

ACEC NEWS

OCTOBER 2024 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 10

LIHEAP INFO FOR
2024

CO-OP MONTH

ANNUAL MEETING
WINNERS



Another Great
Annual Meeting

See story
on pages

4 & 5



A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative is committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

In October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the positives of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For ACEC, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too! That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs, scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including ACEC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and

opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

1. Open and Voluntary Membership: Co-op membership is open to anyone living in our territory who can use the co-op's services. #4709

2. Democratic Member Control: Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why?

Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members. Each member gets to vote for Board Members every year.

3. Members' Economic Participation: Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At ACEC, this happens through paying your energy bills.

4. Autonomy and Independence: Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

5. Education, Training and Information: Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

7. Concern for Community: All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the value of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people--the local communities we're proud to serve. ■



BOARD BRIEFS September 30 Meeting

Re-organizational meeting

- All Directors took the Oath of Office – Board Policy 401
- Election of Officers:
 - ◆ President – Al Steffens
 - ◆ Vice President – Mike Gibbs
 - ◆ Secretary/Treasurer – Cindy Heffern
- Approved a resolution authorizing the officers and General Manager to execute documents and enter into agreements as necessary

Regular board meeting

- Heard a presentation from Ethan Squier and Hannah Hagen, our 2024 Youth Tour participants

- Fiber update from Matt Marting
- Approved 2023 Tax Returns
- Approved Dairyland Capital Credit Retirement
- Approved Policy 9.13 – Return to Work – Workplace Incidents
- Reviewed and approved the following policies: EEO, Vacation Accrual & Usage, Work Rules and Termination of Personnel, Employee Confidentiality and Proprietary Rights
- Approved a six-month deferral for the White Haus RLF
- Approved a donation request for Allamakee Economic Development

MEETING OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN D.C.

In late September, more than 20 Iowa electric cooperative advocates, including ACEC's Brenda Hackman, flew to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation during Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's Legislative Fall Fly In.

The group of electric co-op directors, managers and senior staff talked with Senator Chuck Grassley, Senator Joni Ernst, Congressman Randy Feenstra, Congresswoman Ashley Hinson, Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Congressman Zach Nunn about their concerns with how federal energy policy threatens reliable generation for Iowans.

Specifically, they discussed how the EPA's recent power plant rules jeopardize affordable and reliable electricity by forcing the premature closure of always available power plants while also

making it harder to permit, site and build critical new power plants. America's electric cooperatives oppose the EPA's power plant rules on the grounds that they are unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable.

The group also received valuable updates from USDA, NCFE, CoBank and NRECA's government relations department during the trip. ■



The 2024 Winter Preparedness Event for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) accounts is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 20.**

This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. The control event will start at 6:55 a.m. and will conclude by 11 a.m.

If you have any questions about the load control event or about your dual fuel account, please contact Ryan Wager at 888-788-1551. ■

DAIRYLAND AWARDED NEW EMPOWERING RURAL AMERICA PROGRAM GRANT

President Joe Biden joined U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack for an event Sept. 5 celebrating the award of a \$579 million New Empowering Rural America (New ERA) grant to Dairyland Power Cooperative to accelerate the clean energy transition. State and local elected officials, renewable energy, rural advancement and education representatives also joined the Dairyland event at Vernon Electric Cooperative in Westby, Wis.

The funds will develop projects totaling 1,020 megawatts (MW) of power purchase agreements for solar and wind energy installations in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Projects include 593 MW of wind, 427 MW of solar and 60 MW of energy storage. **#1279B**

"This is the most significant, transformative investment in electricity and electrification and clean energy for rural America since FDR's New Deal nearly 90 years ago," said President Biden. "That



includes Dairyland Power Cooperative that will receive \$580 million to develop purchase solar power, wind power, energy storage, right here in Wisconsin."

New ERA funding will accelerate Dairyland's carbon profile goals, resulting in a 3.3 million metric tons carbon reduction for over 70% decrease in carbon emissions. Dairyland has already retired 579 MW of coal generation since 2014 and reduced its coal generation investment by 60% since 1999. ■

We  our Members!

CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS AT THE 86TH ANNUAL MEETING

We loved seeing our members at our 86th Annual Meeting Monday, Sept. 9. We welcomed a record 287 vehicles to our drive-through meeting and had over 600 ballots returned. Thank you to everyone who attended!



Dave Decker and Kim Kloke along with nominating committee members Brian Houlihan and Randy Helgersen start with the ballot counting.



ACEC Director Roger Arthur and lineworker Josh Abbott greet members as they arrive.



Hollee McCormick chats with a member.



ACEC's Jo Suckow and Regan Jacobson were ready to take ballots as members drove through.



It was all hands on deck for serving the delicious meal. Pictured are Tim Bauch, Susan Goodman, Teri Wagner, Jason Nefzger and Jason Donnelly



Members were all smiles receiving their complimentary meals and frozen yogurt.



Hollee McCormick chats with former ACEC employee Derrick Peters.



Stacy Stock chats with a memeber waiting in line.



We were pleased to welcome nearly 300 vehicles and serve around 500 meals to our members.

We want your thoughts!

In your October bill statement, we included a survey about our Annual Meeting. Even if you didn't attend this year, we'd love to hear your feedback! Everyone who returns the survey will be entered into a drawing for one of two \$30 bill credits. #5487

All surveys must be returned by November 15 to be entered into the bill credit drawing.

Want to complete the survey online? Scan this QR code:



Did you attend the Cooperative's Annual Meeting Drive-Through?

☐ Yes
☐ No

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Service Location or Account #: _____

If yes, what is the reason you came to this meeting? (check as many as apply)

☐ Vote for a Director
☐ Win a bill credit/solar panel
☐ Because I enjoy attending the Annual Meeting, regardless of format
☐ Free to-go meal and gift
☐ I enjoy the drive-through format
☐ Other: _____

If no, why did you not attend?

☐ Conflict in time
☐ Too far to drive
☐ Other: _____

☐ I wasn't aware of it/forgot
☐ The format did not appeal to me

How did you hear about the Annual Meeting Drive-Through? (please check all that apply)

☐ Radio ad
☐ From a co-op employee
☐ ACEC's website
☐ Social media
☐ Written message on electric bill
☐ Newsletter or bill insert
☐ From a fellow ACEC member
☐ From an ACEC board director
☐ Other: _____

Would you attend the Annual Meeting next year if the meeting was in a drive-through format?

☐ Yes. Comments: _____
☐ No. Comments: _____

Additional comments: _____

Members re-elected three incumbents at the 86th Annual Meeting held in September. Jeff Bradley was re-elected to his seat in District B. Nelson Converse and Jerry Keleher were re-elected to District C.

At the September 30 Board Meeting, the board held their reorganization meeting. Al Steffens was elected as president, Mike Gibbs was vice president and Cindy Heffern as secretary/treasurer.

Besides a complimentary meal and gift, members who mailed their ballots or registered during the drive-through were entered into a drawing for prizes. The winners are listed below. Congratulations to those who were chosen! ■

DISTRICT B



JEFF BRADLEY
Wadena

DISTRICT C



NELSON CONVERSE
Postville



JERRY KELEHER
Elkader

Let's hear it for the winners!

\$50 BILL CREDIT

Patricia Heins, Luana
Gary Tilleros/Janice Cronin,
Dorchester
Dave & Laurie Martin, Waukon
Leone Zimmerman, Waukon
Gary & Nancy Klingman,
Strawberry Point
Matthew & Ann Marting, Waukon

\$25 BILL CREDIT WINNERS (MAILED BALLOTS)

Melvin & Janet Bodensteiner, West Union
Ann Marie Williams, Harpers Ferry
Joseph & Sharil Ogle, Wadena
Thomas & Marilyn Coulter,
Guttenberg
Dale Linderbaum, Monona
Ron & Theresa Heuker, Lansing
Richard & Norma Asleson,
Monona
Paul & Sharon Jirak, Harpers Ferry
Willis & Lois Ott, Elkader
Christina Mueller, Postville

\$20 BILL CREDIT WINNERS

Lester & Janet Baade, West Union
James & Janet Hoeger, Garnavillo
Una Groth, Garber
Donald Egeland, Ossian
Ryan & Dana Hogan, Waukon
Brian Houlihan, Harpers Ferry
John & Jan Cahalan, Waterville
Sharon Peters, Monona
Mason & Melissa Riehle, Castalia
Anthony & Judith Tague, Castalia
Jacob & Mariah Dougherty,
Waukon
Mary & Richard Heiden, Elkader
Dennis & Barbara Nebendahl,
Waterville
Juliann Halverson, Monona
Christina Mueller, Postville
Duane & Marlys Martins, Waukon
Vaughn & Joann Drewes, West Union
Gary Halvorson Sr., Waukon
Paul & Danielle Bakewell, Waukon

Gary & Patricia Grimm, Harpers Ferry
Robert & Jane Halverson, West Union
Connie Lauer, West Union
Lewis Bishop Jr. & Lois, West Union
Kalie Jacobson-Robles, Guttenberg
Gale & Kathy Koenig, Castalia
Joseph & Sharil Ogle, Wadena
Zachary & Rebecca Steffans,
Postville
Cyril & Jane Vorwald, Garber
Karolyn Kadera, Lansing
Derrick & Maria Peters, Postville
Neal & Debbie Steiber, Lansing
James & Jan Pfiffner, Harpers Ferry
Ronald Herman, Waukon
Ruth Atkinson, Strawberry Point
Leo & Louise Johansen, Elgin
Patricia Baumler, Wadena
Norman & Marilyn Leeman,
Postville
Elizabeth & Bruce Mueller, Postville
Kathleen & Mark Kisner, Hawkeye

Joe Duwe/Dennis Koenig, Castalia
Dummermuth Farms Inc., Elgin
Randy & Luanne Moser, St. Olaf
Patrick & Karen Whalen, Lansing
James & Victoria Baures, Lansing
David & Joy Roslien, Garnavillo
Julia Mohs, Postville
Richard & Arlis Myhre, New Albin
Ernest & Donnalee Osland,
Waukon
Jacob McCormick, Waterville
Beverly Bacon, Postville
Jack & Amy Regan, Waukon
John & Cynthia Heffern, Harpers Ferry
Blair Everman, Postville
Douglas & Kelly Moose, Luana

ONE 5-YEAR SOLAR PANEL SUBSCRIPTION

Patrick & Jane Wedo, Castalia
Timothy & Christine Enyart,
Postville

Iowa LIHEAP 2024-2025 Guidelines

Residential Members: Help with Your Heating Bill

****If you are having financial difficulties and cannot pay your electric bill, communicating with ACEC is essential. Don't ignore disconnection notices. Contact us at 1-888-788-1551 to discuss winter disconnection protection and the steps required to avoid being disconnected. Even if you don't qualify for energy assistance, the cooperative can help set up a payment plan to help members through tough times to avoid disconnection at any time of the year. ****

The 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- * Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled October 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025
- * All other households November 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

WHAT TO TAKE:

- * Proof of Income (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- * Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- * Most recent heat bill
- * Most recent electric bill

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP RECIPIENTS:

Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptance document information.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

Contact the local Community Action Agency in your area:

Allamakee County:

Waukon 955 3rd Ave NW (563) 568-4224
Postville 134 W Greene St. (563) 380-2780

Clayton County:

Elkader 600 Gunder Rd NE (563) 245-2452
Guttenberg 514 S. River Park Dr. (563) 380-3728
Monona 107 W. Center St. (563) 539-2502

Fayette County:

West Union 114 N. Vine St. (563) 422-3354
Oelwein 1 W. Charles St., Suite 5 (319) 283-2510

Winneshiek County:

Decorah 305 Montgomery St. (563) 387-4958

Income Maximums

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$30,120
2	\$40,880
3	\$51,640
4	\$62,400
5	\$73,160
6	\$83,920
7	\$94,680
8	\$105,440

Note: For households with more than eight members, add \$10,760 for each additional member.

MEMBER RECIPES

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jennifer Achenbach, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jachenbach@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 the intended publication.

November – **GLUTEN FREE**;

December – **POT LUCK IDEAS**

STRAWBERRY GLACÉ PIE

- 1 pie crust, baked and cooled completely
- 1 ½ qts. strawberries (or can use raspberries instead, if desired)
- 1 c. sugar
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- ½ c. water
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened

Directions

Mash enough strawberries to measure 1 cup. Mix sugar and cornstarch in 2-quart saucepan. Gradually stir in water and mashed strawberries. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and boils. Boil and stir 1 minute. Cool. Beat cream cheese with spoon until smooth. Spread in pie crust. Top with remaining whole strawberries. Pour cooked strawberry mixture over top. Refrigerate about 3 hours or until set. Store covered in refrigerator.

■ Abby Edminster, Postville

BANANA CARAMEL PIE

For the crust

- 12 graham cracker sheets
- ¼ c. sugar
- 6 Tbsp. butter (melted)

For pie filling

- 2 bananas
- 11 oz. soft caramels (unwrapped)
- 2 Tbsp. heavy cream (approximately)
- 1 3.5 oz. instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 3.5 oz. instant banana cream pudding mix
- 2 ½ c. milk
- 8 oz. cool whip

Directions

Crush graham crackers into a fine crumb. It should make about 1 ½ cups. Mix together the sugar with the graham cracker crumbs in a medium sized bowl. Pour the melted butter over the top of the crumbs and mix it together until you have a nice, sandy mixture. Pour the crust mixture into the bottom of a 9-inch pie crust pan and press down evenly on the bottom and up

the edges of the pan. Cut the bananas into slices and lay them over the crust. Combine the caramels and heavy cream in a small saucepan. Heat over medium until the caramels are melted and smooth, stirring the whole time. Pour the caramel over the banana slices. (You can save about ¼ c. of the caramel to reheat later and pour over the pie). Add the pudding mixes into a large bowl and add the milk and stir it together for a couple of minutes, until combined. Add 1 cup of the cool whip to the pudding mixture and fold it into the pudding. Pour the pudding mixture over caramel and smooth it across the top. Place it in the fridge to set for at least 4 hours. Top with remaining cool whip and additional bananas before serving. Drizzle with remaining caramel sauce (reheated), if desired.

■ Nancy Einck, Waukon

SOUR CREAM PEACH PIE

- 1 9 in. unbaked pie crust
- 6 fresh peaches (peel, pit and cut in half)
- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 c. sour cream
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch

Directions

Peel and pit peaches. Cut in half and arrange in a pie shell. Combine sugar, cornstarch and sour cream. Pour over peaches. Bake at 375° for 45-50 minutes.

■ Mike Kruckenberg, Postville

PEANUT BUTTER PIE

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 c. creamy peanut butter
- 1 ½ c. powdered sugar
- 12 oz. cool whip
- 1 graham cracker crust

Directions

Mix each ingredient well before adding the next. Pour into a large graham cracker pie crust. Refrigerate. Cover with cool whip as desired.

■ Dan Moon, Monona

PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

SEPTEMBER

of miles driven: **90 miles**

kWh's charged: **70 kWh**

Total cost to charge
.13 x 47kWh = **\$9.10**



CYBERSECURITY Tip of the MONTH

Don't be a skimming target

A credit card skimmer is a device placed into point-of-sale devices that covertly records credit and debit card information from the magnetic stripes of swiped or inserted cards. When your credit or debit card information gets skimmed, scammers illegally capture your card details and use them to make unauthorized transactions, create cloned cards, commit identity theft, and, if a debit card is skimmed, drain your bank account. Cybercriminals could also gain access to other accounts if additional personal information is compromised through data breaches or phishing. Protect yourself by avoiding sketchy pay terminals, inspecting card readers, covering the keypad when entering your PIN, using chip-enabled cards or opting for contactless payments and monitoring your account activity. ■

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FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to **Duane and Lela Wenig of Dorchester**. They found their service number in a recent newsletter and were awarded a \$5.00 bill credit. ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from different regions of our service area – **two are worth \$10.00 and one is worth \$5.00**. The service location number must be yours to claim the 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AL STEFFENS, President, Clermont

MICHAEL D. GIBBS, Vice President, Waterville

CINDY HEFFERN, Sec./Treas., Harpers Ferry

ROGER ARTHUR, Sumner

JEFF BRADLEY, Wadena

NELSON CONVERSE, Postville

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BRENDA HACKMAN, Manager, Economic
Development & Community Relations

JENI KOLSRUD, Manager, Information
Technology

JASON TROENDLE, Director,
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RYAN WAGNER, Manager, Member Services



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

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Last month, our lineworkers held their annual pole top and bucket rescue training. Each lineworker was timed for climbing a pole, freeing the practice dummy from the harness and carefully lowering it to the ground. Pictured is ACEC 1,000 hour summer employee Philip French, with Travis Erickson in the background in the bucket.



*Last month, **ACEC FirstCall** representative Kim Kloke presented information on our FirstCall Emergency Response System to a group of volunteers in West Union. We thank them for taking the time to learn about FirstCall. If you would like to learn more about the system or have a group that would benefit from learning more, reach out to Kim at **563-864-7611**.*