

● AUGUST 2024

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



**Official notice of the
2024 Annual Meeting
of the Members**

**2024 Shine the Light
nominees announced**

Wrap and sandwich recipes

Last call for Member Appreciation Event on Aug. 7 ▶ See Page 12

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Linda Eastman, a Consumers Energy member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

GRATEFUL FOR YOUTH TOUR: THE ANNUAL TRIP OF A LIFETIME

grate·ful
feeling or showing
appreciation

BY SHELLY YORK



In the weeks leading up to Youth Tour, there is always a flurry of activity. Our heads are spinning as we are busy nailing down all the last-minute

details, including making sure we have the right supplies, communicating with students and parents, and confirming (and reconfirming!) the many tour stops and meals.

Now that the annual trip is behind us, and there is time to reflect on Youth Tour 2024, I am simply grateful. For what, you might ask? I'm grateful for so many things, including:

- The **electric cooperatives** that sponsor these young leaders on this trip of a lifetime. It's an investment in rural Iowa that will pay dividends well into the future.
- The **students** who take a leap of faith to apply for and go on Youth Tour. When the students show up for orientation, there is a lot of nervous energy, but that soon dissipates, and we become a family of sorts that can easily navigate a large city and airports with ease.
- The small army of people at the **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association** who work behind the scenes to make Youth Tour something these young delegates will never forget.
- **Parents** that trust us with their kids for the week. We don't take your faith in us lightly!
- The **cooperative business model** that we were able to put into action during Youth Tour by running our very own Snack Cooperative. Our co-op sold reasonably priced snacks to its members (the Iowa students

on Youth Tour). The members elected a board of directors, and the directors hired a co-op CEO/manager. The board and CEO met every morning over breakfast to discuss and plan activities related to the co-op.

- Our nation's capital, **Washington, D.C.** Where else can we see the Changing of the Guard, our first President's home, the location where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, meet with our elected officials, visit more than a dozen monuments, memorials and museums, and then go paddle boating in the Tidal Basin, surrounded by the Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King, Jr. memorials?

- Our **chaperones** who are truly top-notch! They leave their work and families behind for a week and focus on giving our Youth Tour delegates the best experience possible.

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited to meet the next class of Youth Tour delegates. If you know any high school students who are passionate about government and public service, please encourage them to apply! Until then, search for **Iowa Youth Tour** on Facebook or Instagram to see the group's adventures from 2024 or visit www.iowayouthtour.com.

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

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN A CUISINART GRIDDLE AND PANINI PRESS!

This Cuisinart Griddler Grill, Griddle and Panini Press is a true multitasker, and this innovative appliance gives you lots of options for delicious meals. Thanks to interchangeable nonstick plates, it can cook everything from paninis, pancakes and French toast to grilled steaks and chicken breasts.

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 Janet Wesely, an Access Energy Cooperative member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY AUG. 31!

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

BY MICHAEL GEERDES AND NICK STROHBEHN

It is with great pride and a sense of accomplishment that we reflect on 2023. It was a busy year for Grundy County REC, marked by significant achievements and positive strides in our mission to provide our members with safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

Infrastructure improvements

Grundy County REC staff take great pride in providing reliability. One of our key accomplishments was upgrading and improving our infrastructure. Between new construction, rebuild, and underground, we completed 15 miles of line with zero accidents or injuries. Along with upgrading those miles of line, Grundy County REC was also approved for Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to rebuild 12 miles of three-phase tie lines. These line upgrades ensure that we

can meet the growing demand for electricity and continue to provide you with reliable service. The cooperative's most recent reliability report shows that our members had power 99.97% of the year.

Community engagement and economic development

We continued to strengthen our ties with the community through various outreach programs and support initiatives. Whether through educational scholarships, local sponsorships, volunteer efforts, the revolving loan fund program or economic development efforts, Grundy County REC is dedicated to positively impacting the communities we serve.

Technology and innovation

To better serve you, we embraced new technologies that enhance our operations and improve member services. The implementation of our new radio frequency (RF) metering and billing system with SmartHub access has given our members more control over their energy usage while also helping us identify and resolve issues more quickly and efficiently.

Looking ahead

We remain committed to innovation and fulfilling our mission. Our focus will be on continuing to improve our infrastructure, finding new ways to engage with our membership and community, and ensuring the financial stability of our cooperative. We will also keep prioritizing the needs of our membership and exploring new ways to enhance the quality of life for all our members.

You've seen the cost of groceries, gas, raw materials and insurance increase, and Grundy County REC is not immune to those increases. Over the last three years, inflation has increased by more than 40% for supplies, equipment and materials in the electric industry.

With strategic procurement and money-saving efforts, the cooperative was able to absorb the inflation for a period of time, but after a third-party cost-of-service study, it became evident that a rate increase would be necessary. This increase was effective on your July 2024 bill.

On behalf of the board and staff at Grundy County REC, we extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your continued support and trust in us. It is your partnership that drives us to achieve great things. Together, we are building a brighter, more sustainable future for our members and the communities we serve.

Thank you for being a part of our cooperative family. We invite you to join us at this year's Annual Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 5, from 5-7 p.m., with the business meeting to follow.



Michael Geerdes



Nick Strohbehn

Michael Geerdes is the general manager and Nick Strohbehn is the board president of Grundy County REC.



Your director ballot and Annual Meeting information will be arriving in your mailbox soon!



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

"Our mission is to provide our members safe, reliable, electric service"



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Grundy Center, IA 50638

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Website: www.grundycountyrecia.com

Facebook: facebook.com/GrundyCountyREC

Email: mgeerdes@grundycountyrecia.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Call our office 24/7: 319-824-5251

General Manager: Michael Geerdes

Officers and Directors:

District 1: Kevin Pruisner

District 2: Norbert Boyle

District 3: Nick Strohbehn

District 4: Larry Rohach

District 5: Matt Kopriva

District 6: Roger Brown

District 7: Jason Paper

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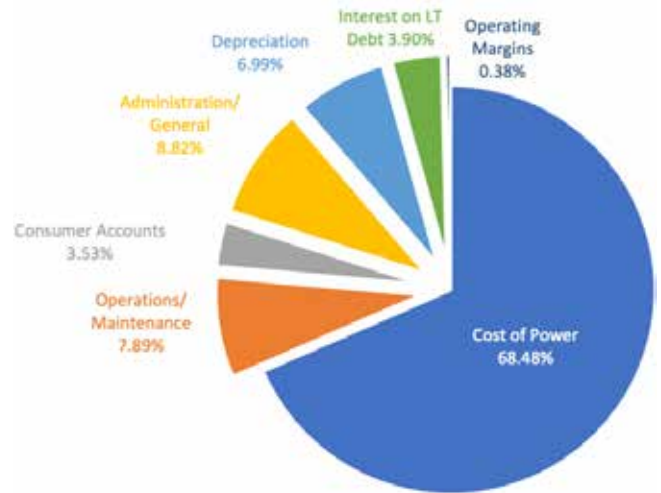
GRUNDY COUNTY REC 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

2023-2022 AUDITED FINANCIALS

Assets	2023	2022
Total Utility Plant	\$ 25,061,217	\$ 24,935,417
Less Depreciation	(7,182,488)	(7,657,675)
Net Utility Plant	17,878,729	17,277,742
Investments & Receivables	6,316,178	6,008,771
Cash & Equivalents	1,421,616	2,033,695
Accounts & Notes Receivable	1,261,730	802,870
Other	294,925	361,903
Total	\$27,173,178	\$26,484,981
Liabilities		
Memberships	\$-	\$-
Patronage & Other Equities	13,220,436	12,622,495
Long Term Debt/Liabilities	12,713,888	12,204,412
Accounts Payable	588,497	703,383
Other Liabilities	650,357	954,691
Total	\$27,173,178	\$26,484,981

2023-2022 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue & Expenses	2023	2022
Total Revenue	\$9,400,127	\$9,879,932
Cost of Power	6,437,628	6,896,129
Operations/Maintenance	741,948	688,922
Consumer Accounts	331,816	264,048
Administration/General	828,934	642,634
Depreciation	657,529	617,144
Interest on LT Debt	366,388	371,348
Total Expenses	\$9,364,243	\$9,480,225
Margins		
Operating Margins	\$35,884	\$399,707
Non Operating Margins	26,064	136,651
G&T Capital Credits	783,541	1,081,960
Other Capital Credits	41,062	32,900
Net Margins	\$886,551	\$1,651,218



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) 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, Sept. 5, 2024, 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 two (2) 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

(Two to be elected)

District No. 2: Norbert Boyle (Incumbent)

District No. 3: Nick Strohhenn (Incumbent)

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.

Matt Kopriva

Grundy County REC Board Secretary

DATED this first day of August, 2024.

“



The board of directors received the 2023 audited financials at the April 2024 board meeting, and we were very pleased with what was presented. It is the opinion of CliftonLarsonAllen, the auditing firm for the cooperative, that the cooperative's 2023 audit came back clean with no adjusting entries needed.

Norbert Boyle
Board Treasurer

”

YOUTH LEADERS VISIT NATION'S CAPITAL

This trip was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in which I made new friends and so many memories. We learned so much about electric cooperatives and saw so many sights. This was such a great opportunity, and I would do it again 1,000 times over if I could!

Brenna Whitney
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

My Youth Tour experience was beyond amazing. Getting to experience fully our nation's capital was not only educational and exciting, but also transformational to help me better realize all my future goals and aspirations. I couldn't have asked for a better time with so many awesome people!

Lucas Obert
Guthrie County REC

Going on the Youth Tour was a highlight of my summer. Seeing all the monuments, and the incredible sacrifices of many Americans that made our nation how great it is today, was an amazing experience. One of the best parts was meeting people from all over Iowa, and the country, making friendships that will last a lifetime.

Ellie Schmitz
Pella Cooperative Electric Association

It was the longest days and fastest week, and all I want to do is put the trip on repeat until it no longer feels like a dream.

Teghan Bell
Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative

Laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was an honor. I was so glad that I could pay my respects to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of our freedom.

Caleb Sinnwell
Butler County REC



To learn more about the group's daily adventures, search for **Iowa Youth Tour** on Facebook or Instagram.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2025 Youth Tour
June 15-21, 2025
www.iowayouthtour.com

Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending high school students to Washington, D.C., nearly every June since 1958! This year, 36 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 2024 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 their local electric cooperatives. The Iowa students joined students from co-ops around the country for the national Youth Tour.

2024 PARTICIPANTS

- Ethan Squier** – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
- Hannah Hagen** – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
- Caleb Sinnwell** – Butler County REC
- Katie Burley** – Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Assn.
- Brenna Whitney** – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Ethan Stalzer** – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Brianna Fantz** – Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Ava Hendricks** – Consumers Energy
- Carlee Noe** – East-Central Iowa REC
- Leadah Price** – East-Central Iowa REC
- Teghan Bell** – Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative
- Bailey Carstens** – Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Delaney Blomme** – Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Stephanie Terrones Rodriguez** – Franklin REC
- Lucas Obert** – Guthrie County REC
- Abbey Muller** – Heartland Power Cooperative
- Scarlett Byrnes** – Heartland Power Cooperative
- Aiden Deim** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Danielle Mielke** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Hannah Nielsen** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Jacey Welbig** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Noah Palmer** – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
- Breyona Bosch** – Lyon REC
- Jade Kruse** – Lyon REC
- Kamden Kinne** – Midland Power Cooperative
- Aleah Eichenberger** – MiEnergy Cooperative
- Jonas Reynolds** – Nishnabotna Valley REC
- Brody Knapp** – North West REC
- Ellie Arens** – North West REC
- Ellie Schmitz** – Pella Cooperative Electric Association
- Indy Johnson** – Prairie Energy Cooperative
- Porter Snyder** – Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
- Nevaeh Irvine** – Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
- Jaidyn Rugg** – T.I.P. REC
- Dallyn Money** – United Electric Cooperative
- Jackson Steinkuehler** – Western Iowa Power Cooperative



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

- » Air Force Memorial
- » Albert Einstein Memorial
- » Arlington National Cemetery
- » Boat Cruise on the Potomac River
- » Ford's Theater
- » Fort McHenry
- » Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- » Holocaust Memorial
- » Iwo Jima Memorial and Sunset Parade
- » Korean War Veterans Memorial
- » Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
- » Lincoln Memorial
- » Mount Vernon
- » Pentagon 911 Memorial
- » Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
- » The National Mall
- » U.S. Capitol
- » Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- » Washington Monument
- » White House
- » World War II Memorial





Wrap & Sandwich

RECIPES

CURRY CHICKEN MANGO WRAP

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons almond or peanut butter
- ¼ teaspoon curry (or more to preference)
- 4 tortillas (wheat, spinach or sun-dried tomato)
- 2-3 cups chicken, cooked
- ½ cup celery, finely chopped
- ½ cup carrots, shredded
- 1-2 green onions, chopped
- fresh spinach or lettuce, shredded
- 1 cup mango, chopped
- 1 cup avocado, chopped
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- ½ cup bell peppers, chopped
- ¼ cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- optional: red onion and jalapeno, chopped

Combine mayonnaise, almond or peanut butter and curry. Spread on tortillas. Chop or shred the cooked chicken. Mix chicken, celery, carrot and onions. Divide chicken filling mixture and place on tortillas with spinach or lettuce. Mix remaining ingredients into a mango salsa and add to tortillas. *Serves 4*

**Diana Thorn • Marshalltown
Consumers Energy**

HOT CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICHES

- 3-4 cups chicken, cooked
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 tablespoons minced dried onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- pepper, to taste
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- 1 small can water chestnuts, diced
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 4 eggs, hard-boiled and chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- buns

Debone and chop or shred cooked chicken. Mix all ingredients together and gradually heat in a slow cooker for 2-3 hours, stirring often. Be careful not to brown. Serve on sandwich buns and enjoy with potato chips and your favorite pickles. *Yields 8-10 sandwiches*

**Karla Pals • Belmond
Prairie Energy Cooperative**

TURKEY AND PEAR SANDWICH

- 2 slices bread
- 1 slice provolone cheese
- 3-5 slices roasted turkey
- 1 whole pear, halved and roasted
- pinch dried rosemary

Toast bread slices. Add cheese, turkey and roasted pear. Sprinkle rosemary over top. *Serves 1*

**Deanna Foreman • Rock Valley
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**



Visit www.ieclmagazine.com and search our online archive of hundreds of recipes in various categories.

BREAKFAST WRAP

- 6 eggs
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- ½ pound ham, diced
- 2½ cups cheese, shredded
- 4 8-inch tortillas

Whisk eggs with salt and pepper. Heat skillet over medium heat and spray with nonstick cooking spray. Scramble and cook eggs for 3-5 minutes, until cooked through and set. Stir in ham and cheese. Add egg mixture to tortillas and roll up. To freeze: individually wrap in clean plastic wrap and freeze. To reheat: remove plastic wrap and wrap in paper towel. Microwave 1-2 minutes, until hot. *Yields 4 wraps*

Betty Nikkel • Laurel
Consumers Energy

TAVERNS

- 1 pound hamburger
- ½ cup onion, finely chopped
- 1½ tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- ½ cup ketchup
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- hamburger buns

Brown hamburger and onion; drain. Add remaining ingredients to hamburger mixture and let simmer for 20-30 minutes. Serve on hamburger buns. *Serves 4-6*

Beth Schlichte • Le Mars
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

HOMEMADE EGG WRAPS

- 1 large egg
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 4 tablespoons butter
- optional fillings: cheese with bacon or sausage, smashed avocado with salsa, deli meat and cheese with lettuce, shredded chicken salad, taco meat, BBQ meats, etc.

Crack egg into small bowl and beat well with a fork. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Preheat a 10-inch skillet over medium heat, melting butter to coat skillet (cooking spray can be used instead of butter). Pour the egg into skillet and swirl the skillet to spread egg over the entire bottom surface in an even layer. Cook about 45 seconds, until the egg is nearly set. Use a spatula to gently pull the outer edges from the pan. Flip and cook another 5-10 seconds, until egg cooks completely. Remove from heat, add your favorite fillings, roll up and enjoy. *Serves 1*

Deb Ballalatak • Albia
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

MUSHROOM FRENCH BREAD

- 1 loaf French bread
- 3 cans mushrooms
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon dry mustard
- 16 ounces mozzarella cheese

Slice bread lengthwise. Mix remaining ingredients and stuff bread. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30-40 minutes. Slice and serve.

Karen Bruns • Fonda
Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association

MEDITERRANEAN TURKEY WRAP

- 1 flour tortilla
- 2-3 tablespoons roasted garlic or roasted red pepper hummus
- 2-3 slices low-sodium roasted deli turkey
- cucumbers, sliced
- tomatoes, sliced
- red onions, sliced
- 2-3 tablespoons black olives, pitted and chopped

Spread hummus over tortilla, then layer turkey, cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions and olives. Roll up, slice in half and enjoy. *Serves 1*

Bryce and Kelly Godbersen • Odebolt
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

WANTED:

HOLIDAY PARTY 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

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 fourth year and received 75 volunteer nominations during June, the second highest number in the history of the contest! This year's entries came from 24 Iowa electric co-ops and two municipal utilities that are served by Central Iowa Power Cooperative. 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 \$3,000 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.

2024 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES

ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Kathie Grimm from Wayland was nominated by **Beverly Conrad** for her work with **Wayland Area Child Care Organization (Little Me & Company)**.

June Lowenberg from Fairfield was nominated by **Christie Shaffer** for her work with **Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce**.

BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Stephanie Duhkopf from Sumner was nominated by **Jeff Reynolds** for her work with **Sumner Daycare and Learning Center, Inc.**

Vickie Miller from Clarksville was nominated by **Paula Hoodjer** for her work with **Clarksville Food Pantry**.

Carolyn Mohlis from Tripoli was nominated by **Sandra Tagtow** and **Joanna VanDeBerg** for her work with **Helping Hands Clothing Closet**.

Rose Nordaas from Fredericksburg was nominated by **Nancy Morris** for her work with **Fredericksburg Food Bank**.

Patricia Schultz from Sumner was nominated by **Maek Miller** for her work with **Sumner Quilts of Valor**.

Stacey Snyder from Sumner was nominated by **Larry Pavelec** for her work with **Bremer County Conservation Board**.

Deb White from Clarksville was nominated by **Lynn Bolin** for her work with **Clarksville Open Door Youth Center**.

CALHOUN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Judy Hess from Fonda was nominated by **Kerry Noethe** for her work with **MAGS 4 Fonda, Inc.**

Cindy Loots from Pomeroy was nominated by **Nancy Bruns** for her work with **Pomeroy Historical Society**.

Renee Stauter from Lake City was nominated by **Elaine Lietz** for her work with **Lake City Pickleball Project**.

CHARITON VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Catherine Burkman from Albia was nominated by **Jeanie Teno** for her work with **Albia Victorian Stroll**.

Pam Haugen from Tracy was nominated by **Joyce Housley** for her work with **Bellefontaine Cemetery**.

Justin Rozenbloom from Bussey was nominated by **Chelsea Bachman** for his work with **Monroe County Fair**.

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DeeAnn Bierstedt from Fenton was nominated by **Jodee Jorgenson** for her work with **Fenton Public Library**.

CONSUMERS ENERGY

Christopher Alleman from Slater was nominated by **Pete Hunter** for his work with **Alleman Betterment Committee**.

Haven Frantz from Grand Junction was nominated by **Heidi Holsapple** for his work with **American Legion Post 11, Jefferson**.

EAST-CENTRAL IOWA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Michael Kramer from Vinton was nominated by **Becky Van Wey** for his work with **Vinton-Shellsburg United Special Olympics**.

Yvette Vogel from Jesup was nominated by **Monica Bengston** for her work with **Jesup Community Blood Drive**.

EASTERN IOWA LIGHT & POWER COOPERATIVE

Becky Hansen from Wilton was nominated by **Terri Becker** for her work with **Wilton Legion Auxiliary**.

Janet Hesler from Danville was nominated by **Joanne Beckman** for her work with **Danville Station Library & Museum**.

R D Putnam from Letts was nominated by **Claudia Putnam** for his work with **St. Malachy's of Ardon Preservation Society**.

Marjorie Rock from Grand Mound was nominated by **Eunice Grell** for her work with **Project Linus East Central Iowa Chapter**.

FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Doug Pralle from Hampton was nominated by **Madison Alert** for his work with **Compassion Flights**.

GOWRIE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Julie Vinsand from Gowrie was nominated by **Bruce Towne** for her work with **Wheels of GYC**.

GRUNDY COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Jared Gutknecht from Grundy Center was nominated by **Patricia Pruisner** for his work with **Grundy County Fair**.

GUTHRIE COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Lou Hoger from Perry was nominated by **Sue Kimpston** for his work with **Perry Area Food Pantry**.

Karen Sparks from Guthrie Center was nominated by **Vanessa Bransor** for her work with **Royal Neighbors of America**.

Amber Wetzel from Linden was nominated by **Amy Hoover** for her work with **Guthrie Center Elementary School**.

HEARTLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

Carolyn Sherman from St. Ansgar was nominated by **Judy Ask** for her work with **St. Ansgar Recreation Trail**.

Steve Weis from Stacyville was nominated by **Mark Weis** for his work with **St. Ansgar Rescue**.

IOWA LAKES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Barb Bennett from Rolfe was nominated by **Wendy Panbecker** for her work with **Rolfe Hometown Pride**.

Dale Breuer from Estherville was nominated by **Katie Harris** for his work with **Emmet County Special Olympics**.

Duane Kent from Aurelia was nominated by **Lucille Kent** for his work with **Aurelia Community Foundation**.

Joan Mohr from Fonda was nominated by **Diana Christiansen** for her work with **Beauty Amidst the Ashes, Inc.**

Volunteers at Pocahontas County Sheriff's Office Reserves were nominated by **Jim Malecek** for their work with **Pocahontas County Sheriff's Office Reserves**.

Dennis Somers from Sioux Rapids was nominated by **Jennifer Sievert** for his work with **Special Youth Challenge Ministries of Iowa**.

Volunteers at Unity Lutheran Food Pantry from Graettinger were nominated by **Barbara Brennan** for their work with **Unity Lutheran Food Pantry**.

LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Casey Clark from Solon was nominated by **Debra Clark** for his work with **Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Johnson County Chapter**.

MANNING MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Melissa Puck from Manning was nominated by **Amy Ferneding** for her work with **Manning Little League**.

MAQUOKETA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Rod Kramer from Farley was nominated by **Al Reiter** for his work with **Farley Fire Department**.

Sarah Kumpf from Peosta was nominated by **Tara Beasley-Garcia** for her work with **Inspiration Stables**.

Marie Rossmann from Preston was nominated by **Barbara Downey** for her work with **Relay for Life of Jackson County**.

Makenna Travis from Monticello was nominated by **Jackie White** for her work with **Animal Welfare Friends**.

MIDLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

John Dawkins from Boone was nominated by **Mike Matteo** for his work with **Salvation Army**.

Barbara Dilsaver from Iowa Falls was nominated by **Elizabeth Thoms** for her work with **Church Women United Thrift Store**.

Rick Hamers from Ames was nominated by **Lynn Hamers** for his work with **Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa**.

Fred Long from Jefferson was nominated by **Lori DeMoss** and **Jeff Pudenz** for his work with **Greene County Gobblers**.

Taylor Jones from Hampton was nominated by **Suzanne Rowen** for her work with **Hansell Fire Department**.

Barb MacDougall from Boone was nominated by **Joann Uthe** for her work with **Cole School**.

NISHNABOTNA VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Kyle Arnold from Minden was nominated by **Maribeth Dau** for his work with **Minden Volunteer Fire Department**.

LaDonna Havick from Harlan was nominated by **Kylie Beebe**, **Jeff Leinen** and **Stephanie Nielsen** for her work with **Shawn Havick Memorial Response Program**.

NORTH WEST RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Lisa Klein from Sheldon was nominated by **Sandra Voss** for her work with **Love INC of Greater O'Brien County**.

Chris Van Beek from Maurice was nominated by **Greg Van Beek** for her work with **Midwest Honor Flight**.

Jason Wendt from Le Mars was nominated by **Gabe Roetman** for his work with **Gehlen Catholic Mission Honduras**.

Pamela Woelber from Sioux Center was nominated by **Debra Rensink** for her work with **Whispers of Love, Hope & Joy, Inc.**

OSCEOLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Beth Thole from Sibley was nominated by **Gary Trei** for her work with **Osceola County Agriculture Pavilion**.

PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Alan Mattison from Belmond was nominated by **Trese Arends** for his work with **Belmond Park Zip Line**.

Cathy Mohlis from Crystal Lake was nominated by **Donna Edelen** for her work with **Youth for Christ**.

Larry Turner from Belmond was nominated by **Joleen Smith** for his work with **Build a Better Belmond - Upscale the Trail**.

RACCOON VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Julie Clayton from Auburn was nominated by **Marie Buse** and **Becky Halbur** for her work with **Wall Lake Bandits/ Viola Visions 4-H Club**.

Mike McCarty from Carroll was nominated by **Tricia Wolterman** for his work with **Mission Honduras - Kuemper**.

SOUTHERN IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Sandy Warning from Bloomfield was nominated by **Joye Lore-Lawson** for her work with **Davis County Tourism Corporation**.

Bruce and Becky Whitaker from Bonaparte were nominated by **Thomas O'Donnell** for their work with **Bentonsport Improvement Association**.

T.I.P. RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Dixie Albertson from Fremont was nominated by **Ashley Albertson** for her work with **Fremont Area Community Foundation**.

Allison Gonyo from West Des Moines was nominated by **Marty McCoy** for her work with **Children's Cancer Connection**.

WESTERN IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Marcia Bachmann from Denison was nominated by **Jan Patchin** for her work with **CCHappy Cats, Inc.**

Warren Hawn from Denison was nominated by **Craig Dozark** for his work with **Crawford County Hunger Fighters**.

Kathy Schneider from Denison was nominated by **Dale Schneider** for her work with **Crawford County Hunger Fighters**.

FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE



Allyson Miller, executive assistant and human resources, celebrates her fourth service anniversary with Grundy

County REC on Aug. 3!

“My favorite part of working at Grundy County REC is the relationships – my coworkers, industry professionals and the members,” she shares. “I love that I’ve had the opportunity to get to know many members on a personal level.”

CONGRATULATIONS, ALLYSON!

OFFICE CLOSURE

Grundy County REC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day. Although we may not be in the office, our phones are answered 24/7, year-round!



2024 MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT – YOU’RE INVITED!

Stop into the co-op office to get your tickets for this year’s Member Appreciation Event! The event is Wednesday, Aug. 7, so the time is ticking to get your tickets.



Tickets

Stop in to Grundy County REC or call the office to get your tickets today through Aug. 6! Required to receive the meal.

Entertainment

- Bucket Truck Rides
- Face Painting and Balloon Animals
- Bounce Houses
- Activities and more!

Food

BarCea Roots Food Trailer will be serving dinner and will have a variety of delicious options!

Enter to Win!

- Family Getaway Package
- College Football Tickets
- ... and more!





Please Join Us!

On behalf of the Grundy County REC board of directors and staff, we invite you to join us on Thursday, Sept. 5 from 5-7 p.m. for our 2024 Annual Meeting Meal & Open House event, located at our office, with the formal business meeting to immediately follow.


What's on the Menu?

- Pork Burgers & Brats grilled by the Tama County Pork Producers
- Party Potatoes by BarLea Roots
- Chips
- Hansen's Dairy Ice Cream

Can't stay for the full event?
 Don't worry - we can package you up a meal to go!

Director Candidates

The following member candidates have been nominated for director by the 2024 Nominating Committee appointed by the board of directors pursuant to the bylaws.



Norbert Boyle
 District 2 Candidate

"Serving as a director is important as we make decisions that shape and guide the co-op. We are making a difference locally, keeping the members best interests in mind. We provide guidance on big decisions for the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. We are going to need increased electricity to power our lives in the future."



Nick Strohbeh
 District 3 Candidate

"Being a director of an electric co-op is vital because we represent our community, ensuring our operations align with the needs of the members. We maintain local control, provide strategic oversight, advocate for our members, and help ensure high-quality service. The position requires a commitment to good governance, transparency, and cooperative principles."

Prize Drawings



Date & Time

Thursday, Sept. 5
 Meal & Open House - 5-7 p.m.
 Business Meeting to follow



Location

Grundy County REC Headquarters
 303 North Park Avenue
 Grundy Center, IA 50638

Event Details



Green Mountain Grill



Cooler and Meat Bundle



PlayStation 5 Game System

Exact prize may vary from what is pictured.

Bucket Truck Rides!



Bucket truck rides will be available during the open house portion of the event, from 5-7 p.m.!

Cash will once again be distributed to each member account that attends in person at event registration!

You must register at the event to be entered for a chance to win the prizes, but you don't have to be present at the time of the drawing.

A GUIDE TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

BY JENNAH DENNEY

The automotive industry is undergoing a transformative shift as many consumers are switching to electric vehicles (EVs). EVs offer numerous benefits, from environmental sustainability to cost savings.

Transitioning to an EV requires careful consideration of multiple factors. The following list overviews key aspects of EV ownership and can help you make an informed decision based on your specific needs.

EV knowledge: Familiarize yourself with EV basics. Understand the differences between Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV), Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV). Consider your daily, monthly and annual driving needs and evaluate each option.

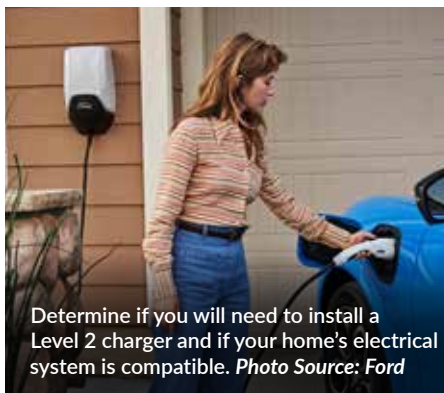
Driving range: Evaluate the EV's driving range when fully charged to ensure it aligns with your daily commute. We often think about a summer road trip for our driving needs, but it's important to remember there are other options for infrequent, long-distance travel.

Home charging: Determine if you will need to install a Level 2 charger and if your home's electrical system is compatible. By evaluating your entire home energy use, you can determine if electrical panel upgrades are necessary for a Level 2 system. Level 1 chargers typically do not require upgrades.

Public charging options: Research the availability of public charging stations along your typical routes.

Cost comparisons: Compare EV prices from multiple dealerships. Sticker prices are higher upfront, but EVs have proven cost-effective due to reduced maintenance and fuel costs.

Financial incentives: Explore federal, state and local incentives available for EV purchases. Check with your electric co-op to see if they offer incentives or special rates for EVs.



Determine if you will need to install a Level 2 charger and if your home's electrical system is compatible. *Photo Source: Ford*



Research the availability of public charging stations along your typical routes. *Photo Source: Ford*



Electric vehicles offer numerous benefits, from environmental sustainability to cost savings, but transitioning to an EV requires careful consideration of multiple factors. *Photo Source: Honda*

Maintenance: EVs typically require less maintenance than conventional vehicles, which can lead to long-term savings. EVs have far fewer moving parts than combustion engine vehicles, resulting in a streamlined maintenance experience.

Battery warranty: Ensure the EV battery includes a substantial warranty. Most manufacturers offer eight-year warranties (or up to 100,000 miles). If you're considering managed charging or bi-directional power flow (V2X) programs, take these warranties into account. V2X programs facilitate a bi-directional power flow between EVs and the power grid, which is highly beneficial for co-op members who own an EV. These programs allow EV owners to sell power back to the grid during periods of high electricity demand. Participation in these programs may impact your vehicle's warranty, so it's recommended to consult the warranty documentation before participating in a V2X program.

Insurance implications: Consult with your insurance provider to review potential changes to your policy when owning an EV.

Fees: Some EVs are subject to additional fees to compensate for road tax revenue typically collected from gasoline taxes. Additionally, you may have to pay a higher vehicle registration fee for EVs and hybrid vehicles. It's important to be aware of these potential fees when considering the total cost of ownership for an EV.

If you're interested in an EV, contact your electric co-op. Some co-ops offer "ride and drive" events, home charging programs and more, allowing members to gain firsthand experience and determine if an EV is right for them.

Jennah Denney writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

EATING HUMBLE PIE

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

Are there any pie lovers out there? For years, I wasn't one of them. Most of the pie I knew was mass-produced or made with gloppy, canned pie filling.

But then, one day (probably at an old-school church supper), I had a little slice of heaven – apple pie with a lard crust with as much tantalizing flavor as the filling. That flaky crust provided the perfect vessel to hold those thick slices of fruit, accented with an ideal blend of spice and sugar. And oh my – how that filling baked into the junction of the top and bottom crust created a chewy ribbon of extra delight!

And just like that – I had a revelation. “Ah ha! This is what pie lovers are talkin’ about!”

That's been quite a few years ago, but I still remember that life-changing slice of apple pie. A church sermon this summer also got me thinking about life-changing lessons that stick with us, long after the actual event fades into history. It happened during the Father's Day service at a little 1860s-era country church at Twin Lakes Bible Camp in Calhoun County.

To share a story – or not?

A local farmer was the guest preacher that Sunday. He was talking about

another type of pie (humble pie). He admitted he had doubts about telling the story he was about to share but decided to do it anyway.

This father of three sons recalled how he and his wife had set specific rules for their boys' cell phone usage when the kids were in high school. He even combed through the monthly phone bill now and then to make sure none of the kids were on their phones after curfew.

He wasn't pleased when he discovered that one of his sons appeared to be using his cell phone late at night when he wasn't allowed to be on the phone. So, he confronted the son about the infractions. The son said he didn't break the rules and wasn't on the phone then. The dad was having none of it, saying “The proof's right here in the phone bill!”

After some debate, where both sides stood their ground, the son finally said, “Well, if that's what the bill says, then that's what it is.”

Only later did the dad discover that the time stamps on the phone bill were recorded for the Eastern time zone, not the Central time zone. The son was



telling the truth that he wasn't on the phone when he shouldn't have been.

“That taught me a lesson about being humble,” the farmer said that Sunday as he expounded on the importance of humility.

A surprising message sticks

It wasn't a message any of us expected to hear on Father's Day, and yet it has stuck with me all these weeks later. Why? It was a brilliant double-whammy in the best sense. It contained an element of surprise and a plot twist that I doubt anyone in the congregation could have predicted.

That's the power of true stories well told. They're authentic, not abstract. They paint a picture in your mind, so you're “seeing” the story unfold as your brain takes in the information. They're also “sticky” because a good story touches our emotions, imprinting itself into our memory.

That storyteller/guest preacher could have stated that true humility means staying teachable, regardless of how much you already know – and he would have been right. But through the cell phone bill saga, you felt the father's anger, the son's frustration and the embarrassment of admitting you were wrong.

That reminds me – I should probably eat a little more humble pie now and then.

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



Father's Day service at Twin Lakes Bible Camp in Calhoun County.



The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

August 2024

Visit our website at www.grundycountyrecia.com



WHERE
WE HAVE MEMBERS
WE
ACTIVELY
LIVE
OUR COMMITMENT

We're not just a service provider – we're active members of our community. We take pride in serving our members and going the extra mile in everything we do. Get closer to your **local cooperative** for ways we support you and strengthen our community.

