

ACEC NEWS

MAY 2022 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 05

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

*Plug into
Safety*

HELPING OUR
NEIGHBORS

Operation Round Up
Program kicks off



CO-OP'S 2022
CONSTRUCTION PLANS



2022 SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS ANNOUNCED





A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

CO-OP VALUES TRANSLATE TO BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY

May is Electrical Safety Month, and our safety concern extends beyond our employees; our concern extends to you, our members. Please take some time to review the electrical safety information we're sharing in this month's newsletter and on our social media.

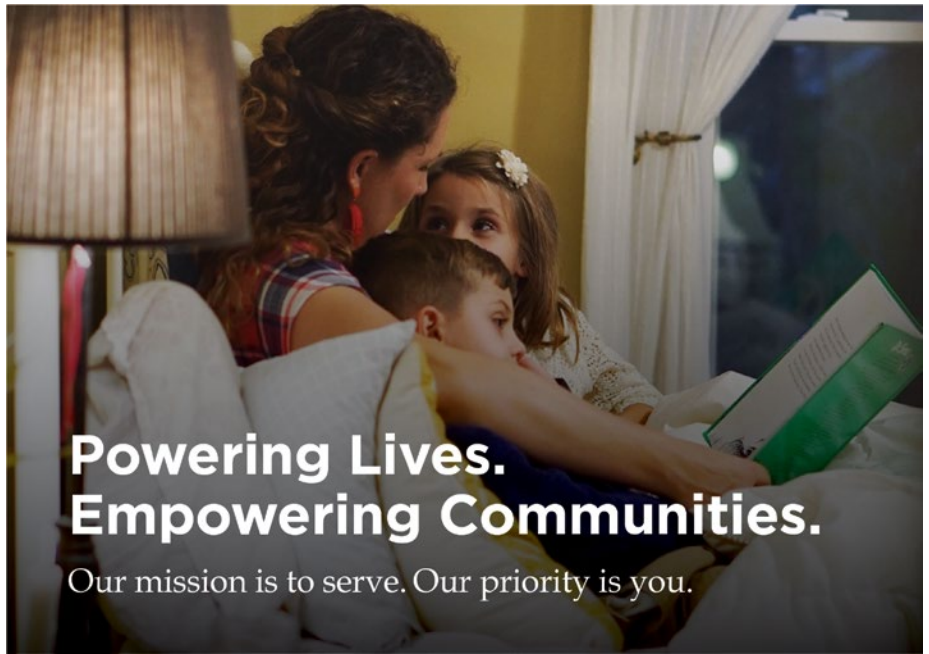
Values-focused approach

This month, I will share my thoughts on the Cooperative values and how those benefit our communities. Our members built us, and our members lead us. Whether tested by severe weather events or a pandemic, our co-op puts people first, not just during tough times but all the time. Over the years, our charitable efforts, staff volunteer hours, and other locally-focused projects have educated our youth about electrical safety, supported local schools and young people, supported local food banks, assisted families needing to keep the lights on, and much more.

Powering the local economy

We have partnered with multiple local economic development groups on projects that meet our region's evolving needs and help it thrive. We've sought and obtained over \$8 million in grants to help to deploy fiber internet to underserved communities.

The money we've spent stays right here and benefits our local economy. We've invested in the infrastructure of our co-op and community to ensure the long-term viability of both. Because when the co-op thrives, our community thrives.



Powering Lives. Empowering Communities.

Our mission is to serve. Our priority is you.

Sustainable Future

We have many energy efficiency programs to help you become more energy efficient and save you some money. We also offer numerous rebates that will put some money back in your pocket. Technology such as the SmartHub app provides more options to track energy use and help manage the costs under your control.

The energy industry is rapidly changing. In our region, the increased availability of renewables at the point of generation allows us to take advantage of more options for our energy mix. Building a sustainable future is a priority. But more importantly, while the use of renewables is increasing, we will need to incorporate other forms of energy into the mix to ensure service reliability. After all, we call solar and wind power "intermittent" power because the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow.

As a local business, we are proud of our role in helping bring good things to our community. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains constant. Working together with you and the members we serve; we'll continue to be a catalyst for good. ■

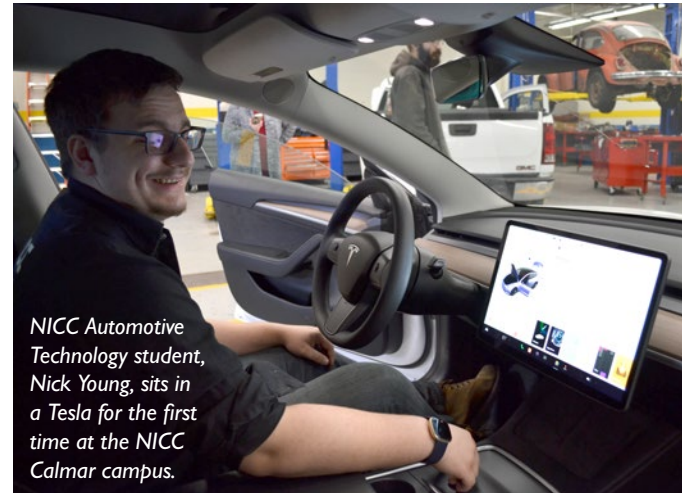
BOARD BRIEFS | April 25, 2022, Meeting

- Approved Composition of Director Districts
- Approved Board Policy 413: Qualifications for Eligibility to Serve on the Board of Directors
- Approved voting delegates for Dairyland Power's Annual Meeting in June
- Approved allocation of 2021 Margins
- Approved a territory release to Alliant Energy
- Approved 2022 Nominating Committee
- Approved 2022 changes to statewide Operating Procedures and Policies
- Approved a newly developed C & I Rate for large loads
- Approved a \$350,000 RLF Loan to Walke Dentistry
- Approved a \$250 Cost-Share Application with Clayton County Development Group

PLUGGED IN: NICC students gain Tesla knowledge

The Cooperative loaned our Tesla Model 3 to the North Iowa Community College Automotive Department. From learning how an EV is engineered to experiencing firsthand how it drives, this gave them an opportunity to explore a 100% electric vehicle. “Having a fully electric vehicle gave our students a chance to see firsthand how they operate,” said Todd Hills, Northeast Iowa Community College Automotive Technology Instructor. “They got to see how sophisticated, yet simple the Tesla electric powertrain system is.”

Curious about an EV? Give us a call!



NICC Automotive Technology student, Nick Young, sits in a Tesla for the first time at the NICC Calmar campus.

NICC automotive technology students, under the direction of NICC's Automotive Technology Instructor, Todd Hills, welcome the co-op's Tesla for a few days to examine and learn.

2022 CAREER EXPLORATION DAY



720 Eager 8th graders from area schools visited with representatives a business booth last month during the Upper Iowa University/Northeast Iowa Community College Career Exploration Fair at the Fayette Campus. 1199-20-XX

Among those business representatives were ACEC's Aandi Deering (stake engineer) and Ryan Wagner (member services manager) representing the Cooperative. Ryan, an electrician, and Aandi, a former lineworker, discussed career options with the students, and educated students on electrical safety. ■



OPERATIONS UPDATE

Nine Projects in 2022

In addition to the Cooperative's routine construction of new services, 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.

NINE COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS PLANNED THIS YEAR

UNDERWAY

1. 8.2-mile, single-phase line replacement project in Mallory Township along Wayman Rd and Igloo Rd, South of Garber.
2. 5.8-mile, single-phase line replacement project in Dover Township along King Rd and Jolly Rd Northeast of Eldorado.
3. 3.8-mile single-phase line replacement project in Windsor Township along Hwy 18 West of West Union.

PLANNED

4. 2.9-mile, single-phase line replacement project in Cass Township along Cedar Ave East of Strawberry Point.
5. 4.2-mile, three-phase line replacement project in Clayton Township along 190th St and Keystone Rd South of McGregor.
6. 1.6-mile, three-phase line replacement project in Dover Township along Granite Rd East of Eldorado.

CONTRACTED

7. 2-mile, single-phase line replacement project in Dover Township along 292nd St East of Eldorado.
8. 4.6-mile, single-phase line replacement project in Auburn Township along Pilot Rd West of Auburn.
9. 5.9-mile, single-phase line replacement project in Linton Township along Suttle Creek Rd.



Jason Troendle | Director,
Operations & Engineering



ACEC joins Operation Round Up

What started as a simple idea in 1989 at a South Carolina electric cooperative is today a fundamental program that touches so many.

Allamakee-Clayton is pleased to announce we have joined the Operation Round Up Program. "All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including 'Concern for Community'," said Brenda Hackman, economic development and community relations manager. "The Operation Round Up program perfectly embodies this core principle; it is a charitable program unique to electric cooperatives designed to

provide financial assistance to support and improve non-profit organizations and communities throughout the ACEC service area." To date, there are over 325 cooperatives that have already adopted the Operation Round Up program. How does the program work?

By voluntarily "rounding up" your electric bill and contributing a few cents

every month, you can help support local non-profits and charities. Collectively, we can use that small change to make an overwhelming difference. For example, if your bill were \$110.70, you would "Round Up" to \$111.00. The additional 30 cents would go directly to the Operation Round Up fund. The average annual contribution is \$6 a year, and the most a member could contribute a year is \$11.88 or 99 cents a month. If members choose to participate in the program, they will see their monthly donation on their billing statement. They also will receive



2022 Co-op Scholarship Winners

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative has awarded more than \$4,000 in scholarships to seven graduating seniors who plan to further their education in an electric-related field. Congratulations to these deserving students!



Whalen Hill | Lansing
Kee High School

\$1,000

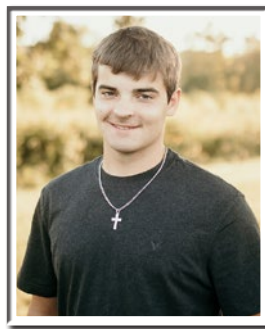
Northwest Iowa Community
College, Sheldon
Electrician



Dylan Ludovissy | Holy Cross
Clayton Ridge High School

\$1,000

Northeast Iowa Community
College, Calmar
Industrial Electrician



Nick Goltz | Waukon
Waukon High School

\$500

Southwest Wisconsin Technical
College, Fennimore, Wisc.
Lineworker



Austin Schutte | Castalia
Postville Junior-Senior High

\$500

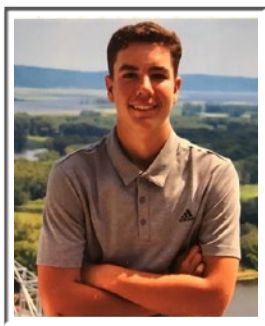
Southwest Wisconsin Technical
College, Fennimore, Wisc.
Lineworker



Raymond Bresnahan | Waterville
Waukon High School

\$350

Northwest Iowa Community College,
Sheldon
Lineworker



Jaylen Drape | Lansing
Kee High School

\$350

Northeast Iowa Community
College, Calmar
Electrician



Kelton Loomis | Hawkeye
North Fayette Valley High School

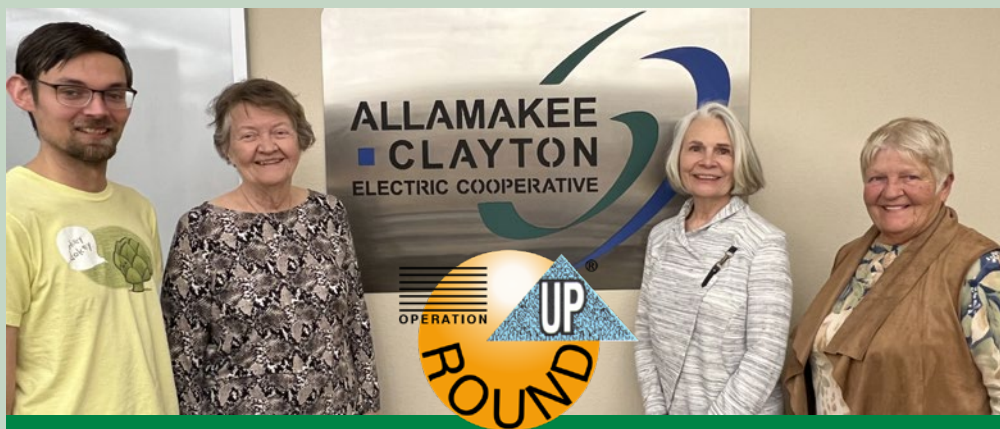
\$350

Kirkwood Community
College, Cedar Rapids
HVAC

a year-end report that shows the amount contributed, which is tax-deductible as tax laws permit. 4655-23

If you would like to participate in giving back to your community, you will need to sign up for the ACEC Operation Round Up by going to our website at acrec.com/OperationRoundUp or completing and returning the form we will include with next month's billing statement.

If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Hackman at 563-605-6026 or bhackman@acrec.coop.



The Allamakee-Clayton Board of Directors chooses individuals to serve on the Operation Round Up Trust Board; the trust board is separate from the ACEC Board of Directors. The Trust Board members meet bi-annually to choose where to donate the funds. ACEC Operation Round Up Board of volunteers are, l – r: Andy Kelleher-Board Member; Julie Ahrens-Chair; Betty Steege-Vice Chair; Jane Hasek-Treasurer; Missing from photo Vicky Peterson-Secretary

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Plug into Safety

I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month. Throughout the entire month, the Cooperative is sharing safety tips and reminders to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is misused.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO YOU

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members and the public, and this month we make an extra effort to encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted because of electrical fires in their own homes.



Educating people on the dangers of electricity, ACEC frequently participates in safety demonstrations in local schools and community events throughout the year.

The Cooperative routinely participates in safety demonstrations in local schools and community events, focusing on promoting safety education in our communities. We frequently provide electrical safety content on local radio stations, on social media, and

in our monthly newsletter and bill inserts. We encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity and serve as your trusted energy advisor.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO EMPLOYEES

Safety is a top priority at the Cooperative. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. ACEC is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers must always wear personal protective equipment when on the job. This PPE includes special fire-resistant clothing that

will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from arc flash and burns. Insulated electrical tools and equipment and rubber gloves and sleeves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. ACEC's Safety Committee, comprised of employees from various departments, discusses essential safety

Brad Pecinovsky, Compliance & Training Coordinator. Shared employee with MiEnergy Cooperative and Heartland Power Cooperative.

issues about work within the building and out in the field.

As the compliance and training coordinator, it's my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit www.SafeElectricity.org and www.esfi.org

to learn more. Watch our social media pages about how to keep you and your loved ones safe. ■ 6637T

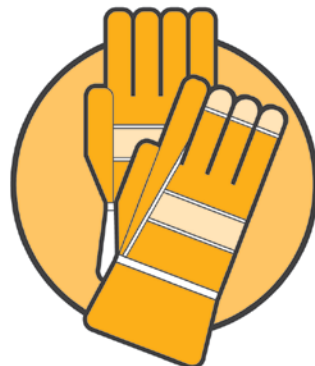
Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord.



Only use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the light fixture.

Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



- 1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.**
Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
- 2. Make sure the electrician is insured.**
Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
- 3. Read *all* the reviews.**
Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
- 4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.**
Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).
- 5. Talk timeline.**
Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.



MEMBER RECIPES



ROASTED BABY POTATO AND GREEN BEAN SALAD

- 25 mini potatoes
- 10 Garlic cloves, peeled
- ¾ c. Fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 c. Fresh raw green beans, chopped
- 4 T. Olive oil, divided
- ¼ tsp. Salt
- ¼ tsp. Pepper
- 1 T. Rice vinegar

Drizzle potatoes and garlic with 3 T. olive oil, salt, and pepper, stir to coat. Roast at 425° for 30 minutes, or until tender. When cool, toss with cilantro and green beans, and dress with 1 T. olive oil and rice vinegar. Enjoy!

Hallie Evans, New Albin

CONFIRMATION POTATOES

I have a feeling these were named as such because when there was a confirmation party it was a bet these potatoes would be served. They are good and feed a bunch of folks! (I suppose you could cut the recipe in half!)

- 2 lb. Bag of shredded frozen hash browns
- 12 oz. Sour cream
- 2 c. Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 Can cream of chicken soup
- ¾ c. Melted butter (divided)
- 2 c. Corn flakes, crushed

Mix together the first five ingredients plus ½ c. butter. Spread into a well-greased 9" x 13" baking dish. Mix together ¼ c. butter and corn flakes and spread over top of potato mixture. Bake for 1 ½ to 2 hours at 350°. Yield 12-15.

Becky Engelhardt, Postville

Looking for a PAST newsletter recipe?

We've uploaded every recipe that we have printed in our newsletters to acrec.com/member-recipes. Search through hundreds of recipes by a specific name or by category.

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jmcintyre@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–STRAWBERRIES July–PEPPERS

SCALLOPED POTATOES WITH HAM AND CHEESE

- 1 Can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 Can Cream of chicken soup
- ½ c. Milk
- ¼ tsp. Garlic salt
- ½ tsp. Pepper
- 8 lg. Potatoes, peeled and sliced
- 3 c. Ham, cubed
- 2 c. Colby Jack or cheddar cheese, shredded

Mix soups with milk and spices. Pour over potatoes and mix. Add ham and cheese and stir well. Pour into a greased 9" x 13" pan. Cover with foil and bake at 350° for 2 hours. Remove from oven and let stand for about 10 minutes. Potatoes will become thicker as they cool.

Nancy Moon, Monona

CREAMY POTATOES

- 8 c. Potatoes, hot and mashed
- 8 oz. Cream cheese softened
- 2 Eggs (beaten)
- 8 oz. Sour cream
- ⅔ c. Onion, chopped
- Garlic powder (to taste)
- Salt and pepper (to taste)

Combine potatoes and cream cheese mixing until well blended. Add dairy sour cream and remaining ingredients. Place in greased 2 quart casserole. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Or put in greased crock pot on low for 3-4 hours.

Elaine Stocks, St. Olaf

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FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to **Kevin Kester, Waterville,** and **Daniel and Lisa Berns, Postville** who found their service numbers in a past newsletter; the Cooperative awarded each a \$10 bill credit.

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – one is worth a **\$12.50** bill credit, and two are worth a **\$5** bill credit if found. The Service Location number must be yours to claim the bill credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.



CONTACT ACEC

HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715
Postville, IA 52162

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-864-7611

TOLL-FREE 888-788-1551

PAYMENT LINE 24/7 833-284-5051

UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING
811

SKYWAYS INTERNET SOLUTIONS

800-864-1611

WEBSITE

acrec.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

IOWA STATE ONE CALL

811

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RECOGNIZING THE BEST!

The Cooperative recognized these ACEC women on Administrative Professionals' Day, during a social hour at Jalapenos in Postville. Hollee McCormick, general manager, honored our six administrative professionals for going above and beyond in their incredibly diverse administrative roles. Each of these ladies helps to make ACEC a great place to work!



I-r, around the table: Donna Schultz, cashier/collections representative; Hollee McCormick; Jo Suckow, data processing clerk; Sonja Hillman, sr. customer service representative; Carol Griebenow, member services representative; Stacy Stock, operations & engineering coordinator/inventory clerk, and Genette Halverson, staff services/accounting assistant.

NOTICE

Please be aware that beginning in May, your statement envelopes will be **WHITE**, versus the yellow envelope you are accustomed to getting. This change is due to supply chain issues, and we are hoping that this will only be the case for a few months. Please watch for a white envelope.



STAY CONNECTED

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

