

2018 Grundy REC legislative recap

REC representatives have recently attended several legislative events representing our membership. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss the issues, thank our legislators for their support and also gives us a sound presence in the legislative process. The best way to protect the interests of our member-owners is to maintain a positive and active line of communication with our legislators. We are fortunate to have legislators familiar with the numerous contributions the cooperative makes to rural Iowa and rural America.

Cedar Valley Legislative Forum

In December, Grundy County REC co-hosted the Cedar Valley Legislative Forum at the Isle Casino in Waterloo where we presented the REC's legislative agenda for 2018.

Welcome Back Legislative Session

Governor Kim Reynolds (left) discussed issues with cooperative board members President Kevin Pruisner (center) and Director Larry Rohach (right) at the Welcome Back reception in January.



REC Day on the Hill

(Below left photo, l to r) Co-op directors Larry Rohach and Norb Boyle, General Manager Vicki Daily and board president Kevin Pruisner visited the Capitol on March 14 to advocate on behalf of our member-owners.

(Below right photo) Cooperative directors Pruisner (l) and Rohach (r) met with Representative Bob Kressig to discuss the energy omnibus bill.



Legislative fly-in

Over 50 Iowa electric cooperative representatives recently took part in an NRECA sponsored legislative meeting in Washington, D.C. The group lobbied members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation, House Agriculture Committee staff, DOE Director of Public Affairs Bob Haus and USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey. General Manager, Vicki Daily on the far right, is shown here as part of the group that shared concerns with Mr. Northey.



Director nominations for September election

As an electric cooperative, Grundy County REC is guided by an elected board of directors who represent our members' best interests when making important decisions. It is important for us to elect strong directors to our board, which is why we encourage members to run in our board elections. Not only do we need to encourage friends and family to run for board positions, but we need to get out and vote for those individuals that we think will act in the best interests of our cooperative.

The nomination process puts no limit on the number of candidates in a given district. To serve on the board: A candidate must hold an active membership and be a bonafide resident in the district he or she is to represent. A candidate cannot be in any way employed by, financially affected by or have other interests in a business which is in competition with the cooperative or its affiliates or sells its products or services to the cooperative.

All candidates should note the time requirements of a director are more than just 12 monthly meetings. Directors should be prepared to devote an average of 25-30 days annually to cooperative business-related activities.

At this time, one board seat is up for election in two of the seven cooperative districts. The elections will be held at the September 6 annual meeting. The incumbent directors whose terms expire in 2018 are: Earl Slinker, district 2, and Norbert Boyle, district 3.

If you are interested in being nominated as a director, please call the cooperative at 319-824-5251 to receive information.



Co-op representatives attend REC Day on the Hill

The sun was shining brightly as more than 200 rural electric cooperative (REC) employees and directors (pictured above), representing 38 co-ops, traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on Wednesday, March 14, to advocate on behalf of their members during the annual REC Day on the Hill. With the proposed energy omnibus bill working its way through the House, co-ops met with legislators to discuss regulatory parity and clarity, in addition to maintaining fair and affordable rates. Iowa's electric co-ops support cost-effective efficiency programs and a utility's ability to recover fixed costs associated with providing safe, reliable service, ensuring that all co-op members pay equitably to use and maintain the electric grid.

The electric co-op representatives first gathered for a briefing on state legislative issues, then met with their local elected officials during a dessert social on the first-floor rotunda of the Capitol. Legislators and visitors were able to view dozens of booths around the rotunda, sharing various ways Iowa's electric co-ops serve their members.

Your cooperative reminds you to plug into safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards, and as your not-for-profit electric utility, we are committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires (including residential fires) were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that you understand your home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into your home. You need to ensure you have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Together, let's plug into safety this May and every month.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, we encourage all members to take extra time to plug into safety.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Effective May 22, 1991, the Iowa Utilities Board passed a ruling requiring all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its memberships: If a member-consumer has a question or concern regarding his/her electric service, please write or call your local electric cooperative at the following address or phone number:

Butler County REC

521 N. Main Street, PO Box 98
Allison, IA 50602-0098
(319) 267-2726
www.butlerrec.coop

Franklin REC

1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437
Hampton, IA 50441-0437
(641) 456-2557
www.franklinrec.coop

Grundy County REC

303 N. Park Ave., PO Box 39
Grundy Center, IA 50638-0039
(319) 824-5251
www.grundycountyrecia.com

Prairie Energy Cooperative

2099 Highway 3 West, PO Box 353
Clarion, IA 50525-0353
(515) 532-2805
www.prairieenergy.coop

If your complaint is related to your cooperative's service rather than its rates, and your cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

Learn how to beat the peak

As warmer weather sets in, keeping the house comfortable switches from heating to cooling. Improving energy efficiency at home can help you and your Touchstone Energy cooperative reduce demand, saving energy and money.

Housework hiatus

Avoiding peak energy costs is a good reason to put some chores on hold until power demand dips. Consider some of the jobs one kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity can do before you use that kWh, and do these activities outside of peak hours:

- Wash three loads of laundry
- Complete one dryer cycle
- Vacuum rugs in two average homes
- Run three cycles in a loaded dishwasher

Love 78

Your heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system or heat pump can play a huge part in controlling your energy use year-round.

At 78 degrees, you are probably comfortable outside, so why not indoors? Most people won't notice much of a difference in air temperature whether the thermostat is set at 73 or raised to 78. But the closer your air conditioner or heat pump setting is to the outdoor temperature, the less your unit will run.

Share the space

Today it's common for everyone to retreat to separate spaces. Bring back family time to beat the peak.

LCD televisions generally use 60 percent as much electricity as comparably sized plasma models. One laptop computer uses about 20 percent as much power as a desktop computer and monitor. A video game console consumes about 200 watts of power. One system for competition between family members in one room uses about a third of the power of three players engaged in online games around the house.

Finish the space with energy-efficient LED fixtures for lighting, a couple sets of headphones and a few rechargeable power boosters for the family's handheld devices. You'll have a cool and fun place to spend a few hours with the family.

Change Habits to BEAT THE PEAK

You can beat the peak (and save money!) by decreasing your power use when energy demand and prices are at their highest. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Laundry for Less:

Full loads mean fewer cycles, and washers and dryers run in the late evenings add less heat and humidity to the home. Energy can cost less outside of peak hours.



Cool Off/Calm Down:

Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat, resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember, lower fan settings use less energy.

Intramural Competition:

Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, gaming console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen and save.



Countertop Convenience:

Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, induction cooktops, Crock-Pot® and toaster ovens put more cooking heat where you need it.

Stay Back!

Know the difference between types of lines and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware that it could be live and dangerous!

Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and can be easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.

Cable Wire

Cable lines are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.

Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.

Energy Star appliance rebates

Check out our rebates for new, ENERGY STAR rated appliances installed at members' locations:

- Clothes Dryers – \$50
- Clothes Washers – \$50
- Dishwashers – \$25
- Freezers – \$25
- Refrigerators – \$25



Be sure to check the Energy Guide for the Energy Star label on the bottom right of the guide.



(L to R) Grundy's line crew: Steve Ralston; Aaron Bird; Tony Sienknecht; Eric Freese; Rod Curren, operations manager; and Karl Nielsen.

Lineman celebrated

If the power is on where you are reading this article, you likely have a lineman to thank!

Linemen have existed for as long as electricity has been a standard part of modern living. Without them there would be no power lines carrying electricity to our homes and businesses, keeping the lights on and the furnaces going and ensuring that we have the warm glow of the TV to curl up around as the night creeps in.

Linemen are often called to do their jobs in the most dangerous of conditions and facing the worst weather the world has to offer. After all, we rarely lose power on a windless sunny day, now do we? Of course, even the best of conditions leaves them handling wires that carry thousands of volts of electricity pushing thousands of amps (that's the stuff that kills you) every day. But when the chips are down and Mother Nature is doing her worst, these are the people who will be out there restoring power, setting up emergency systems to carry us through and putting life back in order when the storms have finally passed.

Lineman Appreciation Day was celebrated at the cooperative in April, but whenever you see a lineman, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, day in and day out regardless of the conditions!



Grundy County REC lineman building a new line to replace the old underbuild on ITC's line. Karl Nielson is in the bucket, while Eric Freese is using the ground controls. Tony Sienknecht and Aaron Bird are lending a helping hand.



(L to R): Rod Curren, Steve Ralston and Tony Sienknecht

Employee news

Rod Curren will be stepping down from his position as operations manager on June 1 closing out 33 years of service to the cooperative. Rod leaves the system in good shape for the employees and member-owners. We thank Rod for his years of service and wish him the very best in the years to come.

Steve Ralston, line foreman, has been named to succeed Curren. Steve, a veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corp., brings over 20 years of cooperative line service to his new position.

Tony Sienknecht, lead lineman, will replace Ralston as line foreman. Tony has 16 years of service with Grundy County REC.

Steve and Tony bring plenty of experience to their new positions and look forward to serving our membership!

Jodi Johannsen joins Grundy County REC

Grundy County REC would like to welcome our new billing clerk, Jodi Johannsen, who joined us March 5. She lives in Lincoln with her husband John and youngest son Matt, a senior at Gladbrook-Reinbeck High School. Jodi's older son Adam lives near Gladbrook.



Jodi Johannsen, Grundy County REC's newest employee

Jodi and John have been Grundy County REC members since 1995. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family in Clear Lake during the summer and shopping with friends. Please welcome Jodi to Grundy County REC.

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 GENERAL MANAGER: Vicki Daily

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