



Current News

Volume 72 Number 5 May, 2026



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

2026 scholarship winners announced

Eastern Iowa REC is thrilled to announce the winners of the 2026 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. Bryn Wright is the 2026 recipient of the \$2,500 Wiemerslage scholarship

The four-year college/university scholarship winners for 2026 are: Aubrey Toohey, Kalli Barber, Zoey Fuglsang, Samuel Brockmann, Torsten Nixt, Lillian Kraft, Weston Dircks, Isabelle Logue, Clayton Dierickx, Alexis Pilgrim, Kensley Paul, Cora Marine, Ava Christofferson, Owen Knox, Brooke McCleary, Jesse Stultz, Macie Wagner, Morgan Meyer, Byers Nealey, and Gabriel Zuniga.

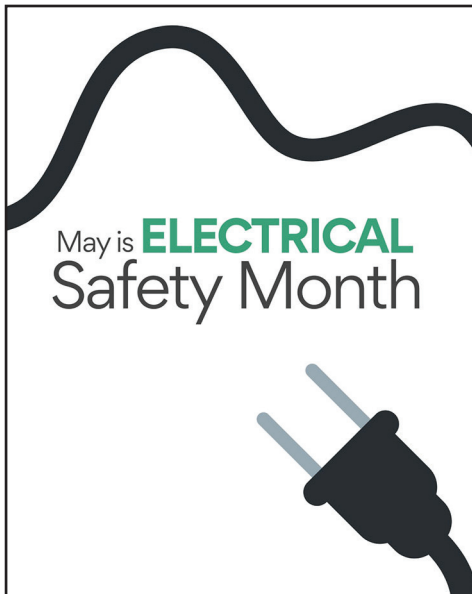
The 2026 trade school scholarship winners are Lucas Burken, Kennedy Simpson, Robert Jones, Hailey Wellington, and Taylor Morrison.

All 2026 scholarship winners will be



recognized at the District Meetings being held this summer.

Complete details on the 2026 Cooperative scholarship winners can be found at www.easterniowa.com/scholarships-stream-grant-program



May is **ELECTRICAL** Safety Month

Keep electrical safety in mind

In May, we recognize National Electrical Safety Month to raise awareness about reducing electrically related fires, injuries and fatalities. Here are a few important safety tips to keep in mind:

- Never use electrical equipment near water.
- Check all light bulbs to ensure the wattage is safe and suitable for the fixture.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only; never run them under rugs, through walls or across doorways.
- Do not plug too many devices into a single outlet or power strip.

Alena Wilholm is the Eastern Iowa REC 2026 Youth Tour rep

Congratulations to Alena Wilholm who was selected to represent Eastern Iowa REC on the 2026 Youth Tour.

Wilholm, daughter of Adam and Rebecca Wilholm of Calamus, will be a senior at Calamus-Wheatland High School next fall.

"I decided to enter the Youth Tour contest because I would love the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. and experience our nation's history firsthand," Wilholm explained. "I've learned about American history in school, but seeing important landmarks in person would make it feel much more real and meaningful."

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association'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 14-20, 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.

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



Alena Wilholm



Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

It's time to shine the light on our community volunteers! Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Eastern Iowa REC encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest this summer by nominating local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations during the month of 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 people who have been nominated over the years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're excited to make 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 from June 1 to June 30. If you receive electricity from Eastern Iowa REC, you're a co-op member-consumer and we invite you to nominate a friend, neighbor or relative 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. Non-winning nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.

Our 2026 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.

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.

New employees join Eastern Iowa REC team



ABOVE--Tyler Mach began his Cooperative employment on March 23. Tyler works an apprentice lineman out of the DeWitt Service Center. BELOW--Nevin Tucker began his Cooperative employment as a staging technician on April 13. Nevin will work out of the Wilton Service Center.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

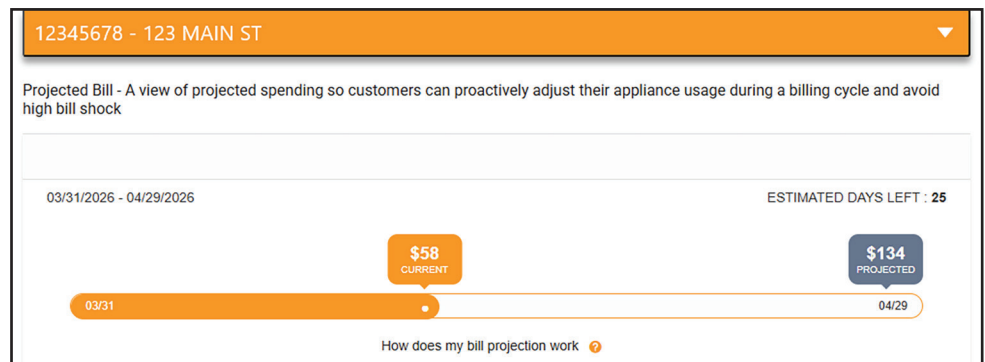
Source: energy.gov

Prepare for summer energy use with SmartHub

SmartHub is a powerful tool available to all Eastern Iowa Light & Power members, giving you easy access to your account anytime, whether it's on your computer or your mobile device. From paying your bill to tracking your energy use, SmartHub lets you manage your account in a way that works best for you.

One of the most impactful features in SmartHub is Consumer Analytics. It uses a process called disaggregation to break down your energy use into estimated appliance level insights. This gives you a clearer picture of what things like heating and cooling, water heating, and other major appliances are costing you each month, so you can better understand where your energy dollars are going and find opportunities to save.

To make these insights even more accurate, members can complete the optional Build Your Home Profile survey. This short questionnaire asks about your home and energy use, including details such as the size of your home, how many people live there, and what kind of heating or cooling systems you use. Because the survey adapts based on your answers, each member's profile is unique. It only takes just a few minutes to complete, but the added detail helps SmartHub fine tune your energy breakdown, compare your home to similar households, and provide more personalized recommendations.



The more information you provide, the more accurate and personalized your energy insights will be.

With SmartHub, you can also use the Usage Explorer feature to track how and when you use electricity. This feature helps you spot trends, monitor changes, and better understand your usage patterns throughout the month.

SmartHub also includes a Projected Bill feature, which estimates your upcoming bill based on current usage, helping you avoid surprises and stay on budget.

As we transition from spring into summer, energy use often begins to climb as air conditioners, fans, and other cooling equipment like window units or heat pumps start running more

frequently. Warmer temperatures, higher humidity, and longer days can all contribute to increased electricity use, often without you even realizing it. SmartHub's tools can help you stay ahead of these seasonal changes.

By using SmartHub, you can monitor how your cooling habits impact your energy use and identify ways to stay comfortable while keeping costs in check. Small adjustments like raising your thermostat a few degrees, using ceiling fans, or running appliances during off-peak hours can make a noticeable difference.

Sign up or log into SmartHub today and start making smarter energy decisions for your home.

MAX EFFICIENCY GET READY FOR COOLING SEASON



Before summer heat sets in, take a few simple steps to get your cooling system ready.

Replace your air filter to improve efficiency and air quality, and clear debris around your outdoor unit so it can run properly.

A little prep now can help keep your home comfortable and your energy bills in check all summer long.

MAX'S TIP: Review your thermostat settings and adjust them for the warmer months ahead.



-Max

Register online to be an exhibitor at 2026 Eastern Iowa REC Annual Meeting

Reservations for exhibitors are now being taken for the 2026 Eastern Iowa REC annual meeting at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport, Sept. 10.

The exhibitor registration form can be found at www.easterniowa.com, under the Events & Meetings section on the homepage.

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

Exhibitor fees are \$10 for Cooperative members and \$25 for non-members. Tables and chairs are available for an additional charge.

The registration deadline is August 1.

Comments from the CEO

Cooperative honors the 2026 scholarship winners and our community volunteers

As the school year comes to a close, the Cooperative recognizes a new group of scholarship winners. Our scholarship program was started in 1987. Over the past 39 years, more than 500 area students have received scholarships from the Cooperative to assist with their post-high school educational plans.

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 2026 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/scholarships-steam-grant-program and will be honored at the

District Meetings this summer.

Cooperative employees are making a meaningful impact beyond the workplace by actively volunteering their time and talents within the community. From serving with volunteer fire departments, to coaching youth sports, to volunteering in area schools and other community groups, team members are stepping up to strengthen the communities where they live and work. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to service and a culture that values giving back that is part of the Cooperative's mission.

Eastern Iowa REC understands there are many others that are also volunteering their time to support our communities. To recognize these individuals, we encourage our members to participate in the Shine the Light contest, sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. This statewide contest spotlights community volunteers and their work. Winners of the contest will receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

A story on page 2 provides more information about the Shine the Light contest and how to submit nominations.

Next month, the *Current News*, will include information about the 2026 District Meetings which will be held in July and August. We encourage you to attend and participate in your District Meeting.



Kirk Trede
CEO

From the Boardroom, March, 2026

- Approved a resolution recognizing April 13 as Lineworker Appreciation Day.
- Approved a capital budget amendment.
- Provided update on Lone Tree Operations site evaluation.
- Reviewed 2026 Annual Meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on May 26, 2026.

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, 1-563-732-7301 or email ashley.dixon@easterniowa.com by May 29 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:

Shelley Beeck, Lost Nation
Nancy Shannon, Long Grove
Bob Miller, Riverside
James Westphalen, Muscatine

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 2026 Youth Tour representative?

Question 2

What is the deadline for the Shine the Light contest?

Question 3

How can you get your cooling system ready for summer according to Max Efficiency?

Name

Address

REC Account

Current News



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ken Purdy, president; Kurt Olson, vice president; Michael Bixler, secretary; Henry Bentley, treasurer; Bradley Weiss, assistant secretary; Gary Bruns, Joel Carstensen, Aubrey "Lee" Cartwright, Allan Duffe, Tom Hotz, Gary Kester, Robert Schnieder Jr., Mike Shuger, Denise Timmerman, Kathrine Wunderlich.

Kirk Trede
CEO

Jim Williams
Communications Director

DeWitt
500 South Fifth St.

Wapello
101 Surrey Drive.

Lone Tree
307 W. Commercial St.

Wilton
1705 West Third St.

Call toll free, 1-800-728-1242.

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

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

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.