, July 16, 17, 18; the Johnson County Fair, in Iowa City, July 22; and the Des Moines County Fair, in West Burlington, July 25.

The Cooperative's display will include information about Cooperative programs, careers and the live line trailer will be at the Muscatine County fair all three days and the Johnson County Fair July 22.

Visit your local county fair this summer and stop by the Eastern Iowa REC booth.



**The Cooperative's display at some of the fair dates will include the live line demonstration trailer.**

# 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 REC 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 parties 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 membership 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 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

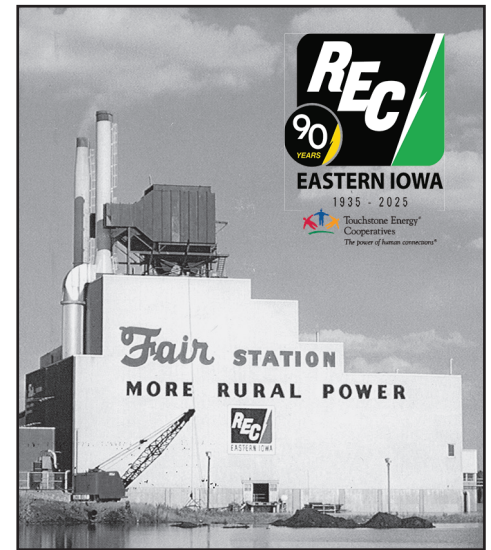
## Eastern Iowa REC celebrates 90th anniversary

Initially, Eastern Iowa REC purchased all its power from Iowa Illinois Gas & Electric (now MidAmerican Energy). During the early 1950s, the Cooperative board of directors became dissatisfied with the agreements available from Iowa Illinois and other power providers at the time and opted to build its own generation facility.

On August 10, 1956 the Cooperative received approval from Rural Electrification Administration (REA) for a \$10.49 million loan to pay for construction of Montpelier Station, later renamed Fair Station. This coal-fired power plant was built along the Mississippi River near Montpelier and went online in February, 1960.

The Cooperative operated as both a distribution and generation and transmission utility until the generation/transmission portion of the business was transferred to Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) in the early 1980s. Fair Station was shut down by

website, [www.easterniowa.com/my-account/account-resources/update-account-information](http://www.easterniowa.com/my-account/account-resources/update-account-information).



**Fair Station near Montpelier, IA.**

CIPCO on Nov. 2, 2013. When it ceased operations, the facility had a capacity of 61.5 MW. The facility has been decommissioned and the area returned to greenspace.

## Register online to be an exhibitor at the 2025 annual meeting

Reservations for exhibitors are now being taken for the 2025 Eastern Iowa REC annual meeting at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport, Sept. 4. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The exhibitor registration form can be found online at [www.easterniowa.com](http://www.easterniowa.com).

## 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.

## 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  
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[com/my-coop/](http://www.easterniowa.com/my-coop/).

Non-food items 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

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

Members and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate 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.

the peak periods.

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

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

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.

Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer.

## REBATE SPOTLIGHT: ELECTRIC WATER HEATING SYSTEMS

**Upgrade & Save with Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative!**

💧 **\$650 Rebate for installing an ENERGY STAR® heat pump water heater**

🔥 **\$150 Fire to Wire Bonus per unit (limit 2) for switching from gas or LP**

To qualify, water heaters must be:

- Electric, domestic-use only
- Minimum 40-gallon tank
- Up to 3 rebates per home

**Start saving energy & money today!  
Apply at [easterniowa.com/energy-center/rebates](http://easterniowa.com/energy-center/rebates) or  
contact your Energy Advisor**



## Keep safety code in mind when making 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.

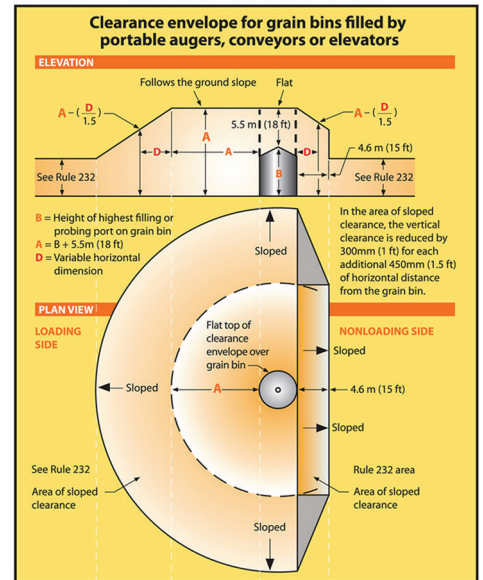
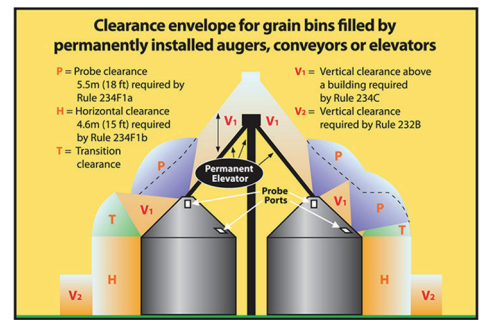
The Cooperative may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line if the bin location does not provide the clearances required by ANSI C2-2017 "National Electric Safety Code," Rule

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, 1-855-938-3616.

*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.*



## Cut water heating costs with a heat pump water heater

When it comes to home energy use, water heating is often the second-largest expense after space heating —especially in rural Eastern Iowa where propane (LP) water heaters are common. But there's a more efficient and cost-effective solution: the ENERGY STAR® certified heat pump water heater (HPWH).

Unlike conventional water heaters that create heat directly, a heat pump water heater works by moving heat from the surrounding air into the water tank—similar to how a refrigerator moves heat out of its interior. This method uses far less electricity and can reduce water heating energy use by up to 70% compared to standard electric models.

Homeowners using standard-efficiency LP water heaters stand to benefit significantly. According to the U.S. Government's EnergyGuide®, switching to a heat pump water heater can save over \$500 per year. While the initial investment is higher, the long-term savings can make up the difference in just two to three years for a typical household. Add in available cooperative incentives and federal tax credits, and the return on investment comes even faster.

If you're building a new home, now is the ideal time to consider this high-performance electric option.


Planning ahead means avoiding an emergency replacement and choosing a system that saves money over time.

Installing a heat pump water heater does come with a few considerations. These systems operate best in indoor spaces that stay above 50°F throughout the year and offer around 1,000 cubic feet of air. Utility rooms, basements, or furnace rooms often make great installation sites, especially since the unit may slightly cool and dehumidify the space during operation. Be sure there's enough vertical clearance, as HPWHs

are typically taller than standard electric units. They also require a condensate drain or pump to handle the moisture they remove from the air.

For certified product listings and more information, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). If you're ready to make the switch, reach out to a local contractor who can help with system selection, installation, and maintenance.

Investing in a heat pump water heater is a smart move toward lower bills, greater home safety, and long-term energy savings.

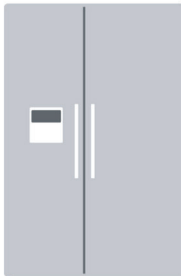


### GIVE YOUR FRIDGE A BREAK

And Your Wallet One, Too!

**Your refrigerator might be silently working overtime—and costing you more than you think.**

Over time, the condenser coils on your refrigerator collect dust, lint, and pet hair. These coils are responsible for releasing heat from inside the fridge. When they're dirty, they can't do their job properly, which means your refrigerator has to run longer and harder to stay cool. The result? Reduced efficiency, a possible 35% spike in energy use, and extra wear that can shorten your fridge's lifespan.



**See you next month with more tips to keep you saving all year long!**

MAX'S ADVICE:

Clean your refrigerator coils every six months to a year—and even more often if you have pets. Here's how:

- Unplug the fridge for safety.
- Locate the coils—either on the back or at the base behind a front grille.
- Use a coil brush or vacuum to gently remove dirt, lint, and pet hair.

This can lead to cooler food, lower costs, and longer appliance life.

## Comments from the CEO

# Summer includes Cooperative events

Summer officially begins this year on June 20. The summer season also marks a busy time for Eastern Iowa REC employees. The Cooperative will be hosting a booth at four area county fairs again this summer. See the story on page 1 for all the details. We are also making preparations for the series of summer district meetings and the annual meeting in September. At the district 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, there are two new locations for 2025 district meetings. Members in District 2 will gather at the Matthews Building at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton and members in District 5 will meet at the Mediapolis High School.

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.

We look forward to seeing you at your 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 organization's priorities for the coming years. And equally important, this is an opportunity for Eastern Iowa REC to hear from you.

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 we'll see you this year.



**Kirk Trede**  
CEO

### From the Boardroom, April, 2025

- Approved revised Cooperative Bylaws.
- Approved 2024 audit report from Clifton LarsonAllen LLP.
- Approved allocation of 2024 margins totaling \$3,376,917.
- Approved retirement of patronage totaling \$2,419,986 including \$1,725,978 in deferred patronage for years 2009-2010.
- Reviewed 2025 Annual Meeting.

*The next board meeting will be held on June 26, 2025.*

## Alternative billing options available

### DROP BOX FROM PAGE 1.

device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet). To pay an energy bill by phone call 855-938-3616.

Energy bills can be paid in cash through MoneyGram. Visit [www.moneygram.com/mgo/us/en/](http://www.moneygram.com/mgo/us/en/) to find a local

MoneyGram location. Simply bring a cash payment and have your Eastern Iowa REC account number available to make a payment. Payment processes may vary depending on your location.

If you have questions, contact an Eastern Iowa REC member service representative, toll free, 1-855-938-3616 or via email at [billing@easterniowa.com](mailto:billing@easterniowa.com).

## Eastern Iowa REC follows 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.

## Current News Monthly Quiz

### Quiz Winners:

**Pam Meyer,  
DeWitt  
Barbara Zellmer,  
Muscatine**

**Marjorie Gipson,  
Davenport  
Walt Gerst,  
Mediapolis**

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 of the county fairs the Cooperative will be at this summer?

### Question 2

What year did Fair Station close?

### Question 3

How much is the rebate for an Energy Star® heat pump water heater?

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, 1-800-728-1242.

General Information.....[info@easterniowa.com](mailto:info@easterniowa.com)

Billing Questions.....[billing@easterniowa.com](mailto:billing@easterniowa.com)

Service Questions.....[member.service@easterniowa.com](mailto:member.service@easterniowa.com)

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