

● AUGUST 2022

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

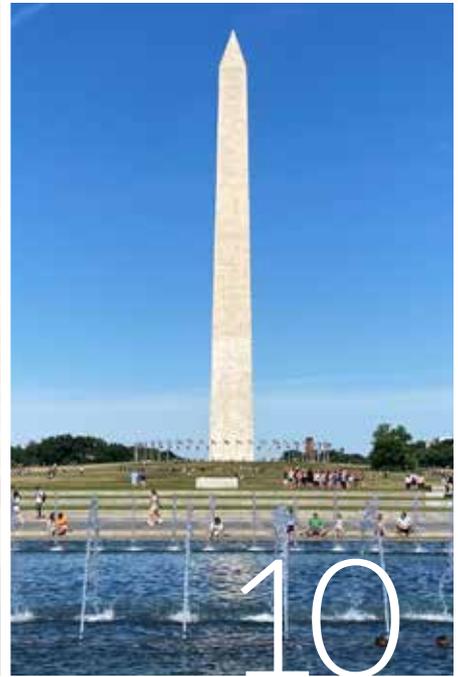
**Meet Grundy County REC's
board candidates**

**Students attend Your Tour
in nation's capital**

State Fair inspired recipes

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Erica Vonk, a North West REC member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could win \$100!

YOUTH TOUR DELIVERS INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE IN D.C.

BY SHELLY YORK



Youth Tour 2022 can be summed up simply by saying, “We’re back!” The pandemic was able to pause the 60-plus year tradition, but it certainly couldn’t

stop it! We were so excited to get back to Washington, D.C., and show 34 Iowa students the nation’s capital and experience all that the Youth Tour has to offer.

To be honest, there was a bit of trepidation on my part. Would I remember how to “do Youth Tour?” Is D.C. ready for large groups? What if we have travel issues? All that worry was for nothing. D.C. was ready, and our travel days went off without a hitch. But the true rockstars of the trip were the 34 high school students chosen by their electric cooperatives for this experience of a lifetime!

We started out with an orientation in Des Moines the night before we left. Most of the students did not know a single other person going on the trip, but that didn’t stop them from jumping right in.

Snack cooperative success

I love touring D.C. with the Youth Tour delegates, but I must admit one of my favorite activities of Youth Tour is working with students to run our own cooperative. Our cooperative provides snacks for chaperones and students. This project is educational and practical, plus it accomplishes a few

things: It provides drinks and snacks at discount prices, and it teaches everyone about starting and operating a cooperative and being a member-consumer.

On the last night of the trip, our snack co-op held an annual meeting where the leadership reported to the members about the co-op’s operations. Margins, or funds remaining after operations are closed, were returned to the members through patronage and capital credits.

Once-in-a-lifetime experiences

Our week in D.C. was full of incredible sights and experiences. From laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, seeing the city from the top of the Washington Monument, meeting with members of Congress, visiting all the monuments and memorials around the district, touring the U.S. Capitol, grabbing lunch at my favorite local eatery (Ben’s Chili Bowl) to joining Sen. Chuck Grassley on his early morning run, we had an unbelievable week. I say without hesitation that we all walked away with a greater understanding of our roles as



American citizens and a greater appreciation for the role of electric cooperatives in our communities. For details about what we did each day, check out our blog at iowayouthtour.blogspot.com.

Save the date

Next summer’s Youth Tour will be held June 17-23, 2023, with orientation the evening of June 17 in Des Moines.

If you know a high school student with a passion for government and public service, encourage them to apply for next year’s trip. Contact your local rural electric cooperative and visit www.iowayouthtour.com for more information.

Shelly York is the Youth Tour director for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR’S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a Westinghouse electric pressure washer



Tackle the toughest grime with the Westinghouse ePX3050 electric pressure washer designed for your most easy and convenient cleaning experience yet. Delivering 2,050 max PSI of pressure with up to 1.76 gallons per minute of water flow (without nozzle at minimum pressure), this electric pressure washer has the muscle to scrub away mildew, grease, oil, tar, mud, rust and more for all household surfaces with pure scouring force.

ENTER ONLINE BY AUG. 31!

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month’s contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Aug. 31. You must be a member of one of Iowa’s electric cooperatives to win. There’s no obligation associated with entering, we don’t share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the ice cream maker from the June issue was Molly Bohlen, Butler County REC.



OFFICE CLOSED

Grundy County REC will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day. Our phones will be answered 24/7.



JOIN US FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING OPEN HOUSE

BY MICHAEL GEERDES AND LARRY ROHACH



Grundy County REC had a strong and exciting 2021. Not only were we able to issue a healthy patronage credit, but we also worked diligently on economic development projects and Revolving Loan Fund loans. We had another year of zero Occupational Safety and Health



Administration (OSHA) recordables while maintaining strong power reliability for our members.

In 2021, we focused on plans to further improve safety and cooperative efficiencies for many years to come. This included the implementation of enhanced technologies and equipment. There are exciting enhancements happening here at your cooperative, and we can't wait to share more details with you during the Annual Meeting Open House!

We invite you to join us on Thursday, Sept. 8, between 5-7 p.m. for our 2022 Annual Meeting Open House event. The open house will be held at our office with the formal business meeting to follow.

Dinner will include grilled burgers from the Grundy County Cattlemen's Association and sides and dessert from local businesses on our lines. The prizes this year will consist of a generator, cash and a Nintendo Switch for our mini-members. A new addition to this year's meeting will be the ability for members to enjoy a bucket truck ride!

On behalf of the entire Grundy County REC board and staff, we want to thank each and every member. Your support, encouragement and kind words are beyond appreciated! We are looking forward to meeting again in person this year.

Michael Geerdes is the general manager and Larry Rohach is the board president of Grundy County REC.

Grundy County REC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
"Our mission is to provide our members safe, reliable, electric service"



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General Manager: Michael Geerdes

Officers and Directors:

District 1: Kevin Pruisner
District 2: Norbert Boyle
District 3: Nick Strohhenn
District 4: Larry Rohach
District 5: Matt Kopriva
District 6: David Schmidt
District 7: Jason Paper

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

GRUNDY COUNTY REC EMPLOYEE COMPLETES DES MOINES IRONMAN



Derek Snakenberg, Grundy County REC apprentice lineman, completed the Des Moines Ironman in June. An Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. Derek finished in 13 hours even with a 100-degree heat index!

"I like these races because they push me to always dig deeper and believe in myself," he says. "My training keeps me motivated and working outside in the elements keep me sharp and acclimated. I enjoy being a positive role model for my family, no matter the distance."

Way to go, Derek!

MEET YOUR 2022 BOARD CANDIDATES



**Kevin Pruisner,
District 1
Incumbent**

Kevin and his wife Patty reside in Dike, where he raises corn, soybeans and finishes hogs on his farm. They have six adult children. When it comes to serving on the board, his favorite part is having the opportunity to meet other directors and have valuable conversations regarding adjusting to new and changing technologies. Kevin also feels it is important to serve on the cooperative board to help keep rates stable and the electricity on for the members of Grundy County REC.

Kevin has been on the Grundy County REC board for 18 years; currently serving as the board treasurer.



**Matt Kopriva,
District 5
Incumbent**

Matt and his wife Jaime reside in Traer with their two sons. He is a seed

salesman for Pioneer and has been working on the family farm his entire life. Matt also serves on the Tama County Pork Producers board and St. Paul's Catholic Church board. When it comes to the cooperative board, Matt enjoys serving his community and is a strong believer in the co-op model. He believes his people skills and strong leadership experience are some of the assets he brings to the Grundy County REC board.

Matt has been on the Grundy County REC board for three years, currently serving as the board assistant treasurer/secretary.



**Jason Paper,
District 7
Incumbent**

Jason and his wife Valerie reside in Conrad and have five children. He works for New

Century FS as a retail sales manager and has previously served as a council member at his church. Jason brings 32 years of experience working in retail agriculture and has a sound

understanding of farming and farm economies, which is a majority of the Grundy County REC membership. Jason enjoys working with and for members to deliver a great consumer experience.

Jason has been on the Grundy County REC board for 12 years; currently serving as the board vice president.



**James Gienger,
District 7
Candidate**

James resides in Gladbrook and has three children. He has been in retail ag

farmer trucker for the last six years. He believes his strong knowledge in budgeting, understanding profit and loss, and staff management experience are some of the assets he can bring to Grundy County REC. If given the opportunity to serve on the cooperative board, James is interested in learning more about the electric industry and the financial elements of the cooperative.

2020/2021 AUDITED FINANCIALS

At the April 2022 Grundy County REC board meeting, Craig Popenhagen with CliftonLarsonAllen, the auditing firm for the cooperative, presented the board with an overview and summary of their findings. It was found, in the opinion of the auditing firm, the audit came back clean with no adjusting entries needed.

Kevin Pruisner

Kevin Pruisner
Grundy County REC
Board Treasurer



Assets	2021	2020
Total Utility Plant	\$ 23,395,793	\$ 22,693,765
Less Depreciation	(7,248,485)	(6,558,000)
Net Utility Plant	16,147,308	16,135,765
Investments & Receivables	5,200,542	4,984,347
Cash & Equivalents	3,067,766	1,287,430
Accounts & Notes Receivable	802,091	1,023,083
Other	263,023	281,195
Total	\$ 25,480,730	\$ 23,711,820
Liabilities		
Memberships	\$ -	\$ -
Patronage & Other Equities	11,386,946	11,085,257
Long Term Debt/Liabilities	12,702,314	11,254,927
Accounts Payable	628,362	504,403
Other Liabilities	763,108	867,233
Total	\$ 25,480,730	\$ 23,711,820

Revenue & Expenses	2021	2020
Total Revenue	\$ 9,114,562	\$ 8,098,516
Cost of Power	5,893,011	5,434,756
Operations/Maintenance	677,620	591,868
Consumer Accounts	278,952	248,383
Admisitration/General	763,051	649,437
Depreciation	891,064	694,626
Interest on LT Debt	381,692	347,940
Total Expenses	\$ 8,885,390	\$ 7,967,010
Margins		
Operating Margins	\$ 229,172	\$ 131,506
Non Operating Margins	98,634	66,245
G&T Capital Credits	459,835	507,126
Other Capital Credits	39,389	28,213
Net Margins	\$ 827,030	\$ 733,090

SHINE THE LIGHT CONTEST NOMINEES ANNOUNCED



The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa are driven by our commitment to community.

To celebrate local volunteers, the Shine the Light contest returned for a second year and received 68 entries during the month of June. Employees and member-consumers of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community.

Three winners will be awarded a \$2,000 donation to their charity or community organization of choice and will be featured in next month's issue. Please join us in celebrating these nominees for their outstanding commitment to community. Learn more at www.IowaShineTheLight.com.

2022 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES

Nancy Anderson from Estherville was nominated by **Jennifer Sievert of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Emmet County Relay for Life**.

Sandi Bartels from Clinton was nominated by **Chandra Williams of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Midwest Pets for Life**.

Sharon Van Beek from Primghar was nominated by **Laura Leonard of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Buckets for Joy**.

Joe Berger from Lohrville was nominated by **Presley Vogel of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for his work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Barb Bloes from Sac City was nominated by **Alice Zimmerman of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Sac City Summer Lunch Program**.

Catherine Burkman from Albia was nominated by **Aimee Campbell of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with the **Albia Victoria Stroll**.

Rebecca Carico from Guthrie Center was nominated by **Sarah Sheeder of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with the **Friends of the Mary J Barnett Library**.

Rosalie Christensen from Riceville was nominated by **Elaine Govern of MiEnergy Cooperative** for her work with the **Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail Association**.

Billie Dall from Dike was nominated by **Patricia Pruisner of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Dike Public Library**.

Rick Dawson from Eagle Grove was nominated by **Lisa Harvey of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with **Eagle Grove Boy Scout Troop 1059**.

Louise Van Ervelde from Brooklyn was nominated by **Rusty Clayton of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Brooklyn Ruritan Club**.

Arlys Fritz from Burlington was nominated by **Martha Settles of Access Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Patriotic Quilts of SE Iowa**.

Judy and Jerry Fynaardt from Pella were nominated by **Emma Henning of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for their work with **Forward with Faith**.

Connie Gehring from Dakota Dunes S.D., was nominated by **Jody Hinrichsen of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Siouxland Foster Closet**.

Mary Goebel from Guttenberg was nominated by **Joseph Goebel of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Holy Cross North Buena Vista Fire Department**.

Marilyn Halbur from Carroll was nominated by **Jeff Halbur of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Carroll Community Schools**.

Hope Hartman from Sheffield was nominated by **Madison Alert of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Coulter-Alexander-Latimer School Greenhouse Program**.

Kalcey Harvey from Dolliver was nominated by **Gary Natterstad of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Elks Lodge Foundation #528**.

Dr. Philip Heistercamp from Jefferson was nominated by **Kristi Holz of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Greene County Christian Action Resource Center**.

Rebecca Helland was nominated by **Jana Noteboom of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for her work with **Sprigs 'n Sprouts**.

Ron Hewus from Bloomfield was nominated by **Joye Lore-Lawson of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Davis County Tourism Corporation**.

Mary Hill from Afton was nominated by **Retta Ripperger of Farmers Electric Cooperative (Greenfield)** for her work with the **Afton Community Club**.

Tom and Julie Hoodjer from Clarksville were nominated by **Patrick Norton of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with the **Northeast Iowa Food Bank**.

Jalene Hornbuckle from Nevada was nominated by **Nancy Clough of Consumers Energy** for her work with **Harmony Clothing Closet, Inc.**

Joyce Hornstein from Huxley was nominated by **Jean Saveraid of Greenfield Municipal Utilities** for her work with the **Ballard Community Performing Arts Association**.

Greg Hudecek from Calmar was nominated by **Theresa Hudecek of MiEnergy Cooperative** for his work with the **Cresco Wildlife Club**.

Richard Hyman from Dubuque was nominated by **Frank Johnson of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Ewalu Bible Camp and Retreat Center**.

Deb Johnson from Fairfield was nominated by **Kathleen Brown of Access Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Greater Fairfield Area Habitat for Humanity**.

Geri Johnson from Onawa was nominated by **Katie Weston of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **Food4You**.

Sheila De Jong from Sioux Center was nominated by **Karla Byl of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Katelyn's Fund Orphan Ministry**.

Janet Judisch from Sumner was nominated by **Nancy Jaschen of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Helping Hands Clothing Closet**.

Kristine Kennedy from Chariton was nominated by **Tami Adams of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Lucas County Health Center Volunteer Services**.

Marilyn King from Schaller was nominated by **Kirk Langner of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Harold King Memorial Tractor Ride, Inc.**

Riley Lewis from Forest City was nominated by **Laura Kudej of Heartland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Winnebago Historical Society**.

Mike Lingle from Arion was nominated by **Stacy Meggers of Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **WAVE**.

Kenneth Lloyd from Union was nominated by **Pauline Lloyd of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America**.

Nicole Low from Eldora was nominated by **Paul Lawler of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Eldora Community Garden**.

Connie Mattison was nominated by **Linzie Morris of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with the **Belmond Promotions Council**.

Bradley McDowell from Primghar was nominated by **Dudley McDowell of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **LoveINC**.

Jamie McManis was nominated by **Phil Kinser of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Adams Community Foundation**.

Jack McPherson from Boone was nominated by **Marcia Godfrey of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **Marion St. United Methodist Church**.

Jeff Miles from Boone was nominated by **Mark Schneider of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with the **Iowa Arboretum & Gardens**.

Mike Moran from Lohrville was nominated by **Pam and Gary Haberl of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for his work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Diane Olson from Pocahontas was nominated by **Tracy Grothaus of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Pocahontas County Shooting Sports**.

Sandra Otto from Albert City was nominated by **Karl Lind of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **American Legion Post 299**.

Barbara Pestka from Maquoketa was nominated by **Lisa Gottschalk of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Friends of the Maquoketa Public Library and Maquoketa YMCA**.

Sara Preston from Swea City was nominated by **Amy Walter of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Swea City's Pool Plunge**.

Linda Pruin from Clarksville was nominated by **Harlan Pruin of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Waverly Health Center**.

Duane Queen from Storm Lake was nominated by **Brad Strader of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Hy-Noon Kiwanis Club of Storm Lake**.

Mike and Sandy Ralya from Afton were nominated by **Dorothy McNaught of Greenfield Municipal Utilities** for their work with the **Afton Community Club**.

Retta Ripperger from Afton was nominated by **Laura Tallmon of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with the **Afton Community Club**.

Candy Roberg from Anamosa was nominated by **Peggy Michaelsen of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Animal Welfare Friends**.

Barb Sauser from Cascade was nominated by **Joyce McMullen of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **St. Matthias Parish**.

Julie Schmidt from Denison was nominated by **Douglas Schmidt of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Denison First United Methodist Church**.

Tom Simmons from Clarion was nominated by **Chad Chapman of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with the **Clarion Church of Christ Youth Group**.

Jim Sloan from Eldon was nominated by **Kimberly Orman of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative** for his work with the **Wapello County Fair**.

Peggy Smith from Baxter was nominated by **Natalie Moorman of Consumers Energy** for her work with **Baxter Hometown Pride**.

Mary Snyder from Breda was nominated by **Mark Ludwig of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **Breda Betterment Committee**.

Wyona Stewart from Floyd was nominated by **Ramon and Sara Kuntz of Heartland Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Patchwork Pals Quilt Guild**.

Aggie Theobald from Stacyville was nominated by **Karen Brumm of Heartland Power Cooperative** for her work with the **Stacyville Community Nursing Home**.

Beth Thole from Sibley was nominated by **Don & Cindy Thole of Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with the **McCullum Museum - The Farm Shed**.

Presley Vogel from Lohrville was nominated by **Heather Parker of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Lynn Waelchi was nominated by **Lisa Digman of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Inspiration Stables**.

Jeff Wanninger from Manning was nominated by **Jean Voegel of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for his work with **Main Street Manning**.

Leona Welter from Corwith was nominated by **Linda Krebs of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with the **Corwith Public Library**.

G. Kim Wills from Hampton was nominated by **Allen Nickerson of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with the **West Fork Food Pantry**.

Tom Woodard from Albia was nominated by **Janice Crall of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for his work with the **Albia Victorian Stroll**.

Dena Zoske from Eldora was nominated by **DeAnne Kielsmeier of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with **Hardin County 4-H**.

STATE FAIR INSPIRED RECIPES

MINI DONUTS

- 3 cups all-purpose flour (plus $\frac{1}{2}$ cup for kneading)
- 1 tablespoon instant dry yeast
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup white or brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup buttermilk
- 1 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, melted (plus additional butter for dipping)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

Whisk together dry ingredients. Mix buttermilk, milk and vanilla. Heat this mixture until just lukewarm. Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup melted butter into the milk mixture and stir. Pour wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix. Turn out the dough onto a floured surface and knead for 5 minutes until smooth. Place dough into an oiled bowl and cover. Allow the covered dough to rise for 1 hour.

Punch down the dough and roll to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thickness. Use a 2-inch circle cookie cutter and a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cookie cutter for the center donut hole. Place the cut donuts on a baking sheet that has been lined with parchment. Cover and leave in a warm location to rise for 20 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees F for 8 minutes or until golden brown. Mix the granulated sugar and cinnamon. Dip the hot baked donuts in melted butter then roll in the cinnamon sugar. *Yield 24 donuts*

**Twyla Godbersen • Arthur
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

CORN DOG DELIGHTFUL BITES

- 4 hot dogs
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper

Cut each hot dog into six pieces. Mix remaining ingredients until well blended. Grease 24 small muffin tins. Fill with batter $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from top. Carefully push hot dog pieces into center of batter. Bake at 450 degrees F for 15 minutes, until browned. Cool and enjoy these delightful bites!

Mary Gropper • Chelsea • T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

OATMEAL CREAM PIES

- $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups shortening, divided
- $2\frac{2}{3}$ cups brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon nutmeg
- 4 cups oats
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 1 7-ounce jar marshmallow creme
- 1-3 tablespoons milk

Mix $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening together with brown sugar, eggs, vanilla, flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and oats. Mix well, then drop cookie-scoop-size balls on a greased cookie sheet, spaced 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees F for 10-12 minutes. Cool. Mix $\frac{3}{4}$ cup shortening, powdered sugar, marshmallow creme and milk. Spread on the bottom of half of the cookies and top with remaining cookies to make a sandwich.

**Anna Domnick • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

NACHO DIP

- ½ pound cream cheese
- ¼ cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- ½ cup Velveeta cheese
- 2 tablespoons milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¾ tablespoon taco seasoning
- 2 tablespoons taco sauce
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Microwave cheeses together until melted. Add remaining ingredients and serve in a small slow cooker on low to keep warm. Optional: Add white cooking wine to taste.

Lizzy Hartter • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

MONKEY TAILS

- 10 ice pop sticks
- 5 ripe bananas
- 1 16-ounce package semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 10 tablespoons flaked coconut

Peel bananas and halve crosswise. Insert one ice pop stick into the cut end of each banana. Place the bananas on a baking sheet covered in wax paper and place in freezer until frozen, about 2 hours. Melt the chocolate chips and butter in a microwave-safe bowl in 30-second intervals for 1-3 minutes, stirring after each melting. Dip the frozen bananas in the melted chocolate, spooning the chocolate over the banana to cover it completely. Roll in coconut if desired. Place the dipped bananas on wax-paper-covered baking sheet and freeze until the chocolate is firm. *Serves 10*

Dave Duit • Nevada • Consumers Energy

EASY CHEEZY CREAM POTATO BAKE

- 3 cups half and half
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 8 ounces mild cheddar or Velveeta cheese
- 1 32-ounce package frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a large bowl or saucepan, combine half and half, butter and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat until butter is melted. Then add cheese to mixture until melted. Place potatoes in a greased 13x2-inch baking dish, pour cream mixture over potatoes. Sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 45-55 minutes or until potatoes are tender and top is golden brown. *Serves 12*

Janice Shelton • Indianola
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

COCONUT DREAM PIE

- 2 envelopes Dream Whip
- 2¼ cups cold milk, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 4-ounce packages coconut cream instant pudding
- 1 9-inch baked pastry shell or graham cracker pie crust
- 1 cup toasted coconut

In a large bowl, beat Dream Whip, 1 cup milk and vanilla with electric mixer on high speed for 6 minutes or until topping thickens and forms peaks. Add remaining 1¼ cups milk and pudding mixes, beat on low speed. Then beat on high speed for 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Spoon into pastry shell and refrigerate at least 4 hours. Garnish with toasted coconut. *Serves 8*

Annalee Buffington • Marshalltown • Consumers Energy

APPLE FRITTERS

- 2 medium Granny Smith apples
- 1 cup flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- small handful raisins

Peel and cut apples into very thin pieces. Mix flour, baking powder, sugar, egg, milk and salt. Add apples and a small handful of raisins. Drop by tablespoons into deep-fat fryer at 350 degrees F until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. *Yield 20-24 fritters*

Penny Sue Haley • Keswick
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

WANTED:

CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND CANDY RECIPES

THE REWARD:

\$25 FOR EVERY ONE WE PUBLISH!

Deadline is Aug. 31

Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. **Also provide the number of servings per recipe.**

EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com

(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living • 8525 Douglas Ave.,
Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992



EDUCATING AND DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S COOPERATIVE LEADERS

The Youth Tour was a great experience to meet new people, see parts of our nation's capital, and learn about cooperatives' impact on their communities.

Maddie Schmitz,
Pella Cooperative
Electric Association

Youth Tour is an incredible experience full of so many lasting memories. The people I met on this trip will change me forever. There's something magical about what happened Youth Tour week. It's kind of like we all slipped into the same dream, and then slipped out of it and only we will ever be able to experience and describe what happened in that very special dream.

Elsie Lange,
Access Energy
Cooperative

BY ANN FOSTER THELEN

Youth Tour was an experience of a lifetime. I am so grateful.

Lily Mayo,
Butler County REC

Youth Tour was eye opening and inspiring. Talking to our senators and our representatives helped me realize they are normal people, but with great responsibility and knowledge. I was amazed by all the sights we got to see.

Leah Langel,
North West REC

Electric cooperatives are focused on all their members, not just those who are in control.

Colton Buell,
Consumers Energy

To learn more about the group's daily adventures, visit the Iowa Youth Tour Blog at iowayouthtour.blogspot.com.



The cooperative system is a very effective way to provide a service, while maintaining membership-owned leadership.

Lucas Wuebker,
Midland Power Cooperative

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2023 Youth Tour
June 17-23, 2023
www.iowayouthtour.com



2022 PARTICIPANTS

- Elsie Lange** – Access Energy Cooperative
- Andi Scott** – Access Energy Cooperative
- Cadan Evanson** – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
- Riley Troendle** – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
- Lily Mayo** – Butler County REC
- Nathan Burley** – Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association
- Gabriel Helmon** – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Jayce Reed** – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Colton Buell** – Consumers Energy
- Teagan Glenney** – Consumers Energy
- Miles Wood** – Eastern Iowa Light and Power Cooperative
- Ethan Blomme** – Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Grace Denning** – Harrison County REC
- Maci Juenger** – Heartland Power Cooperative
- Liz Muller** – Heartland Power Cooperative
- Hannah Grothaus** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Isaac Johnson** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Rayce Meyer** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Jaina Groen** – Lyon REC
- Amelia Schneidermann** – Lyon REC
- Lucas Wuebker** – Midland Power Cooperative
- Elaina Rosonke** – MiEnergy Cooperative
- Sabre Schmitz** – Nishnabotna Valley REC
- Addison Arens** – North West REC
- Leah Langel** – North West REC
- Hudson Oolman** – North West REC
- Maddie Schmitz** – Pella Cooperative Electric Association
- Jenna Pringnitz** – Prairie Energy Cooperative
- Kyra Wolterman** – Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
- Hannah Bridgman** – Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
- Holland Hunter** – Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
- Henry Bevington** – Southwest Iowa REC
- Alaina Whittington** – Southwest Iowa REC
- Kendra Tracy** – United Electric Cooperative

Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending high school students to Washington, D.C., every June since 1958! After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, 34 high school students and six chaperones representing Iowa's electric cooperatives journeyed to the nation's capital in June for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2022 National Electric Youth Tour.

On the weeklong tour, students learned about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government and walked away with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. They participated in National Youth Day, visited with their elected legislators and explored the sights around the nation's capital.

Earlier in the year, students applied for the trip through from their local electric cooperatives. The Iowa students joined students from co-ops around the country for the national Youth Tour.

SOME OF THE THINGS STUDENTS DID AND SAW ON THIS YEAR'S YOUTH TOUR:

- » Washington Monument
- » World War II Memorial
- » Albert Einstein Memorial
- » Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- » Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- » The National Mall
- » Boat cruise on the Potomac River
- » Holocaust Memorial
- » Ford's Theater
- » Korean War Veterans Memorial
- » Lincoln Memorial
- » Washington National Cathedral
- » Mount Vernon
- » Iwo Jima Sunset Parade
- » White House
- » U.S. Capitol



SHARE the ROAD with Farmers

Be safe.
Be courteous.

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only available routes.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

- 1 Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2 Do not pass if you are in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3 Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.
- 4 Do not tailgate.
- 5 Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

Share the road with care. Farmers are just trying to get to and from their job, too.

Source: Texas Table Top
(Texas Farm Bureau)

Safe
Electricity.org

MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Members of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative was held at the Grundy County REC headquarters, 303 N. Park Avenue, Grundy Center, Iowa at 7:00 p.m. on the 9th day of September, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Larry Rohach, President of the Cooperative, who presided, and Nick Strobehn, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof. The Chairman declared that Attorney Dennis L. Puckett would serve as parliamentarian.

Chairman Rohach introduced and welcomed special guests, including the Managers from Franklin REC and T.I.P REC.

The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman reported that there were more than 50 ballots cast, so there was a quorum for the Director election and more than fifty (50) members of the Cooperative had registered, and therefor constituted



a quorum of the members of the Cooperative for other business.

The President then presented a copy of the Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Members published in *Living with Energy*, together with proof of the due mailing of said notice to all members of the Cooperative, and such notice and proof were ordered to be annexed to the minutes of the meeting. Reading of said Notice was waived.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meetings of the Members held September 5, 2019 and September 10, 2020 were waived, and the minutes were thereupon declared to be approved and were ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

MILLER CELEBRATES 2 YEARS WITH COOPERATIVE



Allyson Miller

Executive Assistant/HR
Aug. 3

2 years of service

Congratulations, Allyson!

Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters



- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines.
- Know where power lines are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in areas where lines are less visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or equipment.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Treasurer had been distributed to each of the members. The Report was reviewed by Treasurer Kevin Pruisner. This included assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, margins, and equity. He also reported on patronage retirements approved by the Board. On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Report was approved and ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The President stated that the next order of business would be voting on the election of two (2) directors for a term of three (3) years each. He further stated that in accordance with the Bylaws, the Board of Directors had appointed from the members of the Cooperative a Nominating Committee consisting of Mike Wiarda, Mark Schildroth, Kevin Pruisner, Matt Kopriva, and Jason Paper.

The Report of the Nominating Committee was read by Attorney Dennis L. Puckett of Sullivan & Ward, P.C., which stated that the following members of the Cooperative had been nominated for the office of director for a term of three years:

THREE-YEAR TERM

(Two to be Elected)

District 2: Norbert Boyle

District 3: Nick Strohhenn

The Report of the Nominating Committee was ordered to be identified by the Secretary and annexed to the minutes of the meeting.

Attorney Puckett explained the process of voting.

The President's Report was presented by President Larry Rohach. He noted activities occurring in the last year, the role of the Board of Directors, and discussed rates. He introduced the Board members, thanked the members for attending, and introduced General Manager Michael Geerdes.

The General Manager's Report was presented by Michael Geerdes. He noted positive events from 2020 and highlighted the importance of safety and reliability.

The Certificate of the Inspectors of Election was then presented and read, certifying that the following members,

having received the highest number of votes cast, had been duly elected directors of the Cooperative to hold office for terms indicated, and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 2: Norbert Boyle

District 3: Nick Strohhenn

The Chairman directed the Secretary to annex the Certificate of the Inspectors of Election to the minutes of the meeting, and thereupon declared the above members duly elected directors of the Cooperative to hold office for the term specified, and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

The Chairman called for any unfinished business and there was none.

The Chairman called for any new business and there were several questions posed by the members that were addressed by the Board.

Drawings were then held for prizes.

There being no further business to come before the meeting upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

The 86th Annual Meeting of the Members of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at the Grundy County REC headquarters, 303 N. Park Avenue, Grundy Center, Iowa with optional dinner and activities from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022, to take action upon the matters listed below. The business meeting portion of the event will begin at 7 p.m.

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees;
2. The election of three (3) directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years each;
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for Director by the Nominating Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws.

THREE-YEAR TERM

(Three to be elected)

District No. 1: Kevin Pruisner (Incumbent)

District No. 5: Matt Kopriva (Incumbent)

District No. 7: Jason Paper (Incumbent)
James Gienger

You are urged to attend the meeting, hear the reports of the officers, vote for directors and transact such other business as may come before the meeting. Ballots can also be returned via mail. We encourage you to exercise your right as a member and vote.



Nick Strohhenn
Grundy County REC, Board Secretary

NEW OUT BACK CONTRIBUTOR

Iowa Electric Cooperative Living is pleased to welcome Darcy Dougherty Maulsby as our new Out Back contributor. As a fifth-generation farmer, business owner, author, marketing specialist, historian and speaker, Darcy helps businesses uncover their “wow” stories and share those stories to inspire people to dream bigger, revitalize their rural communities and change the world for the good, one story at a time.

Darcy is proud to be part of a farm family that operates a Century Farm in Calhoun County near Lake City and Yetter. She is an electric cooperative member and also serves as president of the Calhoun County Corn Growers, a director with the Calhoun County Farm Bureau and an Iowa Soybean

Association District Advisory Committee member.

She is also passionate about helping people preserve local history. She serves as board president of Central School Preservation in Lake City, vice president of the Calhoun County Historic Preservation Commission, and is a member of the Titanic Historical Society and the Lincoln Highway Association.

Thank you to Valerie Van Kooten

We would also like to thank Valerie Van Kooten for serving as the Out Back author for the past eight years. We appreciate the monthly content she provided for our readers. Her musings and observations certainly brought smiles and chuckles over the years.



VISIT US AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR!

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2022 Iowa State Fair.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from Aug. 11-21, make sure to stop by and see us in the air conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello!



IN THE COMMUNITY

Stop by and see us during the #IowaStateFair! Iowa's electric cooperatives are handing out suckers and **hard hats** in the 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest end of the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

IowaStateFair

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

When I was volunteering one Saturday morning this summer at Central School, the museum in my hometown of Lake City, a high school friend and his family stopped by. They live in Orange County, California, not far from Disneyland. It was great to meet the whole crew, who wore matching blue T-shirts with "Oh! the Places We Go..." in yellow letters.

I wondered what it's like for my friend's California kids to experience small-town Iowa. Then I started thinking about how I couldn't wait to get away from rural Iowa 30 years ago when I graduated from high school.

Growing up in rural Iowa

I grew up on a farm between Lake City and Yetter, a child of the 1980s Farm Crisis. While no one ever explicitly told me to avoid an ag career and move to the city, the message was implied. When I left Lake City, though, I was still a farm girl at heart, thanks to my years as a Lake Creek Go-Getters 4-H Club member and the national awards I won with the horticulture team from the Southern Cal FFA chapter.

Plus, I had seen a bit of the wider world already. Around my junior year in high school, my parents encouraged me to write an essay and send it to the Calhoun County REC, which was accepting entries for the Iowa Youth Tour competition. That essay earned me an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., that summer.

I took my first airplane ride. I got to meet with Iowa's Congressional delegation. (The one who stood out to me was Rep. Fred Grandy, mainly because I remembered him as "Gopher" on *The Love Boat* TV show.) I even started to get the idea that good communication skills could pay off.

I went on to earn journalism and mass communication and history degrees at Iowa State University before starting my own marketing



JUNE 1991

and communication business in 2002. Since then, I've become an author and have published seven books of non-fiction Iowa history. I'm regularly asked to share my stories during ag career days at local middle schools. I always tell the kids that writing skills opened up amazing opportunities for me starting in high school, thanks to that winning essay and the Iowa Youth Tour.

Now I've come full circle and am grateful to be your new columnist for *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living*. If you like stories of Iowa farming, food, history and rural living, we have a lot in common. Thanks for joining me on this journey. Oh, the places we'll go!

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.



The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

August 2022

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