

October is CO-OP MONTH CYBERSECURITY MONTH

Top Performing ELECTRIC VEHICLES

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Fiber activation begins in Waukon next month. See page 7. INTRODUCING NEW Emergency Response System

Annual Meeting PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



A MESSAGE

FROM Your General Manager

Hollee McCormick EVP/General Manager

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH ONTH ONTH ONTH

IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES

October is National Co-op Month and National Cyber Security Month

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Hollee Melamick

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Just like all co-ops, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So, in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective, or socioeconomic status.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. ACEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on coop lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband, community solar program, equipment and technology upgrades, and our electric vehicle program.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Allamakee-Clayton. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. The Board of Directors allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative reflects our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which I'll elaborate on in our November newsletter.

BOARD BRIEFS

The Board held their Re-organizational Meeting before the regular board meeting. Nelson Converse was seated and took his oath of office. The election results of officers are as follows:

President—Jeff Bradley Vice President—Mike Gibbs Secretary—Cindy Heffern

Regular Board Meeting:

- Annual Meeting discussion and recap
- DPC Capital Credit Retirement (pass through to membership)
- The Board approved the 2022 IAEC Healthcare Participation Agreement; 2022 is a 10% increase, after a 10-year average of a 2.4% increase
- Jason Troendle, director of operations, and Ben Schulmeister, fleet services and equipment technician, addressed fleet plans and timelines (supply chain challenges)
- Jason Troendle presented on our very successful RESAP Recertification
- Approved a \$750 donation request to an annual membership with Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism
- Matt Marting, IT specialist, and Hollee McCormick, presented a Skyways department "year in review"
- Approved an RLF of \$89,838 to Trinity Fabricators to purchase ultra-modern CNC equipment

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔨

PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

TOP PERFORMING ELECTRIC VEHICLES

by: Maria Kanevsky





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As electric vehicles gain popularity nationwide, many car manufacturers are creating new electric models to appeal to consumers. Electric vehicles may have higher sticker prices than traditional gaspowered vehicles, however, their lifetime costs can end up being less due to lower maintenance and fuel costs.

Since electric vehicle technology is constantly improving and prices keep decreasing, consumers are starting to consider electric vehicles for their next purchase. There's an electric model out there for everyone, depending on your priorities and preferences.

AFFORDABILITY MATTERS

For many, affordability is most important when purchasing a new vehicle. There are several budget-friendly options for those who want an electric vehicle but don't want to break the bank. One of the most popular and affordable electric options is the Nissan Leaf. The 2020 Nissan Leaf has a Manufactured Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$31,600, according to U.S. News & World Report, and an older Nissan Leaf can be purchased for an even cheaper price. As with conventional vehicles, used (or older) electric models will typically cost less than the newest model.

Another affordable electric vehicle is the 2020 Hyundai Ioniq Electric with an MSRP at about \$33,000. The Hyundai Ioniq Electric has one of the highest MPGe ratings compared to other electric vehicles, at 133 MPGe, meaning it uses electric power very efficiently, thus needing fewer charging sessions. Additional benefits of the Hyundai Ioniq Electric include high safety scores and a long warranty.

LUXURY ON A BUDGET

For those interested in a luxury vehicle while still keeping it relatively budgetfriendly, the 2020 Tesla Model 3 could be an option to consider. With a starting MSRP of \$35,400, the car provides a sophisticated interior while delivering great efficiency and 220 miles of range.

MILEAGE RANGE IS A PRIORITY

Some consumers may instead prioritize a greater mileage range on their electric vehicle to eliminate range anxiety. Several new electric vehicle models have an especially large range. The 2020 Tesla

Model S Long Range Plus has the largest range currently available on the market at 402 miles of maximum range. Using a Tesla Supercharger for only 15 minutes can get you about 130 miles of range on the 2020 Tesla Model S. but this car comes with hefty MSRP the price tag of about \$80,000. Another option that's a little affordable more but still provides a modestly long driving range is the 2021 Chevrolet Bolt. with a maximum range of 259 miles and an MSRP of roughly \$36,600. Chevrolet The Bolt is a strong competitor among many electric



vehicles, making it a solid choice as an everyday car.

Before purchasing any new vehicle, be sure to appropriately research which model will work best for you and your family.

Having a plan for charging your new vehicle will also be critical, either at home or at public charging stations. Once you purchase an electric vehicle, let your local electric cooperative know. Many electric co-ops offer one-time rebates or special rate plans for electric vehicle owners that can help you save additional money over time when charging your new car.

Maria Kanevsky writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Source: Electric Power Research Institute



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Do Your Part— Be Cyber Smart by: Jeni Kolsrud, ACEC IT Manager

enter your virtual home. Use phrases instead of individual words to create passwords. Use

numbers in place of letters. Here is an example:

If you feel like your email or any social media

account has been compromised, the first thing

to do is change your password. Yes, this can be

inconvenient, but it may save you from a bigger

Updates/Patches: Keep your devices up to

date with the latest operating system software.

Updates contain security fixes that you do not

even realize are an opening for those bad actors.

Updates can also be a pain, as sometimes

they break software, but they are a necessary

Emails: Be wary of any emails that have

attachments or are asking you to do something.

Ask yourself, "Why is the sender reaching out

to me by email?". The email may appear to be

coming from a trusted source, but if you have

any doubt at all, don't be afraid to delete it. Slow

down and take a minute to review the message.

Then, call the sender and ask them if they sent

this email to you. You might be alerting them

Bad actors will continue to get "smarter" to

try to steal your information, so diligence is vital. None of these tips are completely fail-

proof but implementing some of these tips will

help you protect your home from cybercrime.

"ILov3Allamak33C1ayton!"

headache of a possible breach.

security feature.

of a hack as well.

It is everywhere in the news. Companies in every industry are experiencing incidents of cyberattacks, ransomware, and data breaches. But the criminals, also known as bad actors, are not just targeting companies; they are going after you too. So, we want to assure you of what we are doing internally to help protect our member's data and give some simple hints that may help protect your own devices from being attacked.

Safety is a top priority at Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, and cybersecurity is no exception. We have implemented multiple cybersecurity measures that allow us to protect your information from those bad actors. One main aspect we focus on is the human aspect, or the human firewall. Internally, we hold monthly cyber training exercises for staff to complete.



PHISHING

We also conduct "phishing" (Pronounced: fishing) training attacks. These phishing attacks attempt to "lure" staff into clicking on links that appear legitimate. Think of this phishing email as a virtual costume. When you are "phished", this email is tricking you into clicking a link or opening a file. The bad actors can then steal your personal information, such as passwords or social security numbers. These simulated phishing attacks teach our staff to stay alert and look for signs in an email that signify a cyberattack.

VISHING

Recently, we performed some "vishing" activities for cyber training. Vishing is an attempt by a bad actor to use a voice phone call to trick you into giving out your personal information, such as banking numbers or your credit card. As a reminder, Allamakee-Clayton will never call you using an automated feature to demand payment by wire transfer, gift cards, or cash reloaded cards. If you receive any automated calls asking for payment, please

hang up and call us directly at 563-864-7611.

Allamakee-Clayton is also involved in a national cooperative cyber training initiative called Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program, also known as RC3. During the last year, RC3 has prompted us to answer a series of questions that helped us to identify, detect, and protect our physical and virtual infrastructure. In addition, in September, ACEC's management staff participated in a RC3 tabletop event that took us through a simulated cybersecurity event. This tabletop exercise provided valuable training to our management staff, and we will continue to keep cybersecurity education as a priority.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the scenes, our email servers internally block thousands of spam email and legitimate phishing emails from entering our email inboxes. Along with traditional antivirus real-time scanning, we have controls in place to conduct regular port scanning functionality, as well as cyber detection software that watches for incriminating log file activity. These behind-the-scenes tools are valuable for keeping your data safe.

So, what can you do at your home or business to keep your data safe? Here are a few tips that you can implement:

Passwords: Think of passwords like keys on your keychain; passwords are how you



Graphic Designed by Elyse Fletcher, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

Thank you again to our members who were able to go through our annual meeting drivethrough this year. Please take an opportunity to complete and return the survey included with your September bill statement to provide us with feedback; all completed and returned surveys will go into a random drawing for one of three \$30 bill credits!

THANK YOU!

"Dear Allamakee Clayton Electric, this is just a note to thank you for the \$25 off my electric bill. I was so surprised when I opened the mail. I also enjoyed the hot meal, which was delicious, and thank you for the rain gauge. Mine had just been ruined by the coons. Thank you for the new poles they recently set in my yard also." **Erma Swenson—Postville**

"Thank you for the \$25 bill credit I won from the mail ballots at the Annual Meeting; also, thank you for the good service you provide our community." **Leotia Flage—Waukon**

"Allamakee-Clayton Electric Co-op, what a nice surprise in my mail today when I received your letter and gift of \$25 in your drawing at the Annual Meeting. Thank you so much." **Yvonne Lienau—Sumner**

"Thank you for the bill credit drawing I won at the 83rd Annual Meeting of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Co-op. The meal was also very good! Thank you also for the free oven mitt. Thanks again!" Michael L. Helgerson—West Union

"Thank you for drawing our name for a bill credit as part of the Annual Meeting. We enjoyed the displays and the very good meal." **Earl and Pat** Meeter—Harpers Ferry

"What a nice surprise to receive your letter informing us that our name was drawn for a \$20 bill credit. Thank you so much for the credit and also for the meal and rain gauge we received at the drive-up meeting. Thankful to have your service at our business location in Lansing and at our home north of Postville as well." Al and Shari Brink, Lucky Duck Fabrication—Lansing

"Thanks very much for the \$50 credit prize I received from the Annual Meeting. The meal was great and winning the prize was a nice surprise. Thank you again for all your good service." **Helen Duwe— Garnavillo**

"Thank you for the bill credit we won!! It was a very nice drive-through annual meeting." Al Troester-Monona

If you went through the annual meeting drive-through this year, we entered your registration card into a drawing for a bill credit or a solar panel subscription.

Congratulations to these members whose names we drew this year!

5-YR. SUNSOURCE SOLAR PANEL SUBSCRIPTION

Donald L. Treloar, Hawkeye Daryl J. Wille, Garnavillo

\$50 BILL CREDIT

Richard Dage, Waukon Helen Duwe, Garnavillo Judy K. Ferguson, Waukon Sandra Koehring, Postville Ronald K. Sass, Luana

\$20 BILL CREDIT

Ronald A. Adam, Monona Charles Berns, Jr., Waterville Kenneth Blockhus, Elgin Amanda J Bredeweg, Luana Ervin Bugenhagen, Luana Zack C. Bushman, Waukon C. Mike Carroll, Mc Gregor Hilary Davis, Mc Gregor Charles Deering, Postville Brian Envart, Postville Wayne Fish, Waukon Martin Frieden, Elgin Gerald W. Glawe, Garnavillo Una Growth, Garber Patricia Heins, Luana Michael Helgerson, West Union Leo Johansen, Elgin Ernest J. Johnson, West Union Mike Koenig, Castalia Mark Kruse, Lansing Rose E. Lansing, Elgin Mervil E. Mabb, Postville Lucky Duck Fabricating, Postville Betty L. Marmann, Elkader Robin R. Marquette, West Union Duane H. Martins, Waukon

Gene Maurer, Waterville Donald J. McCormick, Harpers Ferry Michael J McFadden, Randalia Tom Melcher, Castalia Meyer Grain Farms, Monona James H. Meyer, Garber Eddie L, Milbrandt, Hawkeye Christina C. Mueller, Postville Vicky Ney, West Union Arlen Nuehring, Monona Carroll A. Oleson, Garnavillo Dennis J. Roeske, New Albin Kevin J. Roys, Elkader Ruby Schoh, Waukon James Schultz, Mc Gregor Edith M. Seitz, Elkader Gary A. Spies, Elgin Anthony J. Tague, Castalia Allan Troester, Monona Todd D. Troester, Mc Gregor Dennis N. Turner, Postville Arlis White, Saint Olaf Willeville Cabin, LLC, Garnavillo

All mail-in ballots were entered into separate drawing for a bill credit. Congratulations to this year's winners!

\$25 BILL CREDIT -MAIL-IN BALLOT

James Brazell, Harpers Ferry Veryl Burghardt, Sumner Bradley S. Decker, Luana Leotia E. Flage, Waukon David J. Gaul, Guttenberg Jay Ranor Hoffman, Independence Yvonne M. Lienau, Sumner Louis E. Meeter, Harpers Ferry Douglas R. Moose, Luana William J. Panncke, Luana Erma J, Swenson, Postville ALLAMAKEE • CLAYTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Partnering with

Important Announcement

for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative Members

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, we value our members and are committed to providing you with safe and reliable electricity. Many homeowners aren't aware that the exterior electrical lines and certain

components on their property are their responsibility. If a breakdown to this line occurs, it is up to you to find an electrician and pay the repair costs.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative selected HomeServe to offer *optional* Exterior Electrical Line Coverage to our members. Look for more information about our new partnership in the next few weeks.

> Learn more at www.PlansACREC.com or **call** 1-833-334-1874.

843-25-XX



RELIABLE BROADBAND AMONG TOWN HALL QUESTIONS FOR HINSON IN WAUKON

Local economic development representatives attended a town hall held in Waukon last month. Congresswoman Ashley Hinson continued to follow through on her commitment to being transparent and accessible to her constituents. Among other questions, she took unfiltered questions about broadband connectivity.

I'll continue to be transparent and accessible to those I represent, and I look forward to hosting more town hall conversations soon.

CONGRESSWOMAN ASHLEY HINSON

Allamakee-Clayton Electric believes that having full internet access in rural Iowa will remove a barrier for some who struggle to participate in today's economy

"Staying in touch with our legislators is an invaluable asset to our advocacy efforts," said Brenda Hackman, ACEC's economic development manager. "We are grateful for our legislators for



Pictured (I-r): Brenda Hackman, Congresswoman Ashley Hinson, Ardie Kuhse Director of Waukon Economic Development

listening to our concerns at this time about rural broadband; connectivity is crucial."

ACEC Skyways Division is currently deploying fiber to portions of Allamakee County.





FIBER OPTIC PROJECT TO REACH MORE THAN 800 POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Activation begins next month

"With the award of three grants to deploy fiber, we knew we had a big job ahead of us," said Hollee McCormick, general manager. "The need for improved rural (and urban in many instances) internet is front and center, and when it comes to high-speed internet, fiber is truly the gold standard." We know this, but up until now, the cost has been a prohibitive factor. Federal and State grant opportunities continue to be readily available. The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa (OCIO) awarded ACEC three grant opportunities totaling just over \$5 million. The grant opportunities allow us to deploy fiber in west Waukon and northern Allamakee County.

The Cooperative's contractors have buried as much fiber as possible underground throughout the summer and into the fall. In particularly rocky and challenging terrain, we utilized our existing electric infrastructure to hang aerial fiber. If your home or business is along our fiber route, you received a letter in the mail this spring and summer informing you of this.

We plan to begin activation to fiber customers on the west side of Waukon beginning next month. In addition, we will start the activation process for the rural north Allamakee County customers in the Spring of 2022.

As of the print time of this newsletter, we plan to begin activating fiber customers on the west side of Waukon sometime in November. Unfortunately, our rural north Allamakee will likely not be ready to activate subscribers until Spring 2022.

People often ask us, "when are you coming to my area?" We must follow the guidelines and apply to serve areas deemed Targeted Service Areas or TSA's. Additionally, we are always looking at other providers' plans; we do not want to deploy fiber where another entity has existing plans soon. We intend to keep moving forward and seek opportunities to improve our area's connectivity.

"This is an exciting time for the Cooperative. Connectivity is critical today, just as electricity was in the '30s and '40s. We are happy to be able to help provide solutions that better lives and empower communities."



The Cooperative builds a fiber-optic connection in portions of west Waukon and the northern parts of rural Waukon, reaching more than 800 potential customers.





Powering lives and Empowering the communities we serve.



FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to **Gale and Kathy Koenig**, Castalia, who found their service number in a past newsletter; the Cooperative awarded them a \$10 bill credit.

ACEC has hidden **THREE** Service Location numbers within the text of this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – one is worth a **\$17.50** bill credit, one is worth a **\$10 bill** credit, and the third is 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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AL STEFFENS, Clermont

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Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc. PO Box 715 - Postville, IA 52162-0715

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INTRODUCING, a new emergency response model from FirstCall. Activation of the NEW Essence Care@Home[™] model is by voice, fall detection, or a panic button. The Essence model communicates with the strongest cell phone tower signal—**no landline required.** Enjoy peace of mind with confidence knowing help is just a voice command or the press of a button away.





Contact Sonja at **888-788-1551** with questions or to set up an installation time. **Mention you saw this ad and receive FREE installation!**

essence





Sonja Hillman FirstCall Representative

NO CONTRACT | LOCAL | SERVICE FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE TEMPORARILY DISCONNECT WITH NO FEE

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