COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Four ACEC linemen travel north to help restore power.
As Time Goes By

The song “As Time Goes By” from that famous movie “Casablanca” is one of my favorites and seems particularly appropriate right now. This marks my last newsletter feature as after 29+ years at the Cooperative, I will be retiring on May 31. It’s been a great ride and I have mixed emotions about retiring but in my heart, I know it’s time to move on to something different. I don’t yet know exactly what that may be but I don’t plan to sit around watching old movies on TV. What I do know is that I’m leaving the Cooperative in the good and capable hands of the employees, the board of directors and incoming General Manager, Hollee McCormick.

I guess it’s normal at this point to reflect on my career. It’s gone by in a flash from when I started at the Cooperative in 1989 as the Director of Operations and Engineering to my present position as the General Manager. I still take great pride in the many engineering, line construction and maintenance projects that I have been involved with over the years, and I know that we have done a lot to assure the continuity and ongoing reliability of the Cooperative. My wife Mary, on the other hand, probably gets tired of me pointing out all of those projects whenever we travel through the area.

Over the years I have really come to appreciate the Cooperative business model. The 7 Cooperative Principles that are the foundation of that model are fully etched into my brain. It’s a great model that works particularly well within a rural area like ours, where we are so inter-dependent on other like-minded individuals and organizations. The idea of being owned by those we serve is very powerful and assures that everything we accomplish is done with the best interests of our member-owners at heart. It’s a model that also shouldn’t be taken for granted, particularly in an age where bigger is often perceived as better and corporate profits often take priority over values.

Thinking back over the years and as I am fond of telling our kids, “It was a simpler time”. Sure, there have always been challenges and change is constant, but the electric utility industry of the past truly was simpler. Now we are faced with all kinds of new issues: Environmental factors like global warming; integrating technologies such as renewable resources into the power supply; emerging technologies like electric vehicles and energy storage systems; cyber security threats; the growing complexities of the regional generation and transmission grid; and political and regulatory uncertainty to name a few. Despite these growing complexities, I have no doubt that the cooperative business model can adapt and even thrive under all of these changes. I likewise have no doubt that the cooperative of tomorrow will be just as relevant and important to the lives of its member-owners as it has been for the past 80 years. 1607

I’ve never been one to spend a lot of time looking in the rearview mirror, preferring instead to concentrate on moving forward into the future. Maybe in retirement I will find a growing preference to reflect, but I still find adapting to the future to be an exciting and fascinating venture. Sure, I can get as frustrated with technology as the next guy, but I like the challenge too. I think the people here at the Cooperative are a lot like that as well. They know that they can’t rest on their past laurels and are constantly looking for ways to improve on systems, procedures and performance. It’s a never-ending job, but I have every faith that they will continue in those efforts on your behalf. As for me, I’m going to enjoy watching the Cooperative from my newfound vantage point as a retiree. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. It has truly been an honor.

Evergreen

An easy way to support renewable energy

Would you like to support renewable energy, but think it’s too expensive? Thanks to Evergreen, it only takes $1 per month to start. Evergreen is a green power program available to all co-op members that supports electric generation by wind, solar, landfill gas-to-energy and animal waste-to-energy. Members can purchase 100 kilowatt-hour blocks at $1 per month, which is added to your monthly Allamakee-Clayton statement. Renewable energy makes up 18 percent of Dairyland Power Cooperative’s generation portfolio and the number continues to grow with member support of Evergreen. For more information or to sign up for this green power program, call the co-op at 888-788-1551.
The power of human connections

**1. Voluntary and Open Membership**
Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**2. Democratic Member Control**
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

**3. Members' Economic Participation**
Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

**4. Autonomy and Independence**
Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

**5. Education, Training and Information**
Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

**6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**7. Concern for Community**
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

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The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts providing retail electric service to more than 42 million consumers in 47 states and whose retail sales account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States. Learn more at NRECA.coop

NRECA
A Member-Driven Cooperative

MAY 2019
2019 CAREER EXPLORATION FAIR

Fifteen area middle schools sent 7th and 8th grade students to learn about local careers during the Career Exploration Fair at Upper Iowa University last month. Co-op linemen Jason Donnelly and Jason Nefzger represented Allamakee-Clayton and talked with students about the variety of careers available at an electric cooperative, including the duties and responsibilities of being an electric lineman. The event, held on April 17, was sponsored by Upper Iowa University and Northeast Iowa Community College.

(l-r) Co-op linemen Jason Nefzger and Jason Donnelly assist students with maneuvering a fiberglass extendo stick, which is often used by linemen engaged on live-line working to protect them from electric shock.

CO-OPS ON THE HILL 2019

This week over 40 Iowa electric cooperative representatives flew to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2019 NRECA Legislative Conference. Together with more than 2,000 of their fellow cooperative representatives from across the nation, Iowa managers, directors, and employees spent three days sharing the electric cooperative story in Washington.

Advocates heard speeches from high-ranking policymakers including several Members of Congress and Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Neil Chatterjee. They also participated in breakout sessions in which NRECA staff gave policy briefings and tips on how to effectively advocate on Capitol Hill.

In addition to NRECA-sponsored activities, advocates were able to lobby members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation and their staff, staff from the Executive Office of the President, and USDA under Secretary Bill Northey. Issues discussed include protecting cooperatives’ not-for-profit status, rightsizing pension premiums, protecting Iowa’s power supply, and improving rural infrastructure and broadband access.

The group was well received in every meeting, underscoring the continuing success of Iowa electric cooperatives’ advocacy efforts. Not only were advocates successful in sharing the cooperative point of view on important federal issues, but were also effective at maintaining and building with Washington policymakers. Iowa’s electric cooperatives will return to Washington, D.C. in September.
WINTER STORM WESLEY
Cooperation Among Cooperatives

With warmer temperatures settling in, it might be difficult to remember the brutal storm that hit the upper Midwest in early April. The massive storm delivered substantial ice accumulations and high winds along Iowa’s northern border and throughout Minnesota, causing broken poles and ice-packed conductor wire to fall to the ground. Linemen worked hard, battling high winds, to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric crews were out all night the evening Winter Storm Wesley rolled in from the west across the Cooperative’s service territory. Multiple power outages that evening caused by high winds and trees falling on lines were mostly contained to Allamakee County. After working through the evening and into the next morning, power had been restored to most of the Cooperative’s members by noon the following day when a large pine tree took a three-phase line out of service 2 miles east of Waterville. This affected power to nearly 400 members in Clayton County, but thankfully was restored by 5:00 p.m. the same day thanks to the hard work of our linemen.

While Allamakee-Clayton was fortunate to have all power restored the next day, cooperatives north of us were not as fortunate.

MiEnergy, a rural electric cooperative that provides electric energy to nearly 22,800 services in southeastern Minnesota and northern Iowa, reported a four-day restoration event after the Cooperative recorded over 5,000 electric service interruptions and 110 broken distribution poles. Further north, Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services, a member-owned electric cooperative providing energy to more than 18,000 members primarily located in Freeborn and Mower Counties in southeast Minnesota, reported nearly 500 poles on the ground and nearly half of their members without power.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric responded to the Dairyland Power Cooperative’s Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE) request issued by Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services. Thirty-six counties were included in an emergency order issued by Minnesota governor Tim Walz due to damage caused by Winter Storm Wesley across southern Minnesota. More than 90 linemen from Iowa’s electric cooperatives headed north to help neighboring electric co-ops as they worked to restore power. Among those 90 linemen was a four-man crew from Allamakee-Clayton Electric. Jeff Cox, Travis Erickson, Ben Grangaard and Jack Regan departed co-op headquarters the afternoon of Friday, April 12 to assist Freeborn-Mower with power restoration. Allamakee-Clayton Electric is proud to support other cooperatives in accordance with the 6th Cooperative Principle: Cooperation Among Cooperatives. “I am proud of our employees and their willingness to help out during times of crisis,” said Paul Foxwell, General Manager. “We have been fortunate to more often be on the sending than the receiving end of mutual aid requests, but it’s great to know that we can rely on the Cooperative network to respond in times of need.”

Crews worked in southern Minnesota through the weekend and into the early part of the following week when they finally hit the homestretch the evening of April 16. Linemen were released to return home the morning of April 17 after power had been restored to all Freeborn-Mower members. Foxwell ended with “I want to give a personal Thank You to all who were involved in responding to this severe storm event, both within the ACEC system and beyond.”
In addition to the Cooperative’s routine construction of new service, lineworkers will be focusing on several larger overhead line replacement projects this year. Allamakee-Clayton uses data from construction work plans and long-range plans to prioritize the projects, taking into consideration the load requirements and the age and condition of the existing line.

### UNDERWAY

1. 4.9-mile three phase replacement project in Union City Township in private right-of-way in the northern part of the system.
2. 4.4-mile single phase replacement project in Auburn Township along Maple and Muskrat roads west of Eldorado.
3. 6-mile single phase replacement project in Franklin Township along Hickory Creek Road near Volney.
4. 5.6-mile single phase replacement project in Center and Lafayette Townships along Village Creek Drive and Lansing Harpers Road.

### PLANNED

5. 1.5-mile three phase replacement project in Bethel Township along 245th Street east of Alpha.
6. 2.1-mile three phase replacement project in Center and Lafayette Township.

### CONTRACTED

7. 3.8-mile two phase replacement project in Edan Township along 275th Street south of Waucoma.
8. 3.8-mile single phase replacement project in Franklin Township along Deer Road south of Volney.
9. 4.1-mile single phase replacement project in Lodomillo Township along Crystal Road east of Strawberry Point.
10. 3.2-mile single phase replacement project in Millville Township along Mesquite Road. 6046
11. 1.3-mile single phase replacement project in Jefferson Township along Highway 52 south of Guttenberg.
12. 2.2-mile single phase replacement project in Center Township along Sycamore Road and Schaffer Hollow Road southeast of Churchtown.
13. 5.5-mile single phase replacement project in Sperry Township along Crystal Road and Saint Sebald Road south of Volga.

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**GROW THE MESSAGE OF SAFETY**

Planting season is a busy and stressful time for farmers. Safe Electricity reminds farmers to:

- **STAY IN** your vehicle or machinery if it comes in contact with a power line; DO NOT get out.
- **LOOK UP** to avoid machinery/power-line contact (long extensions or tall antennas can get caught).
- **ALWAYS HAVE 10 FEET** of clearance surrounding the live lines – even if no contact is made, an electrical current can arc or jump.
- **STAY AWAY** from a sagging or downed line; call 9-1-1 to have the utility dispatched.
- **USE A SPOTTER** with a broad vantage point when operating machinery around power lines.
- **TEACH** the 10-feet clearance rule to anyone working on your farm and review power line locations.
Have an idea for a recipe topic? We'd love to hear it.
Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or jm McIntyre@acrec.coop.
You’ll receive a $5 bill credit if your recipe is printed.
Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before intended publication.

June—KIDS COMING HOME SOON?
What’s that one must-make recipe when they’re home?
July—SMOOTHIES
August—NO BAKE COOKIES

**BLUEBERRY BRUNCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 c. French bread, cubed</td>
<td>¾ c. milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 oz. frozen blueberries</td>
<td>½ c. maple syrup</td>
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<tr>
<td>(or 3 c. fresh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 oz. cream cheese, softened</td>
<td>10 eggs, beaten</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 c. sour cream</td>
<td>1 tsp. cinnamon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾ c. packed brown sugar</td>
<td>1 tsp. vanilla</td>
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Spray 9” x 13” glass baking dish, add cubed bread and top with blueberries (reserving some for topping). In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sour cream, sugar, milk and syrup. Beat until smooth. Add eggs, cinnamon and vanilla. Beat until blended; pour over berries. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight. Remove from refrigerator for 30 minutes before baking. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake covered for 30 minutes. Uncover and continue baking 20-25 minutes or until no visible liquid egg remains. Sprinkle remaining blueberries on top. Serve with additional maple syrup if desired. Refrigerate leftovers.

*Irma Kime, Fayette*

**EGG HASHBROWN BAKE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 c. frozen hash browns, thawed</td>
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<td>3 c. cheddar cheese, shredded</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ c. chopped onion</td>
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<tr>
<td>¾ tsp. salt</td>
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<td>¼ tsp. pepper</td>
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<td>2-3 c. cooked ham, diced</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 eggs, beaten</td>
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<tr>
<td>1½ c. milk</td>
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Mix hash browns, 2 cups of the cheese, onion, salt and pepper and put in a greased 13” x 9” glass baking dish. Place diced ham on top. Combine eggs and milk and pour over ham. Top with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes. I have made this without thawing the hash browns.

*Judy Wiemerslage, Dorchester*

**FROZEN FRUIT CUPS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-6 oz. can frozen lemonade</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-6 oz. can frozen orange juice</td>
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<tr>
<td>2½ c. water or 7-UP</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ c. sugar</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-20 oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pkgs. frozen or fresh strawberries</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5 sliced bananas</td>
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Mix lemonade, orange juice, water or 7-UP and sugar. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into plastic cups and freeze. Serve frozen.

*Bonnie Pape, West Union*

**BRUNCH CASSEROLE**

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<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32 oz. frozen hash browns</td>
<td>1 small onion, chopped (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 c. ham, chopped</td>
<td>4 eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 c. cheddar cheese, shredded</td>
<td>1 c. milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 c. mozzarella cheese, shredded</td>
<td>Salt and pepper to taste</td>
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Mushrooms (optional)
Red or green peppers, chopped (optional)

Grease a 9” X 13” pan. Layer hash browns, chopped ham, cheddar and mozzarella cheese and onion in pan in order given. Add optional ingredients if you wish. Beat together eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over other ingredients in pan. Refrigerate overnight, covered. Bake at 350° for 1 hour, uncovered. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 8 to 10 people.

*Dan Moon, Monona*
Congratulations to Sheilah Nelson, Dorchester and Gerald and Anita Meyer, Dorchester who found their service numbers in a past newsletter; they were awarded a bill credit. Three service numbers are hidden within the text of this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – two are worth a $5 bill credit and one is worth a $10.00 bill credit. To claim the credit, the number must be yours and you need to notify us when you find it.