

ACEC NEWS

OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 09

ANNUAL MEETING SUCCESS



ELECTION
RESULTS

LIHEAP
2025 -2026 INFO

HAPPY CO-OP
MONTH

POWERED BY PURPOSE



**Hollee
McCormick**
EVP/General
Manager

A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

This month, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As the General Manager of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, I see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded in 1938, and it's what continues to drive decisions.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area, receive their electricity from ACEC and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at our headquarters in Postville, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure

upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. When storms hit or outages occur, ACEC crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

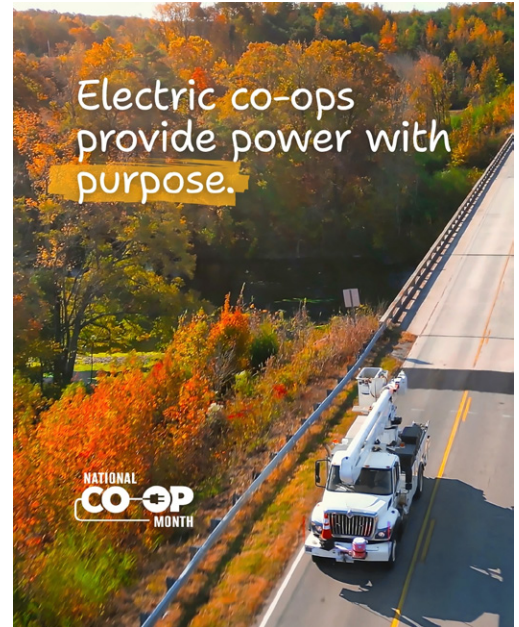
Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, partnering with volunteer organizations or helping bring broadband to rural areas, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought—it's part of our mission.

Earlier in the month, we partnered with Dairyland Power Cooperative, our G&T, along with fellow Co-op employees at Richland Power in Richland Center, Wisconsin, to clean up a portion of Yellow River State Forest as a part of Cooperative Month. Every year, Dairyland works with four to six Co-ops in its service territory to do a day of service to kick off Cooperative Month. This year, our Co-op had 14 employees and directors volunteer their time to clean up an old retention pond, as well as spruce up the headquarters. I'm proud of the work our crew put in at Yellow River and I look forward to sharing photos and more information in our November newsletter.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both. **496**

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative. ■



BOARD BRIEFS

September 29 Meeting

Re-organizational meeting

- Election of Officers:
 - ♦ President – Al Steffens
 - ♦ Vice President – Brice Wood
 - ♦ Secretary/Treasurer – Cindy Heffern

Regular board meeting

- Hayden Palmer and Olivia Enyart presented to the board regarding their experience on Youth Tour
- WinnMed CEO presented on current construction project progress and thanked the board for our assistance with the REDLG Award they received
- Reviewed Dairyland Capital Credit Information
- Approved 2026 IAEC Health Care Plan Agreement
- Annual Meeting Recap
- Approved 2025-2028 Union Contract
- Appointed Ron Hartman as District B Director
- Approved donation requests to Allamakee County Economic Development & Partners in Vocational Education

ROGER ARTHUR SELECTED FOR HALL OF FAME

Recently retired ACEC Director Roger Arthur has been selected for the Iowa Institute of Cooperative's Hall of Fame. Roger will be honored during the Annual Meeting in late November.

Roger began his career on the Co-op Board of Directors in 1992. For the next 33 years, he served on the ACEC board, in addition to being on the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) Board and the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Board. During his career, he served as the ACEC Board president for 25 years. In addition, he was elected as the IAEC Board president and served on the statewide board for 12 years. He also was elected to the CFC Board, serving two 3-year terms, including as the Board president his final year.

Congratulations Roger! ■



NOTICE

The 2025 Winter Preparedness Event for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) accounts is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 19.**



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 7 a.m. with randomized restoral from 10 to 11 a.m.

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

DAY OF SERVICE

To kick off Cooperative Month, 14 representatives from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative completed a volunteer Day of Service at Yellow River State Forest. ACEC worked with Dairyland Power Cooperative and Richland Power to complete a day of volunteer service at the forest on October 1. ■



We  our
Members!

CELEBRATING OUR 87TH ANNUAL MEETING

We enjoyed seeing our members at our 87th Annual Meeting on Monday, Sept. 8. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and those who mailed their ballots to our office. We welcomed 275 vehicles, counted over 550 ballots and served over 500 meals. Thank you for another successful year.



**We want to hear
from you!**

In your October bill statement, we included a survey about the future of our Annual Meeting. Even if you didn't attend this year, we'd like to hear your thoughts on future meetings. Everyone who returns the survey by November 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of two \$30 bill credits.

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





DISTRICT A



BRICE WOOD
LANSING

DISTRICT B



AL STEFFENS
CLERMONT



RON HARTMAN
SUMMER

It was a first for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative following the 87th Annual Meeting Sept. 8. The members re-elected Brice Wood from District A. In District B, incumbent Al Steffens was re-elected. John Bruihler was chosen to fill the seat vacated by Roger Arthur, who chose not to run for re-election after 33 years on the Board.

However, due to a family medical issue, Bruihler chose not to accept the nomination.

At the September 29 regular Board Meeting, the Board met to discuss how to fill the vacant seat. It was unanimously decided to offer the position to Ron Hartman, who was the third candidate from District B on the ballot this year. Ron accepted the position and will be officially welcomed to the Board at the October 27 regular board meeting.

Winners randomly selected at the Annual Meeting are listed below. Congratulations to those who were selected! ■

Congratulations to our winners!

\$50 BILL CREDIT

Josh & Heather Bissell, Postville
Robert Fagel & Delores Fagel Thom, Randalia
Judy Ferguson, Waukon
Robert & Sharon Palmer, Monona
Judith Taake, Elkader

\$25 BILL CREDIT WINNERS

Deer Ridge SEW Feeder Pig, Guttenberg
Paul Ebner, Lansing
Donald & Linda Herman, Waukon
Randy & Lori Hover, Dorchester
Diane Kraus, Postville
Randy & Luanne Moser, St. Olaf
William Panncke, Luana
Kevin & Marcia Powell, Strawberry Point
Larry & Mary Svendsen, Ossian
Gregory & Emily Whittle, Elkader
Woodside Ln. Homeowners Association, Waukon

\$20 BILL CREDIT WINNERS

James & Cindy Ruff, Guttenberg
Leo & JoAnn Folsom, Waukon
Southern Comfort Homeowners, Postville
Larry & Mary Svendsen, Ossian
Diane Klemp, Elgin
Bill & Lana Strein, Castalia

Allan & Ruth Schlatter, Hawkeye
James & Joyce Bakewell, Lansing
James & Wilma Brazell, Harpers Ferry
Glen Mueller, Elkader
Denis & Cindy Kuhens, Harpers Ferry
Diana Reeder, Elgin
Virgil & Viola Dennler, Elkader
Ronald & Tami Renne, Postville
Kuhens Well, Harpers Ferry
Francis & Janet Livingood, Postville
Daryl Wille, Garnavillo
Steven & Barb Friederich, Postville
Allan & Laurie Troester, Monona
Fred & Gladys Wilker, Postville
Gary & Diane Koschmeder, Harpers Ferry
Dennis & Deb Moon, Luana
Kenneth & Jayne Weber, Harpers Ferry
Upper Midwest Wireless LLC, Garnavillo
Gary Schutte, Castalia
Derrick & Maria Peters, Postville
Joyce Kiley, Harpers Ferry
Connie Farrington, Postville
Kim & Lois Dummermuth, Elgin
Robert & June Swenson, Clermont
Douglas & Lisa Nelson, West Union
Lester & Janet Baade, West Union

Duaine & Linda Davis, Luana
Bkin LLC, Postville
Charles & Kimberly Deering, Clermont
Michael & Kristine Larson, Postville
Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Postville
James Magner, Waukon
Chad & Darcy Radloff, Postville
Brian & Monica Enyart, Postville
Dummermuth Farms Inc., Elgin
Mark & Nancy Arthur, Harpers Ferry
Beverly Bacon, Postville
Doug & Rhonda Koenig, Postville
Neal & Sheryl Struthers, West Union
Clarke & Sheila Simmonds, Lansing
Andrew & Barbara Shull, Waukon
Benton & Gail Potter, Garnavillo
Ann & Keri Krumme, Waukon
John Thiese, Guttenberg
Matthew & Ann Marting, Waukon
Jeff & Janell Bradley, Wadena

ONE 5-YEAR SOLAR PANEL SUBSCRIPTION

Dave & Rosalind Palas, Postville
Dennis & Barbara Nebendahl, Waterville 4683

Iowa LIHEAP 2025-2026 Guidelines

Residential Members: Help with Your Heating Bill

The 2025-2026 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, 2025 to April 30, 2026
- * All other households November 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026

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.

****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. ****

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
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Income Maximums

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$31,300
2	\$42,300
3	\$53,300
4	\$64,300
5	\$75,300
6	\$86,300
7	\$97,300
8	\$108,300

Note: For households with more than eight members, add \$11,000 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 – **THANKSGIVING FAVORITES**

December – **HOLIDAY APPETIZERS**

January – **COOKIES**



PUMPKIN FRENCH TOAST CASSEROLE

- 1 loaf (1 lb.) cinnamon raisin bread
- 1 pkg (8 oz.) cream cheese, cut into cubes
- 8 large eggs
- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 can canned pumpkin
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. milk
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground ginger
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. ground cloves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped pecans

Directions

Cut each slice of bread into quarters. Arrange half the bread in a greased 13 x 9 baking dish; layer with cubed cream cheese and remaining bread, pressing down slightly. In a large bowl, whisk eggs, evaporated milk, pumpkin, brown sugar, milk, spices and salt. Pour over top of bread/cream cheese. Refrigerate, covered, overnight. Preheat oven to 350°. Remove casserole from refrigerator while oven heats. Bake, covered, 40 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with pecans. Bake, uncovered, 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned and a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 5-10 minutes before serving. Serve with maple syrup. **5773**

■ **Barb Kaiser, Lansing**

PUMPKIN SPICED LATTE

- 2 c. brewed espresso or strong coffee
- 1 c. milk (or non-dairy alternative)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. pumpkin puree
- 2 Tbsp. sugar (or sweetener of choice)
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vanilla extract
- Whipped cream (for topping)
- Additional pumpkin pie spice (for garnish)

Directions

Brew the espresso or strong coffee and set aside. In a saucepan, combine the milk, pumpkin puree, sugar, pumpkin pie spice and vanilla extract. Heat the mixture over medium heat, whisking until it's hot and frothy. Pour the brewed espresso into a large mug. Add the pumpkin milk mixture to the espresso and stir gently. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle additional pumpkin pie spice on top. Serve immediately and enjoy!

■ **Nancy Einck, Waukon**

PUMPKIN OATMEAL CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. canned plain pumpkin
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 4 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. all-purpose flour or bread flour
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. old fashioned rolled or instant oatmeal
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt
- 1 c. semisweet chocolate chunks or chips

Directions

In a microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter for 45 seconds (this is just enough time to liquify most of the butter but not heat it.) Stir with a fork to finish melting. Combine butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar in a large bowl. Mix with a wooden spoon until the mixture is smooth. Add pumpkin, egg and vanilla, and stir until blended. Add flour, oats, cinnamon, baking soda and salt and mix until almost combined, with a little bit of flour still visible. Fold in the chocolate chunks. Grab a handful of dough and place on a large plate or sheet pan; the mounds should be tall and not perfect spheres. You should get 12-13 dough balls. Freeze for 1 hour or refrigerate overnight. Preheat oven to 375°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or spray with cooking spray. Place dough on baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches around each one. Bake cookies for 16 to 20 minutes, until light golden-brown, but still a little soft-looking on top. Let cookies cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes, then enjoy!

■ **Cici Mueller, Postville**

PUMPKIN CRUNCH CAKE

- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin puree
- 3 large eggs
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1 c. packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ground nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground cloves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. butter, melted
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. packed brown sugar

Directions

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a 9 x 13 inch baking pan. In a large bowl, mix pumpkin puree, eggs, vegetable oil, granulated sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, whisk together cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, salt, flour and baking soda. Gradually add dry ingredients to wet ingredients, mixing until just combined. Pour batter into the prepared baking pan. In a small bowl, combine chopped pecans, melted butter, and brown sugar. Sprinkle this mixture evenly over the cake batter. Bake for 35-45 minutes or until a wooden skewer inserted into the center comes out clean. Let cool in the pan before serving. Dollop with whipped cream or serve with maple nut ice cream with slightly warm cake.

■ **Nancy Einck, Waukon**

CYBERSECURITY Tip of the MONTH

4 signs you're dealing with a Social Security scam

1. They pretend to be from a government agency you know, especially the Social Security Administration or the Office of the Inspector General.
2. They say there's a problem or prize, like suspicious activity on your Social Security number or a sudden benefit increase.
3. They pressure you to act immediately, creating a sense of panic.
4. They tell you to pay in a specific, and often strange, way, like gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfers, or mailing cash.

Now, scammers are constantly evolving their playbook. But the reddest flag to look out for is the sense of urgency – the idea that something really good or really bad is about to happen, and you need to act fast. Scammers play on your emotions to try to get you to act before thinking

~ Courtesy of staysafeonline.org ■

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FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to Betty and Sherry Wilbur! The Wilburs found their service number in a recent ACEC 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 – **all three are worth \$10.00.** 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

BRICE WOOD, Vice President, Lansing

CINDY HEFFERN, Sec./Treas., Harpers Ferry

JEFF BRADLEY, Wadena

NELSON CONVERSE, Postville

GREG FORMANEK, Farmersburg

MICHAEL D. GIBBS, Waterville

RON HARTMAN, Sumner

JERRY KELEHER, Elkader

MANAGEMENT STAFF

HOLLEE McCORMICK, EVP/General Manager

JENNIFER ACHENBACH, Manager,
Marketing & Communications

DAVID DECKER, Director,
Finance & Administrative Services

BRENDA HACKMAN, Manager, Economic
Development & Community Relations

JENI KOLSRUD, Manager, Information
Technology

JASON TROENDLE, Director,
Operations & Engineering

RYAN WAGNER, Manager, Member Services



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

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ACEC operations crew completed its annual pole top rescue training recently. **Pictured is Jack Regan climbing the pole to rescue the dummy while Jeff Cox watches from the bucket.**



ACEC Directors **Jeff Bradley**, **Jerry Keleher**, **Al Steffens** and **Brice Wood** attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Regional Meeting in Madison earlier this week. ACEC General Manager **Hollee McCormick** also attended the meeting, which featured break out sessions and regional business meetings.