

in touch

WITH MEMBERS OF GRUNDY COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Grundy County REC annual meeting report

Thursday evening, Sept. 6, Grundy County REC conducted its 82nd annual meeting at the Grundy Center Community Center. An audience of about 125 members and guests were in attendance.

President Kevin Pruisner of Dike conducted the business meeting. Director Norbert Boyle, Ackley, District 2, was re-elected, and newcomer Nick Strohhahn, Reinbeck, District 3, was elected. Both will serve three-year terms as board directors.

Secretary Norb Boyle read the Notice of the Annual Meeting. President Pruisner and General Manager Vicki Daily reported on the accomplishments, activities and services of the cooperative. The evening's guest speaker, Kenneth Kuyper, EVP/General Manager of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, spoke about power supply and generating with renewable resources.

An organizational meeting was held immediately following the annual meeting, and the officers for the coming year will be: president, Kevin Pruisner; vice president, Norbert Boyle; treasurer, Jason Paper; secretary, Larry Rohach; and assistant secretary/treasurer, David Schmidt.

Winners of five \$100 cash prizes were: Jeffrey Palmer, Traer; Nathan Wrage, Gladbrook; JoAnn Hippen, Parkersburg; Mark Schildroth, Reinbeck; and Steven Rash, Clutier. The winner of the electric grill was Betty Hayek, Clutier.



Annual meeting cash prize winners.



2018 annual meeting attendees.



Left to right: Dean and Linda Eslinger provided delicious ice cream, while Jodi Johannsen and Darcy Rhoads served assorted cookies and coffee.



Line crew: Steve Ralston, Erik Freese, Tony Sienknecht, Tyler Thomas, Karl Nielsen, Jacob Paulding and Aaron Bird showed off our new remote-controlled digger derrick.

SAFE, RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ENERGY.

THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.

The energy landscape may be changing, but we'll never lose sight of who we're working for.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH WE'RE PROUD TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS

We will be closed for Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 12

VETERANS DAY
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Join us at the polls on Nov. 6

Our co-op's number one priority is providing our members with



safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Not only does this require stringing and maintaining power lines, it requires political engagement.

That's why we're participating in a national program of America's electric cooperatives called Co-ops Vote.

Co-ops Vote encourages all co-op members to participate in national, state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role of electric cooperatives.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016 as a non-partisan get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the presidential election.

Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we are all involved, we can make things happen.

Our participation in Co-ops Vote helps to ensure that rural issues remain part of the national discussion—and are supported by our elected officials.

You can participate by registering to vote and committing to cast your ballot on Nov. 6. If you're interested in getting more involved, just give us a call or visit www.vote.coop to learn more about the upcoming elections and access online tools that can help you participate. We look forward to seeing you at the polls on Election Day!

Helping members in need

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

You may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your electric bill—even just a dollar a month—or a one-time contribution to help others.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

Be safe when you light up the night on Halloween



Christmas is no longer the only holiday that we bring out lights and yard decorations to show our festive spirit. Halloween has become a time to string up lights, plug in fog machines,

light up those electric powered decorations and create a yard that is scare-worthy to any trick-or-treater that may stop by.

Safe Electricity offers these tips to make your Halloween safe and fun:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration for cracking, fraying or bare wires.
- Replace any damaged decorations.
- Make sure any lights, animated displays or other electrical outdoor products are Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and marked for outdoor use.
- Follow the care and instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- Keep electrical cords out of walkways.
- Turn off all electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

RECare Consumer Authorization Form

- I will contribute \$_____ per month. I understand this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- I will make a one-time contribution of \$_____ to RECare. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Account Number _____

Return to your local
Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Cooperatives see the future

Dramatic changes are transforming the energy industry. Luckily, your cooperative is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led

October is National Co-op Month, the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their members.

Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving member expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.

Co-ops are a catalyst for good

Co-ops engage their members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their members.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op.

The co-op business model is unique. It is mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice. Co-ops have earned that trust because they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve.



Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility



Technology breaches—think customer credit card data being stolen from Target, or consumer data being stolen from Experian—have become more commonplace. Our new reality is increased security measures and constant monitoring of organizational and personal data to ensure our identities, credit card numbers or bank accounts have not been compromised.

This has made many realize that keeping systems secure is everyone's responsibility to keep critical personal and organizational data safe.

It can seem a little overwhelming at times, and the idea that the next threat is always lurking around

the corner can be stressful. But there are things you can do to protect your personal data.

Keep your defenses up

- Keep your computer software updated with the latest software to ensure security patches can succeed in blocking security threats.
- Create a strong password and keep it private—it could take up to two centuries to crack a password consisting of 12 characters or more.
- Treat all Wi-Fi networks as a potential security risk. Never check financial or other sensitive accounts when using public Wi-Fi.

Don't fall for a phishing

- Be on the lookout for emails, phone calls and other messages that try to get to secure data. Trust your instinct.
- Don't click on links or attached files in emails or text

messages from senders you don't know. Even if you do know the sender, hover over the link before you click as they may have been hacked or someone could be spoofing them. There are many ways to spot a phishing. Visit staysafeonline.org.

Co-ops are working together

Electric co-ops—with the Department of Energy and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)—are working together, through the RC3 Program, to better protect us from security threats. From the smallest co-op with limited access to technology staff to the largest co-op with greater resources, NRECA and America's electric cooperatives are creating a co-op network that fosters a culture of cybersecurity. Keeping your information safe is a top priority for your cooperative.

Remember: When keeping data safe, you are the first line of defense against cybersecurity threats.

Cooperative news



Cooperative employees recently enjoyed a Waterloo Bucks home game. The Bucks didn't win, but we still had fun!

Right: Waterloo Bucks busy mascot "Bucky" took time out for a picture with our Scott Kuiper.



Tony and Marci Sienknecht chose to celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary with their co-op family at the Bucks game!



Lineman Erik Freese and wife Kaitlyn recently announced the birth of their son Dylan born August 17. He joins brother Bentley and sister Kaylor. Welcome Dylan to our co-op family.



Larry Rohach, Kevin Pruisner and Vicki Daily recently met with Representative Pat Grassley to discuss the upcoming legislative priorities.

Grundy County Fair



Grundy County REC employees Darcy Rhoads, Scott Kuiper and Michael Geerdes each took turns talking with people from Grundy County about services that the co-op offers. GCREC also held a drawing to win a new electric smoker. The winner of the smoker was member Darwin Cannegieter, Dike (above left being congratulated by Michael Geerdes).

Co-op Connections® Card

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



We are happy to announce that we have some new businesses participating in the Co-op Connections® Card. Check our website to find out what these businesses are offering. Present your card at the business to receive the discount.

Crazy Daisies, Grundy Center
319 Décor & Design, Grundy Center
The Landmark Bistro, Grundy Center
Tasty House, Grundy Center

Gift for co-op month

October is National Co-op Month! In recognition, we at the Grundy County REC want to celebrate you, our member-owners. Throughout the month of October, when you stop into the office you will receive a gift from us, and your name will be entered for a chance to win a \$100 energy certificate!*

*One entry per membership

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