

heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

GET READY! Youth Tour 2025

Story on page 3



Photo credit: Hongqi Zhang (aka, Michael Zhang), Dreamstime.com

Courtesy photo

FUTURE FOCUSED: Seniors Can Apply for Scholarships

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Deregulation could endanger service reliability.

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ANNUAL MEETING

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June meeting date and how to run for the Board.



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Free Gift!



Members, stop by the Urbana office to pick up your free 2025 pocket calendar from ECI REC!

Contact ECI REC

EMAILS

memberservices@ecirec.coop
(rebates, product sales)

csr@ecirec.coop
(billing, new customers)

WEBSITE
www.ecirec.coop

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HOURS

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

(closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays)

we want to hear from you!



There are three places to find the ECI REC member survey:

1. Popup at ecirec.coop
2. SmartHub account sidebar
3. QR code to SurveyMonkey page

take the member challenge

1. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: The new _____ devices are mounted to our communications towers at each facility.

2. LOOKING OUT FOR YOU: Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's _____ areas could result in higher electric bills and decreased reliability for Iowans.

3. COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE: RESAP is a national safety program that electric cooperatives utilize as a framework to improve _____ performance and culture.

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answers to memberchallenge@ecirec.coop. Or, print the word(s) at the top of the back page, cut it out, and send it to: ECI REC, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue must be received by February 1. Sixteen names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will not be allowed to win more than once per calendar year.

last issue's challenge winners

The following names were drawn from the November/December 2024 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

James Zieser
Pamela Anderson
Everett Heitshusen
Gary Sterns
Larry Christianson
Amy Krug

Scott McLaughlin
David Inman
Garry Slife
Karen Connell
Robert Gosse

Diane Williams
Janice Benson
Harold Munson
Melinda Steinlage
Virginia Mitchell

Stay connected! We post operations news and outage updates at facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec.



Get Ready! Youth Tour 2025

a Community Connected feature


EVERY YEAR, over a thousand high school students from across the country travel to Washington, D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This year, ECI REC is looking for two students to sponsor on the trip, which will take place June 18–23.

To be eligible, students must be in their sophomore or junior year and have parents or legal guardians who are members of ECI REC. Applications can be found on the Youth Tour page at ecirec.coop, under the Community & News menu.

Youth Tour attendees participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, learn about electric cooperatives, and tour sites like the Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, and Lincoln Memorial. Iowa's electric cooperatives have been sending students on the Youth Tour for over 60 years. It's a program East-Central Iowa REC takes pride in participating in—after all, our teens are our future!

For more information about Youth Tour, email us at iowayouthtour@ecirec.coop or call toll free: 877-850-4343. Also, follow the Iowa Youth Tour on Facebook, X, Snapchat, and Instagram!

Did you know Youth Tour alumni are eligible for scholarships?

That's right! The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation offers one \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships to Youth Tour alumni. Applications typically become available early in the new year and are due in May. Visit electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/scholarships for more information. 

DUE DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

GET THE APPLICATION: Go to ecirec.coop and choose Youth Tour from under the Community & News menu.


COVER STORY

Future Focused: Seniors Can Apply for Scholarships



a Community Connected feature

THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT FUND, East-Central Iowa REC gives unclaimed patronage dividends back to the communities we serve. Our youth programs—college scholarships and the Youth Tour—are just two initiatives supported by this fund.

Every year, East-Central Iowa REC is proud to offer up to ten \$1,000 scholarships to students who will continue their education in college in any field. Up to two \$1,000 scholarships are also available to students accepted to the Powerline Technology program at Northwest Iowa Community College. 

DUE DATE: Wednesday, March 5, 2025

GET THE APPLICATION: Go to ecirec.coop and choose Scholarships from under the Community & News menu.

Winter Weather Can Bring Down Power Lines



 **LEARN MORE AT**
SafeElectricity.org

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

If you've been in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Do not get out and run—that could cost you your life.
- In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck. Wait there until electric utility workers deenergize the power.
- If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out and hopping away with both feet together as far as you can.
- Warn others not to approach the scene.

End of Year Tower Work and Looking Ahead to 2025

a Keeping the Lights On update

IN LATE NOVEMBER 2024, ECI REC hired a tower crew to update 12-year-old radio equipment, which will help increase connectivity between our operational facilities and the Urbana headquarters. The new radio devices are mounted to our communications towers at each facility. Though the wind and weather did not fully cooperate in the first few days the crew was onsite, the project was successful. Connectivity between our headquarters and operations centers has greatly increased.

ECI REC will continue to work through our Work Plan projects. Up for replacement in 2025 are 25 miles of overhead and underground distribution line and equipment. Much of this work will take place in the Harrison and Homer substation areas in our southern service territory. In our northern territory, we will be working in the Jesup and Spring Creek substation areas. Three SCADA-controlled tie switches will be replaced, and we will install 48 TripSaver electronic reclosers. These upgrades will strengthen ECI REC's distribution system, increase reliability, and reduce maintenance costs on older manual equipment. Your Cooperative will continue our maintenance programs and employee education and training.

2024 may be another record-low year for ECI REC in terms of outage minutes. This is thanks to the continuation of our maintenance and capital improvement projects (with some help from Mother Nature). You can check out the complete 2024 outage report in the March/April *Heartland Link*.

As we roll into a new year, we'd like to remind you to please contact our office early on if you're considering changes with your electrical usage. That way, we can be prepared to meet your needs. We look forward to serving you in 2025! 🌱

Photo credit: Lisa Franck



Depending on the extent of storm damage, restoration can be a complex process. **There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process:**

-  **1.** Clearing downed power lines
-  **2.** Restoring power to public health and safety facilities
-  **3.** Repairing transmission lines
-  **4.** Checking power stations and transformers
-  **5.** Repairing distribution lines
-  **6.** Getting power restored to homes and businesses



Remember, a neighbor may have power while you do not. Your home might be on a different feeder or transformer or the service line to your home may be damaged.

Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet, which could cause power to backfeed into the overhead lines that utility crews are working on.



Regardless of the extent of an outage, **safety always comes first.**

Safe Electricity.org

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT NUMBERS

ECI REC's consumer software links your account information with your primary and secondary phone numbers. If you call to report an outage, we can help you more quickly if your phone numbers are current.



Scan to access the online form to update your contact info.



Defined Electric Service Areas Protect Rural Iowans

a Looking Out for You feature by Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives



Read more online.

AT THE IOWA ASSOCIATION

OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, we are constantly monitoring issues that could impact the people and rural communities served by Iowa’s electric cooperatives. Our state’s 2025 legislative session will begin on January 13 and IAEC will prioritize efforts to ensure Iowa’s law regarding defined service areas is not undermined. I’d like to explain why this law has been so crucial to our mission to serve co-op member-consumers.

What Are Defined Service Areas?

In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve you. This regulatory protection is called defined electric service territory and the State of Iowa wrote Senate File 1258 into law almost 50 years ago to efficiently ensure that every square foot of our state has an electric utility obligated to provide service upon request.

Why Do Iowa’s Electric Cooperatives Support Defined Service Areas?

Electric co-ops are committed to safeguarding defined service areas because they protect rural Iowans by supporting affordable electric rates, fostering a resilient electric grid, and encouraging economic development. Defined service areas provide a

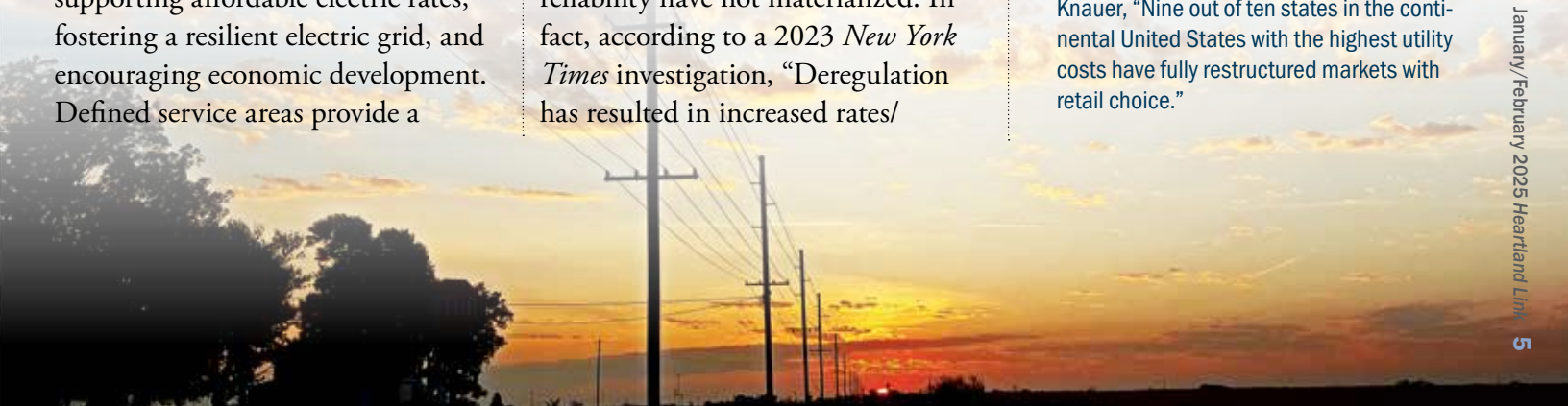
high degree of certainty to Iowa’s electric cooperatives, which allows us to confidently make long-term investments in power generation to maintain affordable rates, finance major grid upgrades to ensure resiliency, and utilize new technologies to enhance service. Electric co-ops can also be proactive in maintenance and vegetation management to improve reliability for the homes, farms, and businesses we power every day. Additionally, defined service areas allow electric co-ops to robustly support economic development efforts in the communities we serve, which retain and create local jobs and provide needed services and tax revenue. Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa’s defined service areas could result in higher electric bills and decreased reliability for Iowans. This issue is non-negotiable for Iowa’s not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which are mission-driven to power lives and empower communities by providing electricity that is safe, reliable, and affordable.

Since the 1990s, several states have deregulated their electric utilities, but the hopes that competition would result in lower rates and improved reliability have not materialized. In fact, according to a 2023 *New York Times* investigation, “Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/

fees in every state where it has been introduced.” The report goes on to conclude that, “On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity...” This outcome is unacceptable for the Iowans we serve. We invite you to learn more about this issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com, where you will also find links to research and studies on deregulation. Your locally owned electric cooperatives are working hard to safeguard defined service area protections that have benefited Iowans since 1976.

By the Numbers: Defined Electric Service Areas Facts

- In 2018–2023, electric outages in Iowa were on average 65% shorter compared to deregulated Midwestern states. When excluding major weather events, Iowa outages were 22% shorter.
- In 2018–2023, Iowa’s electric consumers experienced on average 34% fewer outages compared to deregulated Midwestern states. When including major weather events, Iowans experienced 20% fewer outages than other deregulated states in the region.
- According to an American Public Power Association 2021 report, “The average electric rate is 28% higher in deregulated states, as compared to traditionally regulated states.”
- Per a 2021 report by Wilkinson Barker Knauer, “Nine out of ten states in the continental United States with the highest utility costs have fully restructured markets with retail choice.”



Powering Lives, Empowering Communities

Statewide association annual meeting celebrates 2024 achievements and introduces new leadership

a Cooperative Difference feature

THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

(IAEC)—the trade association for Iowa’s electric cooperatives—held its 2024 annual meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines Conference Center on December 5 and 6. There were more than 350 registered attendees. Directors and employees from Iowa’s locally owned electric cooperatives received informative updates from statewide directors and staff, in addition to learning about industry trends and best practices from invited speakers.

“Our theme of ‘Powering Lives, Empowering Communities’ is all about our electric cooperative mission,” remarked outgoing IAEC Board President Kenny VandenBerg. “And even in this year of transition at IAEC, we remain laser-focused on helping our member co-ops carry out this mission.”

IAEC Executive Vice President and General Manager Leslie Kaufman covered several topics during her first executive report to the membership, including a summary of activities from her initial 130 days at IAEC. She also presented a preview of deliver-

ables to expect in the year ahead by department. Kaufman was hired in July, bringing vast leadership and cooperative experience from her time at Kansas Electric Cooperatives and the Kansas Cooperative Council.

During the business portion of the annual meeting, four directors were elected to the IAEC Board:

- » **District 1:** Travis Harris of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative was elected to a three-year term.
- » **District 2:** Tony Lem of Consumers Energy was reelected to another three-year term.
- » **District 4:** Steve Inskeep of the Pella Cooperative Electric Association was elected to fill a vacancy, which will be a one-year term.
- » **District 5:** Jim Miller of the Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association was reelected to another three-year term.

The IAEC Board would like to thank outgoing President Kenny VandenBerg of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative for his leadership and service to Iowa’s electric cooperatives

continued on next page

ECI REC Employees and Directors Honored at IAEC Annual Meeting

IAEC HONORED several electric cooperative employees and directors who celebrated 25 years of service in 2024, including ECI REC Line Foreman Brian Reidy (left photo below). CEO Teresa Floyd and Operations Manager Tom Schmitt congratulated Brian, writing: “His dedication has impacted not only the safety and wellbeing of his co-workers, but also enhances the lives of the members he serves. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to our Cooperative and community.”

IAEC celebrated 17 graduates of its 2024 Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP). Participants committed to a

yearlong calendar of in-person, virtual, and on-demand training sessions, where they gained leadership skills and learned about various cooperative roles. Congratulations to ECI REC Member Service Supervisor Molly Cook (center photo below) and Human Resources Director Katie Stadheim (right photo below) for completing the program!


Cooperative directors who earned national education certifications during the year were recognized. ECI REC Board President Steve Rau, Vice President Jeff Elliott, and Director Gary McKenna were honored for earning their Director Gold Credential. 

Photo credits: IAEC

Cooperatives

6 January/February 2025 Heartland Link



IAEC Annual Meeting, cont.

during his six-year tenure. He was presented with a commemorative clock during the business meeting in recognition of his commitment. Managers' Representative Kevin Wheeler of Access Energy Cooperative was also recognized for his two-year term as an ex officio director on the IAEC Board; his term will expire on January 1, 2025.

The new slate of directors has reorganized and announced the following officers:

- » **IAEC Board President:** Jim Miller, District 5, Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association
- » **IAEC Board Vice President:** Gordon Greimann, District 6, Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative
- » **IAEC Board Secretary/Treasurer:** Tony Lem, District 2, Consumers Energy
- » **IAEC Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer:** Jerry Keleher, District 3, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative

Eleven Iowa electric cooperatives, including ECI REC, were congratulated for completing the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) in 2024. RESAP is a national safety program that electric cooperatives utilize as a framework to improve safety performance and culture.


Finally, as part of the annual meeting program IAEC coordinated an auction of personally donated items that raised over \$15,750 for the Iowa Friends of Rural Electrification (Iowa FORE) political action committee. The funds will stay in Iowa to aid state legislators and candidates who support electric cooperatives. 

Photo credit: IAEC




Congratulations, Jennifer!

Jennifer Schmitz Earns Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate

a Cooperative Difference notice

IN OCTOBER, Manager of Finance Jennifer Schmitz earned the Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate (CFPC). Designed by the NRECA and CFC, the CFPC is a competency-based, interactive program for cooperative financial professionals and non-finance managers wanting to deepen their understanding of electric cooperative utility finance.

The two-part program highlights the concepts and practices needed to think beyond the data and successfully position cooperatives for the future. Jennifer and her fellow participants:

- » Enhanced their effectiveness at managing the financial aspects of their cooperatives
- » Gained the skills needed to identify and take advantage of strategic opportunities
- » Integrated finance expertise and business stewardship practices to achieve business results. 

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!



MIKE ADAMS
Inventory/Maintenance
Technician - 27 years



BRIAN REIDY
Line Foreman
26 years



JARED GROVER
Lineworker - 13 years



KATIE STADHEIM
Human Resources
Director - 6 years

JANUARY Anniversaries



MOLLY COOK
Member Service
Supervisor - 24 years



TERESA FLOYD
CEO - 33 years



ROBIN MOORE
Cost Records
Administrator - 14 years

FEBRUARY Anniversaries



Don't Forget to Set Up Your Online Co-Op Connections® Account!

a Community Connected reminder

THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS WEBSITE is robust, easy-to-use, and member-focused. When you set up an online account, you have easy access to:

- » Healthy savings benefits like dental, vision, and pharmacy discounts
- » Savings on automotive services, clothing, accessories, dining, groceries, and event and movie tickets
- » Insurance discounts
- » Resources for booking hotels, concerts, and sporting events

To register, visit www.connections.coop. In the top menu, you'll find a "Create Account" button. After clicking, you'll be taken through the steps of creating a personalized dashboard featuring your profile information, your history of savings, and your saved offers.

If you have questions about setting up your Co-Op Connections account, please call 877-850-4343 or email ecirec@ecirec.coop.



Visit ecirec.smarthub.coop for more information!

SMARTHUB Is Simple to Use!



- ✓ Intuitive menu structure that connects directly with ECI REC.
- ✓ Front-and-center usage history and bill payment tools.



New 2025 Energy Efficiency Incentives Are Available for You!

an Energy Wise special feature

Photo credit: ECI REC



IS IT TIME to replace your water heater, upgrade old appliances, or change out your heating or cooling system? Maybe you're planning to tackle some remodeling or build a new home. Don't forget about ECI REC's energy efficiency rebate programs when it comes to these types of home projects! As a Cooperative member-consumer, these incentives are right at your fingertips! 🌱

WEATHERIZATION INCENTIVES

LIHEAP and Non-LIHEAP Requirements

- » Rebates based on heating source.
- » Home must be built prior to 2000.
- » Must be upgrade to existing home (new additions do not qualify).
- » Project cost must be \$150 or more (labor costs for self-installed projects cannot be included).

Non-LIHEAP Members Electric Heat

With or without air conditioning.

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation: 60% up to \$600
- » Wall Insulation: 60% up to \$600
- » Foundation Insulation: 60% up to \$600
- » Infiltration Control: 60% up to \$200
- » Duct Insulation/Sealing: 60% up to \$200
- » Maximum Incentive per Account: \$2,200

Central AC Only

Non-electric heating.

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation: 15% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation: 15% up to \$150
- » Maximum Incentive per Account: \$300

LIHEAP-Qualified Members Electric Heat

With or without air conditioning.

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation: 80% up to \$800
- » Wall Insulation: 80% up to \$800
- » Foundation Insulation: 80% up to \$800
- » Infiltration Control: 80% up to \$200
- » Duct Insulation/Sealing: 80% up to \$200
- » Maximum Incentive per Account: \$2,800

Central AC Only

Non-electric heating.

- » Attic/Ceiling Insulation: 20% up to \$150
- » Wall Insulation: 20% up to \$150
- » Maximum Incentive per Account: \$300

NEW EQUIPMENT/APPLIANCE INCENTIVES

Air-Source Heat Pump, Including Mini-Splits

- » Cold Climate Heat Pump: \$350/ton
- » Standard Air-Source Heat Pump: \$250/ton
- » Hybrid Air-Source Heat Pump Bonus: \$50/ton

Ground-Source Heat Pump

- » Closed-Loop System: \$500/ton
- » Open-Loop System: \$300/ton (no "pump and dump" systems)
- » Hybrid System with Gas Backup: Additional \$50/ton
- » Unit Replacement: \$150/ton

ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioning

- » ENERGY STAR-Qualified: \$100/unit (min. SEER2 15.2 & EER2 12.0)
- » Limit two A/C rebates per account.

Indoor Air Quality

Equipment must serve the entire conditioned space of the home.

- » Energy/Heat Recovery Ventilator (ERV/HRV): \$250/unit
- » Limit two HRVs per account.

Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH)

- » ENERGY STAR Integrated Unit: \$500/unit

High-Efficiency Electric Water Heater

- » Electric Resistance Unit: \$75/unit (40 gal. tank min., EF \geq 0.90)
- » Geothermal Assisted Storage Unit: \$150/unit (40 gal. tank min., EF \geq 0.90)

Beneficial Electrification (BE) Incentive

Available when a resistance or HPWH unit is replacing a natural gas or LP unit, or for new accounts.

- » Go-Electric Bonus: \$100

ENERGY STAR-Qualified Appliances

- » ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer: \$40/unit (must have electric water heater)
- » ENERGY STAR Electric Clothes Dryer: \$20/unit
- » ENERGY STAR Heat Pump Clothes Dryer: \$100/unit

Electric Vehicle Chargers

The primary charging location of the vehicle must be at the home address of the member served by ECI REC. Account must be on time-of-use rate to be eligible.

- » Level II Charger (240/208-volt input supply) installation: 50% up to \$500

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION

All-Star Home: \$1,000 per home

Requirements:

- » Energy-Efficient Home Construction: High-performance insulation and windows.
- » High-Efficiency Heating and Cooling: Requires geothermal, cold climate air-source heat pump, or ENERGY STAR air-source heat pump.
- » Efficient Electric Water Heating: Requires the installation of a heat pump water heater or geothermal assisted electric water heater.
- » Electric ENERGY STAR appliances for clothes washer, clothes dryer, dishwasher, and refrigerator.

Our rebate forms are online at: ecirec.coop/rebate-forms-and-specifications.



continued from page 12

but directors should be prepared to meet into the afternoon.

June’s regular Board meeting coincides with the Annual Meeting of the Members. Directors are expected to attend both meetings. At the reorganizational meeting held directly after the Annual Meeting, the Board elects officers and designates voting delegates and alternates to affiliated organizations.

Our directors are encouraged to attend meetings of affiliated state, national, and regional organizations. The statewide organization sponsors a grassroots advocacy program, and our directors are invited to participate. They’re also encouraged to seek training so they can fulfill their responsibilities to our membership to the best of their ability. New directors are strongly encouraged to obtain their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate within their first term of service.

The time commitment for serving on the Board is on average one-and-a-half days per month. There could be 10–20 additional days per year, depending on the director’s level of engagement and training opportunities. Directors serve a three-year term before seeking reelection. Directors are compensated per monthly meeting plus mileage expenses.

What Are the Duties of a Director?

- » A director has the duty of being loyal to the Cooperative.
- » A director must always avoid any conflicts of interest.
- » A director must treat confidential information accordingly.
- » A director must not do anything that

harms the Cooperative, including publicly criticizing the actions of the Board.

- » A director has the duty of obedience, meaning he or she needs to be aware of and obey the obligations and requirements in the law that governs the activities of the Cooperative.
- » A director has a duty of due care and diligence.
- » According to the Model Business Corporation Act, a director shall perform his or her duties as a director, including his or her duties as a member of any committee of the Board upon which he or she may serve, in good faith, in a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation, and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances.

Who Is Eligible to Be a Director?

Article VII, Section 3 of our Articles of Incorporation lists these requirements for an individual to be nominated, elected, or appointed to the Board of Directors. These same requirements must be met to remain a director.

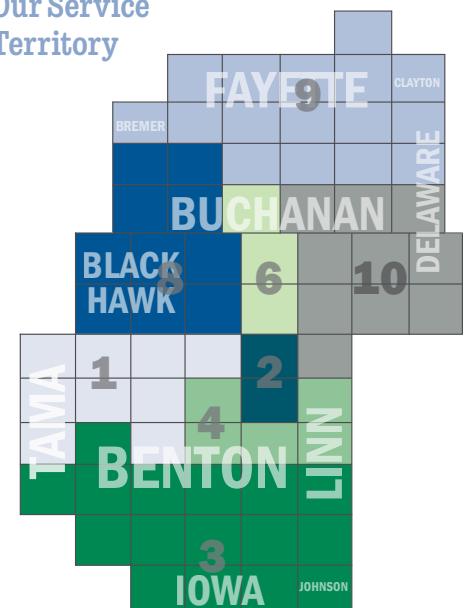
- » To be a member of the Cooperative.
- » To have one’s primary residence in the sub-district he or she is to represent.
- » To receive electric service from the Cooperative at that primary residence.
- » Must not be in any way employed by or have extensive financial interests in a competing enterprise, be employed by or have extensive financial interests in a business selling electric energy or electrical supplies to

the Cooperative, or be employed by or have extensive financial interests in a business engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to members of the Cooperative.

- » Must not be a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, corresponding in-law or “step” relation, cohabitant, or any other family member who resides within the household of an employee of the Cooperative.

Directors matter! Let’s make a difference together. To learn more about the nominating process or the qualifications and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please contact the Nominating Committee member serving the Board district in which you could run (see page 11). You can also visit ecirec.coop, call 877-850-4343, or email ecirec@ecirec.coop.

Our Service Territory




Committee Now Taking Nominations for 2025 Board Elections

a Cooperative Difference announcement

AT A RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, each ECI REC director selected a member-consumer from their individual district to serve on ECI REC's Nominating Committee. The committee's purpose is to nominate one to two East-Central Iowa REC members as candidates for the director positions that are up for election this year. The vote will take place ahead of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Members, where results will be announced.

There are three positions up for election. You can find more information on these individual Board districts below. If you are interested in being a candidate for one of the positions, would like to make a recommendation, or have a petition nominating a member, please contact the Nominating Committee member representing the applicable Board district you or the nominee could represent. Nominations may also be submitted to the Urbana office.

Nominations by petition must have 35 names. Candidates must live in the district they could potentially represent. All nominations must be registered at the Urbana Administrative Headquarters before 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025. On that date, all candidates will be reviewed and nominations confirmed at a meeting of the Nominating Committee. 

Director Positions Up for Election & Representing Nominating Committee Members

BOARD DISTRICT 2

Currently represented by Julie Kester, Walker
Serving: Benton and Polk Townships in Benton County

Nominating Contact:

Peggy Bearbower
5358 30th Avenue
Vinton, IA 52349
Phone: 319-443-2218

BOARD DISTRICT 3

Currently represented by Brian McNulty, Watkins
Serving: York Township in Tama County; Homer, Kane, Eldorado, Florence, Fremont, Iowa, Leroy, St. Clair, and Union Townships in Benton County; Lenox, Marengo, and Washington Townships in Iowa County; Clinton and Fairfax Townships in Linn County; Monroe Township in Johnson County

Nominating Contact:

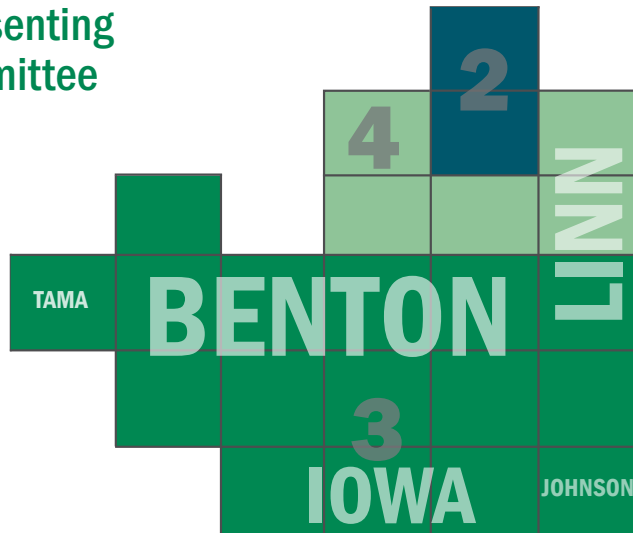
Clint Sandburg
7273 30th Avenue
Atkins, IA 52206
Phone: 319-446-7025
Mobile: 319-558-6777 (no texting)
Email: clintsandburg@aol.com

BOARD DISTRICT 4

Currently represented by Gary McKenna, Vinton
Serving: Taylor, Canton, and Eden Townships in Benton County; Washington and Fayette Townships in Linn County

Nominating Contact:

John Frazier
2541 61st Street, Ln Lot 13
Vinton, IA 52349
Cell: 319-721-4631
Email: john@fraziernurseries.com



YOUR BOARD

Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott

2024/2025 Vice President

Board District 2 - Julie Kester

2024/2025 Secretary/Treasurer

Board District 3 - Brian McNulty

Board District 4 - Gary McKenna

Board District 6 - Pete Burmeister

2024/2025 Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Board District 8 - Nick Donlea

Board District 9 - Steve Rau

2024/2025 President

Board District 10 - Gary Cook

CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

Please email your ad to classifieds@ecirec.coop. Ads for the March/April 2025 Heartland Link must be received by February 1, 2025.

East-Central Iowa REC will publish non-commercial advertisements as a service to our members. All ads are free. They may be submitted by any member or employee of East-Central Iowa REC. Ads should contain a phone number, name (if desired), a brief description of items with price if applicable. Each ad is limited to maximum of 50 words; please type or print clearly. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. No ads will be taken over the telephone—please email, mail, or bring your ad to the office.

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CLIP AND MAIL

See page 2 for the Member Challenge questions.

Answers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please note: NO ANSWERS will be taken over the phone.

Find tools for members at www.ecirec.coop



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Make a Difference by Joining Our Board of Directors!

a Cooperative Difference message from Board President Steve Rau

THE 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS election will be here before we know it! Interested in running? Here's what you need to know about the East-Central Iowa REC Board of Directors.

What Are the Responsibilities of the Board of Directors?

The ECI REC Board of Directors decides how to protect and use your Cooperative's resources to best benefit you, our membership. We communicate with you to determine what you most want and need from us. Then, we use this information to establish a direction for ECI REC that will result in specific outcomes. We report back to you on how well these outcomes are being achieved.

A director must have time to attend monthly Board meetings, other special meetings, and educational seminars. These sessions keep directors informed of the business of the Cooperative and the electric utility industry. Regular ECI REC Board meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month. Meetings normally begin at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn by noon,

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