

2025 scholarship winners announced

Eastern Iowa REC is thrilled to announce the winners of the 2025 scholarships. A panel of independent judges reviewed the many impressive applications, and we are proud to award scholarships to these outstanding students who have shown exceptional dedication, passion, and promise in their academic and extracurricular pursuits.

Twenty-six \$2,500 one-year college scholarships were available for students pursuing a post-high school academic career at four-year colleges or universities or two-year community colleges or trade schools.

All money for scholarships comes from unclaimed patronage funds and does not affect the Cooperative's rates.



The "Bob Wiemerslage Memorial Scholarship" is awarded to a student planning to major in accounting. Wiemerslage was the Cooperative's division manager of accounting until December, 2019. Leah Mangelsen is the 2025 recipient of the \$2,500 Wiemerslage scholarship.

The four-year college/university scholarship winners for 2025 are: Holly Lamp, Delaney Barber, Courtney Nelson, Katlin

Truelsen, Lauren Schroeder, Cooper VanderHeiden, Cole Daufeldt, Cael Daufeldt, Adam Shipley, Alivia Garcia, Trae Jones, Avery Fitzer, Charli Gingerich, Owen Knight, Adeline Krotz, Madilynn Lacina, Claire Humphreys, Jakolby Sipes, Addison Reid and Rachel Hoeg.

The 2025 trade school scholarship winners are Benjamin Coder, Mia Gingerich, Dalton Rock, Isaac Stover and Keegan Wells.

All 2025 scholarship winners will be recognized at the district meetings being held this summer.

Complete details on the 2025 Cooperative scholarship winners can be found at www.easterniowa.com/community/scholarships/.

New locations for two of the District Meetings this year

The Eastern Iowa REC District Meetings will once again be held this summer. These meetings include elections for positions on the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

This year for District 2, the meeting will be held at the Matthews Building at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton on Aug. 4. For District 5, the new loca-

tion is the Mediapolis High School on Aug. 5.

Other meetings will be held July 23 at the Durant Community Center for District 3, July 28 at the DeWitt Community Center for District 1, and July 30 at the Lone Tree school cafeteria for District 4.

All meetings start at 7 p.m.

Look for more District meeting details in future issues of the Current News and online at www.easterniowa.com.

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.

Olson named winner of the 2025 Youth Tour contest

Congratulations to Brady Olson who was selected to represent Eastern Iowa REC on the 2025 Youth Tour.

Brady, son of Kurt Olson, will be a senior at Calamus-Wheatland High School next fall.

"I chose to enter the Youth Tour contest because when I'm older, I am interested in becoming either a lineman or general electrician," Brady explained. "I also enjoy learning about government and just generally being in Washington, D.C. and seeing all the monuments and memorials."

The National Rural Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour program has been bringing high school students to Washington, D.C. for more than 50 years.

During the week-long stay in Washington June 15-21, the students learn about electric cooperatives, American history, U.S. government,

visit with their legislators and explore the sights and sounds around the nation's capital.



Brady Olson

For more information on the Youth Tour follow Iowa Youth Tour on Facebook.

Register online to be an exhibitor

Reservations for exhibitors are now being taken for the 2025 Eastern Iowa REC annual meeting at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport, Sept. 4.

The exhibitor registration form can be found at www.easterniowa.com/my-coop/

Consumable items are not allowed because of conflicts with fairgrounds concession contracts. Exhibit space, eight by 10 feet, will be reserved on a first come, first reserved basis.

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.



Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Eastern Iowa REC encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June 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.

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first five years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're excited to once again give out three charity donations of \$3,000 each this year to recognize local volunteer efforts across the state."

Members and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Eastern Iowa REC, you're a co-op member-consumer and we invite you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community.

The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and on social media.

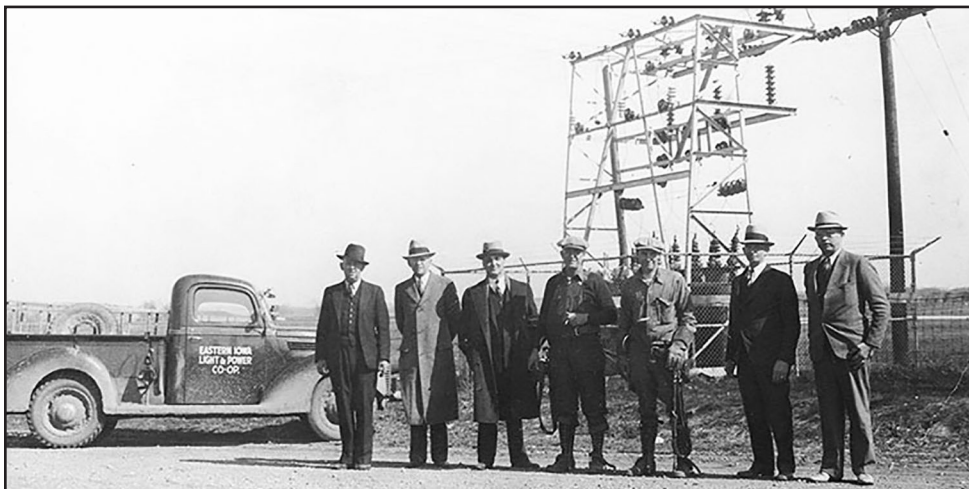
Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination.

Eastern Iowa REC celebrates 90th anniversary

Eastern Iowa REC is celebrating 90 years of business in 2025. To commemorate this milestone, we will share a fun fact, historic photo or bit of Cooperative history each month in the *Current News*.

Following the initial organizational meeting in 1935, construction of the first miles of distribution lines began and the first Cooperative substation was energized in the late 1930's. The first substation was located near Blue Grass.

Work to expand the Cooperative's system continued until 1941. A lack of manpower and materials during World War II limited the ability of the organization to build new lines.



You can report outages and get outage updates through SmartHub®

SmartHub® can be used to report power outages. You can report a power outage through both the SmartHub website at www.easterniowa.com or by using the SmartHub Mobile App.

When using the SmartHub website, after logging in to your SmartHub account there is a button in the top right corner of the screen that says "Report an Issue/Inquiry".

Click this button and choose "Power Outage". Your account number will appear. If you have more than one account, be sure to have the correct account selected, then choose an outage description. If none of the descriptions fit your outage situation, choose the most fitting one and please add additional comments. Click "Continue".

A green checkmark will appear to let you know your outage has been submitted. You may then exit SmartHub®, or there are two options in the bottom right corner to either report another outage or view the status of your outage.

To report an outage using the SmartHub Mobile App start by clicking "Report an Issue/Inquiry" on the home screen. Next, click on the line that says "Power Outage" then click "Continue". It will ask you to

select an outage description and comments may be added. Click "Send", a message will appear to let you know an outage has been submitted.

Power outages may still be reported by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling 1-855-938-3616.

Access SmartHub by visiting the Eastern Iowa REC website, www.easterniowa.com, or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).

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



SmartHub: Your Energy, Your Insights

Looking for a smarter way to manage your energy use and lower your electric bill? SmartHub puts that power in your hands—literally.

With SmartHub, you can track your electricity usage throughout the month—even down to the day or hour. No more surprises when your bill arrives. You'll see how much electricity you're using during on-peak hours (4–9 p.m.) versus off-peak hours, giving you valuable insight that can help you shift energy-heavy tasks to cheaper times.

SmartHub also includes powerful consumer analytics that break down your electricity use by category. From lighting and heating to appliances and water heating, you'll get an estimate of how much each area contributes to your overall usage. This disaggregated meter data helps you pinpoint where your energy dollars are going—and where you can take action.

To get the most accurate insights, be sure to complete the Build Your Home Profile survey in SmartHub. By sharing basic information about your home, you'll receive more personalized appliance breakdowns and energy-saving recommendations tailored to your household.

Another great feature is My Recom-

mendations, which offers tips based on your actual usage patterns. Whether it's reducing HVAC runtime, upgrading to efficient appliances, or improving your lighting, these suggestions help you save energy and money in ways that make sense for your home.

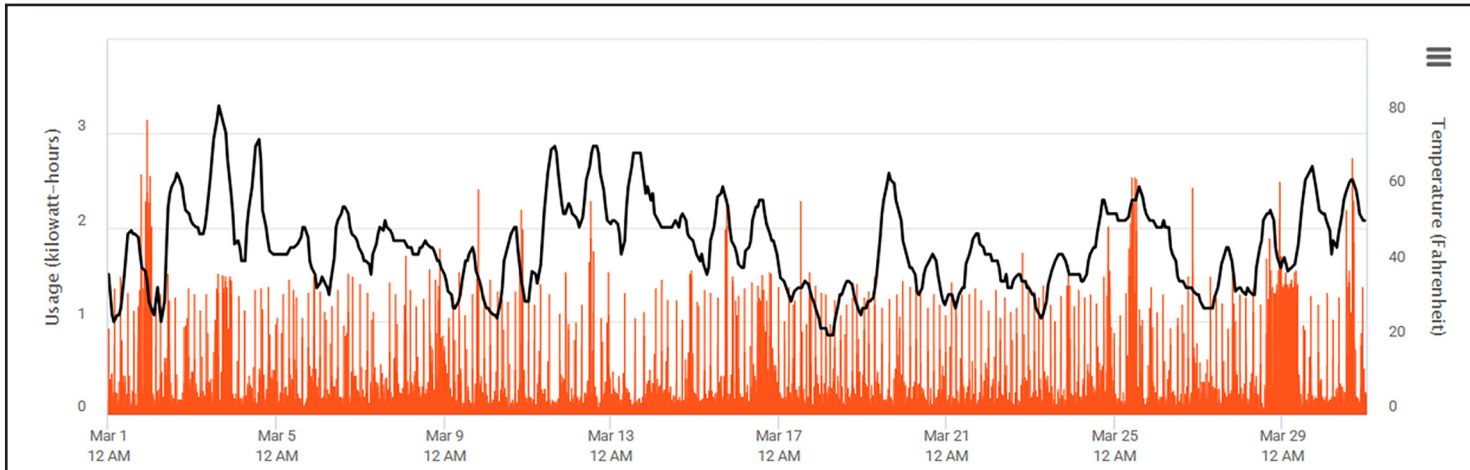
Pair SmartHub insights with energy-saving tools like smart plugs or programmable appliances. If your HVAC system uses the most energy, try scheduling temperature

changes with a smart thermostat. If lighting takes up a large share, switching to LEDs or setting timers can lead to real savings.

Knowledge is power—and with SmartHub, that knowledge is just a few clicks away.

Sign up for SmartHub today and take control of your energy future.

Visit www.easterniowa.com or download the app to get started!



Suds and Savings:

Smarter Laundry for Lower Bills

Max's Challenge- This month I challenge you to cut energy waste one load at a time! Try these simple laundry tweaks:

- Wash Cold:** Heating water takes the most energy. Cold cycles= instant savings.
- Load It Up:** Only run full loads to make the most of each wash. Fewer cycles = lower energy use.
- Choose wisely:** Use high-efficiency (HE) detergent made for cold water.
- Dry Smarter:** Clean that lint filter every time, and toss in some dryer balls to speed up drying.

Little changes in the laundry room can lead to big energy savings!

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

LOOK UP AND LIVE

Keep an eye out for overhead power lines. Use a spotter when operating equipment near lines and poles.

Safe Electricity.org

If your extension gets too close (within 10 feet) or makes contact with a power line or pole, stay where you are and call 9-1-1.

Comments from the CEO

New logo celebrates 90th anniversary; Cooperative honors scholarship winners

You may have noticed a new logo in the top left corner of the front page of this issue of the Current News. As the Cooperative is celebrating its 90th year in business, a new anniversary logo was developed and will be used throughout the rest of 2025. Another new logo, just below our anniversary logo, is the Touchstone Energy tag.

Touchstone Energy is a national brand that supports a network of electric cooperatives across 45 states through a variety of programs and services which help electric cooperatives and their employees better engage and serve their members.

Eastern Iowa REC joined Touchstone Energy this year and now has access to a wealth of member engagement resources, advertising and communications campaigns, employee educational opportunities, business development programs and cooperative performance resources. One of the first projects we are working on with Touchstone Energy is a redesign of our website which we will be unveiling soon.

Each spring the Cooperative recognizes a new group of scholarship winners. Our scholarship program was started in 1987. Over the past 38 years, more than 400 area students have received scholarships from the Cooperative to assist with their post-high school educational plans.

From the Boardroom, March, 2025

- Approved a resolution recognizing April 14 as Lineworker Appreciation Day.
- Reviewed the Cooperative's cybersecurity plan.
- Reviewed 2025 Annual Meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on May 28, 2025.

The scholarship money comes from unclaimed patronage funds and does not affect the Cooperative's rates.

All Eastern Iowa REC scholarships are worth \$2,500 and the organization awards four scholarships per district to students attending four-year colleges or universities.

The Cooperative also awards five scholarships to students who plan to pursue a trade-related degree at a community college, technical school or power line school.

The organization congratulates the group of 2025 Eastern Iowa REC scholarship winners. Each year, the group of independent judges who select our scholarship winners comment on the outstanding quality of the applicants. This year's group represents another selection of fine young people from our service territory. The winners are profiled on the Cooperative's website, www.easterniowa.com/community/scholarships and will be honored at the District Meetings this summer.

Next month, the *Current News*, will include information about the 2025 district meetings which will be held in July and August. Please note, the sites for two of the meetings have changed. The District 2 meeting will now be held in the Matthews Building at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton and the District 5 meeting will be held at the Mediapolis High School. We encourage you to attend your District Meeting.



Kirk Trede
CEO

Updated records needed for patronage payments

Eastern Iowa REC will return patronage this year. The board of directors will be approving the patronage amounts at an upcoming meeting.

If there has been a change to your joint membership due to death or divorce, the Cooperative would like to correct its records.

In the case of divorce, the patronage will be split between both members. If only one party maintains an active Cooperative membership, their portion of the patronage will be deducted from their bill. The second

party will receive their portion in the form of a check. If neither party in a divorce maintains an active Cooperative membership, both parties will receive a check.

Contact the Cooperative's patronage department, toll free, 1-563-732-7339 or email bryanne.bell@easterniowa.com by May 24 so your account can be reviewed and any necessary changes can be made.

Please provide the account number, name on the account, and reason for making a change (divorce, death, etc.).

Current News Monthly Quiz

Quiz Winners:

Lyle Sexton,
Ainsworth
Brian Porter,
Long Grove

Kathy Funk,
Riverside
Bud Clauer,
DeWitt

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 the winner of the "Bob Wiemerslage Memorial Scholarship"?

Question 2

Where was the first Cooperative substation constructed?

Question 3

How far should you stay away from overhead power lines?

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.

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Communications Director

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