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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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East-Central Iowa Rural
Electric Cooperative

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- Nov. 11**
Closed in honor of Veterans Day
- Nov. 26-27**
Closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24-25**
Closed for Christmas Eve and Day
- Jan. 1**
Closed for New Year's Day

PASSING THE TORCH



As CEO Teresa Floyd approaches retirement after 34 years of cooperative service, incoming CEO Scott McLaughlin prepares to lead ECI REC into its next chapter.

STORY ON PAGE 2
Photo credit: Katie Stadheim



MESSAGE FROM CEO TERESA FLOYD

A Final Reflection

AS I WRITE MY FINAL ARTICLE

as CEO of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, I find myself reflecting on a career that has been filled with challenges, opportunities, friendships, and countless memories. While farewells naturally bring a sense of nostalgia, Laura Ingalls Wilder's words remind us that every ending creates space for a new beginning.

Recently, I came across an article from 1969 describing one of our parent cooperatives, Benton County Electric Cooperative Association. As I read it, I was struck by how relevant its message remains today. Technology has changed. Tools have evolved. The challenges are different. Yet the core mission of a rural electric cooperative remains the same: serving our members, supporting our communities, and working together to improve the quality of life in the places we call home.

Over the years, I have witnessed moments that tested us in ways we could never have anticipated. You are never fully prepared for what lies ahead. Together, we navigated the 2007 ice storm, the 2008 flood/tornado, the 2011 and 2020 derechos, and a pandemic. We endured a tornado strike

at our operating center, made difficult decisions regarding rates, strengthened our commitment to safety, and said goodbye to friends and loved ones along the way. Through every challenge, I was continually reminded of the resilience, dedication, and character of the people who make ECI REC so special.

When I became CEO in 2020, we were fresh off a remodel of our front offices and meeting space. I envisioned spending time riding around with Tom, our operations manager, looking at our distribution system and getting the carpet replaced in the rest of the office. Six years later, we still have the same carpet, and Tom and I never got to take that ride. In this business, there is always another priority, another challenge, and another member who needs us. The best-laid plans have a way of changing.

As I look back, some of my favorite memories are not necessarily the major events, but the everyday moments. During the 2007 ice storm, members would call in during the evenings. With nothing else to do, they would simply want to visit. I remember the great conversations with my co-workers, the laughter, talking too much and hoping not to get caught, and working like crazy together to meet deadlines. These moments may seem small, but they are the threads that weave together a career and a cooperative family. They

are the moments I will carry with me long after the big projects and difficult challenges have faded.

To our employees, thank you. Your commitment to serving our members, often under difficult circumstances, has been inspiring. I am especially proud of the safety culture we built together. Safety is more than policies and procedures—it is caring for one another and ensuring everyone returns home safely at the end of each day. That culture exists because of each of you.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your confidence, guidance, and trust. Serving alongside leaders who remained focused on the long-term interests of our members has been both an honor and a privilege.

To my family, thank you for the sacrifices you made throughout my career. Cooperative service requires a servant's heart, and that often means missed dinners, interrupted weekends, and being called away when members need you most. When I became CEO, my husband became my biggest supporter. He retired early, offered steady advice, and quietly became the keeper of many cooperative secrets. His support often happened behind the scenes, but it never went unnoticed. During the 2020 derecho, while recovering from a torn tendon in his foot, he hauled ice and helped ensure our line crews had full

CONNECT WITH ECI REC

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(billing, new customers)

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coolers each morning. That spirit of service is one I will always cherish.

I have also been blessed with extraordinary mentors throughout my career. They invested their time, shared their knowledge, and patiently allowed me to make mistakes and learn from them. Their guidance shaped the leader I became, and I remain deeply grateful for the lessons they taught me.

Recently, I came across the newsletter article from February 1993 introducing me as a new employee. My children were young then, and I shared a love of flower gardening that began with a few beds around our home. Today, that hobby has grown into several gardens on the lot next door to our home. Much like a garden, a career doesn't flourish overnight. It grows through patience, hard work, support from others, and a willingness to adapt through every season.

As I close this chapter, my heart is filled with gratitude. Thank you for allowing me to serve East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, our members, our employees, and our communities. This cooperative has been more than a workplace—it has been a calling, a family, and a source of purpose for over 34 years.

While this may be my final article as CEO, I know ECI REC's story will continue. New leaders will emerge, new challenges will be met, and new opportunities will be embraced. The future is bright because of the people who make this cooperative strong.

Thank you for being part of my journey. It has been the honor of a lifetime.

With gratitude,

Teresa Floyd

Teresa Floyd
Chief Executive Officer

**“The last time always seems sad, but it isn't really.
The end of one thing is only the beginning of
another.”**

– Laura Ingalls Wilder

A Look Back on 34 Years With ECI REC

1992

Teresa Floyd joins
Benton County ECA as
a cost records clerk.



1995

Benton County ECA and
Buchanan County REC
consolidate to form ECI REC.
Teresa is promoted to general
ledger administrator.



1996

ECI REC begins converting
infrastructure records from
paper to digital formats.

1998

ECI REC opens the Urbana
headquarters.



2003

Teresa is promoted to
manager of finance and
consumer services.

2007

A historic ice storm hits the
ECI REC service territory.

2008

Major flooding and a
tornado impact the area.



2011

A derecho blows through.

2015

ECI REC becomes
an independent 100%
borrower with CFC.



2018

ECI REC upgrades to an
automated metering system.

2020

Teresa becomes CEO.
ECI REC faces both the
COVID-19 pandemic and an
August derecho.



2022

A tornado destroys the Vinton
Operations Center.

2026

Teresa celebrates 34
years of service and her final
year as CEO.

Credit for photos: ECI REC library



Credit for photos: ECI REC library



MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTOR

Jeff Elliott was elected to the Benton County Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting held in June. He represents district #1, which was held by Dean Flickinger who has retired from the Board. Jeff and his wife, Lu Ann, live on a farm south of La Porte with their family of 3 daughters, Laura, age 10, Emily, 7 and Lindsey 2. He has been farming since 1976, following graduation from Drake University in Des Moines. He states his hobbies as golf and basketball.

A Legacy Rooted in Service

One La Porte City farm. Three directors. More than 70 years of connection to cooperative service.

a Cooperative Difference story

EVERY FARM HAS A STORY. The farm Jeff and LuAnn Elliott call home has one with a unique connection to their local electric cooperative.

That story began more than 70 years ago with Henry Thede, who once owned the farm. In 1953, Thede was appointed to his local cooperative's Board of Directors to complete an unexpired term. Members elected him to a three-year term the following year.

Thede eventually sold the farm to Dean Flickinger. When Thede moved out of his cooperative's distribution system in 1959, he resigned from the board and Flickinger was appointed to fill the vacancy. Members elected Flickinger to a three-year term at the 1960 annual meeting.

The connection didn't end there.

Dean Flickinger was Jeff Elliott's future father-in-law. Years later, Jeff and LuAnn would make their home on the same farm. And in 1990, another chapter began.

Jeff was elected to the Board of Benton County Electric Cooperative Association. A small article in its November 1990 newsletter introduced members to their new

director and noted that Jeff and LuAnn lived on that farm south of La Porte City.

What followed was 36 years of cooperative service.

Jeff served through decades of change. The cooperative he joined in 1990 would eventually become part of East-Central Iowa REC. Technology transformed the electric system, and the issues facing rural electric cooperatives became increasingly complex. Through all that change, the heart of cooperative service remained much the same: neighbors willing to give their time to serve their neighbors.

Perhaps that's what makes the history of the Elliott farm so fitting. Across different generations, cooperative names, and changing district boundaries, three people connected by one piece of rural Iowa have stepped forward to serve their local electric cooperative.

Jeff's service on the ECI REC Board of Directors ended in June 2026, closing a 36-year chapter of his own—and adding another chapter to a story that began on that farm more than seven decades ago.

As we reflect with gratitude on the people

A November 1990 newsletter introduced Jeff Elliott as Benton County Electric Cooperative Association's newest director.



Photo credit: Teresa Floyd

Board President Steve Rau presents Jeff Elliott with a commemorative electric meter in recognition of his 36 years of service on ECI REC's Board of Directors.

who have helped shape ECI REC, we thank Jeff for the time, knowledge, and commitment he gave to the Cooperative and the members we serve.

Thank you, Jeff, for 36 years of service! 🌱



Photo credit: Provided by nominee



Photo credit: Provided by nominee

MEET ECI REC'S 2026 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES

a Community Connected spotlight

DRIVEN BY THEIR COMMITMENT to community, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa held their sixth annual Shine the Light contest this summer to celebrate local volunteers.

In June, employees and members of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community. The judging committee reviewed essays highlighting 83 outstanding nominees. The full list of nominees was published in the August issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine, and the three winners were revealed in September.

This year, ECI REC was pleased to have two Shine the Light nominees within our service area.

While these nominees were not selected as one of the three statewide winners, ECI REC was proud to celebrate these two Community Connected volunteers by making donations to their causes in their honor. ECI REC has awarded them each a \$500.00 donation from our Community Reinvestment Fund. Our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, has offered to match our contribution—bringing the total contribution to each cause to \$1,000.00!

Ricky Davis

RICKY DAVIS is an Air Force veteran who has given half his adult life volunteering to ease the hardships of those in need, especially his fellow veterans. Last year, he was nominated for his work with Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere (GIVE). This year, the spotlight is on his latest project: raising funds to purchase food for a new food bank outreach at the VA Clinic in Iowa City. The clinic offers a wide range of services to veterans, from prosthetics to physical therapy, compensation and pension, dentistry, and now a food bank. It's a crucial resource for those who have given so much of their lives and bodies for our country. Ricky was nominated by Joyce Davis of Marengo.

Ronda Reid

RONDA REID is the board chair of the Otter Creek Animal Shelter, which serves Buchanan and Fayette Counties. This volunteer-run, no-kill shelter provides a safe place for animals in need and helps families find solutions that will allow them to keep or responsibly rehome their pets. Ronda is a driving force behind the success of the shelter. She volunteers countless hours each week, managing nearly every aspect of its operations. Under her leadership,

the shelter has opened a pet food bank, begun sponsoring a low-cost trap-neuter-release program, provided shelter for feral and community cats in the winter, and worked with DHS and local agencies to assist families facing emergencies rehome their pets. Ronda was nominated by Connie Kaltenbach of Oelwein.



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HELP US FIND THESE FORMER MEMBERS

a Cooperative Difference report

IN MAY, the Board of Directors of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative approved the retirement of \$565,018 in patronage to its members. This year's retirement will return money to 6,980 current and former members. Over the past 10 years, ECI REC has returned \$5,498,092 to its membership through patronage dividends.

These margins were credited to current members on their June bills. Former members were sent checks, and the 90-day window to cash these checks has now passed. The people listed here have uncashed checks, and their dividends will be forfeited to the Cooperative if they are not claimed within one year.

If you know someone listed below, please contact that person, or their next of kin, and ask them to contact our office. ECI REC will require personal identification and/or legal documentation from these people to confirm their membership before dividends can be claimed. Please do not contact ECI REC unless you have the necessary documentation for the member listed. This list was current at the time of this printing. 

Abbott, Daniel
Achey, Curtis
Ackley, Doug K.
Adams, Dan L.
Albert Brothers
Albertsen, Brett A.
Aldrich, George B.
Allen, Chad R.
Allen, Robert L. Sr.
Alta Vista Properties, LLC
Alvarez, Kathrine
Amos, Ronald
Amsden, Steven C.
Anderson, Dean B.
Andes, Tracy M.
Armstrong, Kerrie
Ashlock, Donn
Atencio, Jenny
Avant, Jordan
Backer, Harry L.
Bange, Jennifer L.
Bantz, Megan M.
Barfield, Candace
Barnes, Jeffrey
Barnes, Keith J.
Barth, Jamie J.
Bartholomew, Brock J.
Bauer Fisher, Vincent
Baumert, Joseph
Bearbower, Delores I.
Estate
Beatty, Diane
Beatty, Nicole M.
Beau, Tara
Beauchamp, Jonathan J.
Becker, Bernice
Beesecker, Brian
Belfield, Mitchell
Beltz, Robert
Bemrich, Diane J.
Bennett, Robert F.
Bennett, Shane
Bennett, Susan F.
Bensend, Marvin Jr.
Bergh, Sara S.
Berner, Kathy M.
Berry, Elizabeth A.
Bethune, Stephen
Bickal, Mark
Billings, James A.
Bilsland, Clarence
Bird, Andrew
Bishop, Randall J.

Bly, Nathan
Boelter, Velma
Bonnett, Dewayne A.
Borntrager, Henry J.
Bosier, Connie S.
Bosman, Daniel
Boston, Steven R.
Brandhorst, Timothy A.
Brands, Cody L.
Brayton, Brad
Brazil, Randi L.
Brecht, Brandee
Brecht, Ronald Sr.
Bries, Stacy M.
Bright, James H.
Bright, Ralph
Brinkema, Jack E.
Brown, Dennis L.
Brown, Ron L.
Brown, Teresa L.
Brown, William
Bruce, Damien L.
Bruce, Sally
Buck, John
Buhr, Brian J.
Build To Suit
Buol, Kevin J.
Burch, Douglas
Burkgren, Jeff C.
Burnell, Dona J.
Burnell, Keith
Bushaw, Cody
Butler, Crystal K.
Butterfield, Dale L. Jr.
Byrne, Immanuel L.
Cain, Robby S.
Calease, Roger
Calef, Bernie
Calkins, David L.
Campbell, Michael T.
Carlson, Keith D.
Carr, Steve L.
Carter, Jay
Carver, Richard L.
Casbon, Donald V.
Casey, Angie
Cedar Valley Egg Farm
Chaffee, Mark
Channell, April
Chapman Trust
Chartier, Cheryl
Cherry, Philip R.
Childers, Lonny

Chinchar, Brent
Christian, Brunetta E.
Estate
Claeys, Ricky L.
Clapp, Trent
Clark, Robert D.
Clark, Roberta
Coffey, Michael H.
Colbert, Cindy L.
Coleson, Megan M.
Conner, Casey
Connor, Timothy
Cono Christian School
Cook, Leah E.
Corum, Howard D.
Countryman, Betty J.
Covington, Jennifer K.
Cox, Dana
Cox, Garrett M.
Cramer, Cody F.
Crawford, Carolyn A.
Cripe, Norman R.
Criswell, Brent
Cromer, Sammie D.
Csongradi, William
Cue, Robert M.
Cummings, Timothy S.
Cummins, Mary
Cunningham, Richard L.
D & T Logistics, Inc.
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Deardorff, David
Decker, Ryan R.
Demeulenaere, Dale F.
Denney, Alton
Dennis, Michelle R.
Depken, Diane E.
Dettbarn, Amanda R.
Devine, Lynn M.
Digman, Tom
Dinnebier, Marla M.
Donlon, Jeff J.
Donovan, Mary Ann
Doyle, Douglas
Drafahl, Vinnie
Drinovsky, Dawn M.
Driscoll, Todd C.
Dunakey, David D.
Dunaway, John
Dunkel, Angela N.
Dunkelberger, Dena
Dunlap, Marilyn L.
Dunn, Chris
Dutler, Carrie M.

Eagle Ridge of Iowa
Eckes, William C.
Eckman, Gregory
Eckman, Nikki M.
Edgewood Feedmill
Edwards, Wilford J.
Ehlert, Steve R.
Eiben, Galen
Ellingson, Dale W.
Ellis, Anthony B.
Elm, Julie
Emerson, Rick H.
Engle, Ben L.
Enos, Bobbi R.
Ericson, Jordan N.
Escutia, Virgilio J.
Etringer, Joe G.
Etten, Shawn D.
Evans, Jason R.
Faith Bible Institute
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Fare, Sarah D.
Faust, Jason
Feauto, Dale
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Fischer, Todd
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Fleming, Brad W.
Fleming, Roger
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Fowlkes, Bruce L.
Fowlkes, Ronald L.
Fox, Roger
Fraise, Shirley
Fratzke, Gary
Frese, Douglas M.
Friends of the Shelter, Inc.
Fritsch, Cynthia
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Fuller, Jeff P.
Gardner, Chad
Geater, Mike
Gibson, Gary J.
Gilson, David M.
Ginter, Cory J.
Gleiser, Ron A.

Glendenning, Ron A.
Goodall, Ray B.
Goos, Bailey L.
Graeser, Elizabeth
Gragg, Kenneth
Green, Kent
Greenback, LLC
Greene, Jerome P.
Greene, Nicole E.
Greenhalgh, Rick
Griffith, Craig
Grimm, James B.
Grimm, Marvin L.
Grimm, Nick P.
Grovert, Donald C.
Gutknecht, Hans
Hackett, George A.
Hainstock, Richard L.
Halstead, Ken
Hanson, Edward R.
Hanzlik, Kaye J.
Hard, Michelle
Harder, Jerrine
Harkin, Adam M.
Harn, Thomas W.
Harrill, Kathy
Harris, Denise
Hart, Brian L.
Hartman, Harlan D.
Hartman, Joe A.
Hartnett, Joanne
Hartsoe, Kelsey
Hass, Lindsey D.
Hedeman, Richard J.
Heidemann, Jeremy K.
Heine, Ann R.
Heise, Stephan
Heit, Brian J.
Helbert, Michael
Helltall, Rebecca
Heller, Daniel
Henderson, Heather J.
Henkle, Blake
Henry, Richard W.
Herzog, Mary E.
Hesse, Ben
Hesson, Blake
Hettinger, Bryan L.
Heyer, Barbara E.
Hickey, Larry J.
Hicks, John Ed
Higgins, David L.
Hill, Brian E.
Hill, Debbie

Hilleshiem, Laura L.
Himmelsbach, Bernard
Hinton, Galen
Hobbs, Amos D.
Hockey, Linda
Hockey, Richard
Hoeck, Susan
Hofer, Dean E.
Hohn, Steve
Holsinger, Alexander
Holub, Gary L.
Hootman, Paul
HSBC Bank USA
Hughes, Barry
Hulse Farm Trust
Hummel, Gloria
Hummell, Jason L.
Hunter, John
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Husman, Ray
Husted, Rick D.
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Huttons RV Center, Inc.
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Iowa Wireless
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James, Krista M.
Jammal, Abdul
Jebe, Mary Estate
Jeffries, Joy N.
Jenkins, Joe W.
Jennings, John L.
Jensen, Joshua L.
Jewett, Gordon L.
Johnson, Doug
Johnson, Eulesa
Johnson, Fred
Johnson, Kate
Johnson, Lucas S.
Johnson, Navan J.
Johnson, Neva
Johnson, Paul W.
Johnson, Robert K.
Johnson, Sara
Johnson, Van R.
Johnston, George W.
Jones, Darwin D.
Jones, Robert W.
Jones, Terry L.
Jordan, Max R.
Joyce, Julie A.
JR's Home Repair

Jurchen, Tammy D.
Kaesser, Merle L.
Kaestner, Annie
Kahle, Raphael J.
Karcher, Ruth A.
Karr Mobile Concrete
Kaufman, Aaron M.
Kaufman, Melvin L.
Kearney, William
Keegan, Ryan R.
Keel, Bob
Kelchen, David G.
Kelly, Michele C.
Kelly, Thomas
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Kenney, Leland
Kennon, Jerry W.
KFMW-FM Broadcasting
Kies, Bill
Kiler, Randall K.
Kite, Dale A.
Kivell, James C.
Klein, Vivian M. Estate
Klendworth, Jeremy L.
Klink, Monte
Kloubec, Nick J.
Knapp, Beverly A.
Knight, Lisa M.
Knight, Velma
Knoke, Bernice F.
Knowles, Peggy
Knudsen, Jeni R.
Koch, Heather N.
Kolsto, Gina
Koopman, Dustin
Koskela, Eugene W.
Kremer, Kelly J.
Krivanek, Juanita
Kronebusch, Robert
Kuennen, Kathleen
Kunch, Donald M.
Kusel, Scott L.
Lahn, Zach A.
LAMCO
Lamphere, Kevin
Lamphier, Todd A.
Landon-Boubin, Jamie C.
Lane, Donald
Lang, Arin L.
Lang, Evelyn
Lang, Neil J.
Lange, Angela K.
Lawrinenko, Victor
Lazenby, Edwin P.

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you never know what lies below...



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Leclerc, Lori
Lehmann, John R.
Leighton-Dick, Edouard L.
Leisinger, Candy K.
Leroy, Amy D.
Lewis, Melody
Lewis, Sarah E.
Lilja, Clarice M.
Lindsay, Melissa
Lindsey, Richard
Litton Loan Servicing
Lopata, Dawn
Lorensen, Darci K.
Lorenz, Larry D.
Lortz, Paul L.
Loutsch, Robert L.
Luloff, Janet M.
Lunkley, Tom
Magoon, Nichole M.
Mahoney, Dan D Jr.
Maile, Inez P.
Manley, Dennis R.
Mann, Zach
Manning, Robert L.
Markowski, Marjorie A.
Marquart, Natasha L.
Martin, Samantha L.
Martin, Wayne D.
Maser, Harold
Mason, Clyde M.
Mason, James P.
Maulson, Dennis D.
McAllister, Steven D.
McAtee, Dallas J.
McCann, Kevin
McCarty, Donald E.
McCleary, Elizabeth
McCord, Thomas R.
McCormick, Robert J.
McCurdy, Philip
McDanniel, Anna
McElmeel, Shannon M.
McGraw, John
McIntyre, Jennifer
McKibben, Connie
McKinley Hilmer, Janet
McMurrin, Doris M.
McNeill, Viola P.
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Meek, Dawn M.
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Merchant, Wayne
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Meskimen, Tammy M.
Metcalf, Linda C.
Meyne, John L.
Michael & Dowd
Michael, Fannie
Michael, John
Michels, Lowell
Milder, Stephanie S.
Miller, Aaron T.
Miller, Darla J.
Miller, Tamara
Miller, Wesley
Mills, Ben C.
Monsanto
Moore, David
Moroney, Robert J.
Morris, Mike
Morris, Peggy Sue
Morrison, Avis
Morrissey, Nick J.
Morrow, Vernon L.
Moser, Leslie K.
Mullan, Brian L.
Mullnix, Leslie R.
Mulvaney, Rex
Murdock, Ron M.
Murphy, Angelia M.
Murphy, Danette A.
Musallam, Maher J.
Myrton, Gary
Nabours, Kenneth
Nearad, Kurt D.
Nehl, Sam J.
Neighbors, Joseph C.
Neill, Joanne C.
Nelson, Dwayne E.
Netolicky, Gary A.
Newhoff, Roxanne L.
Nextel Partners, Inc.
Neyman, Gregory P.
Nezerka, Adolph
Nolta, Robert
North, Patricia A.
Northeast Iowa Restaurant
Management
Nosbisch, Jaime S.
Novak, Brent E.
Novak, Janet L.
Nye, Kenn R.
Obadal, Matthew
Oberheu, Richard P.
O'Brien, Tom A.

O'Connor, Carl
Ohl, Bernard L.
Oldridge, Kamie L.
Ollinger, Matt J.
Omega Inc.
O'Neill, Edward
Osborn, Nicole M.
Ostlie, Linda
Owens, Zachary L.
Paris Brothers. LLC
Paris, Jeremy
Paris, Lisa
Parker, Alberta M.
Parker, Tammie J.
Pates, Donald C. Sr.
Pates, Dortha A.
Pattee, Todd
Paul, Sharon R.
Paul, Stephanie S.
Pazour, Virginia A.
Peacock, Randy
Pearson, Travis L.
Peck, John
Pedersen, Jason
Penley, Amy
Perkins, David A.
Peterman, Nickie Jr.
Peters, Cameron
Petersen, Jeff J.
Petrzelka, Arthur
Petsche, Richard J.
Pettengill, Raymond
Phillips, Mark A.
Phillips, Wayne P.
Pieper, Genevieve Estate
Pierce, J.W. Jr.
Pipho, Nicole A.
Pirillo, Dominick
Pisarik, A.V. Estate
Pledge, Janice E.
Popenhagen, Harold
Potter, Donald K.
Prairie Hills Management
Premier Grain
Price, Ralph
Pugh, Robert D.
Pullin, Dale A.
Ralston, Keven L.
Rasmussen, Kristi
Rechkemmer, Chris J.
Reed, Elliott J.
Reeves, Ryan
Reid, Klancy
Reida, George
Reifenstahl, C. D.

Reiner, Jim A.
Reiss, George D.
Renfer, Larry E.
Renfro, Jennifer
Reyes, Ron
Rhea, James B.
Rich, Kyle E.
Richards, Rich
Richman, Jamie L.
Ridenour, Kent J.
Riensch, Benjamin R.
Ritter, Lucie
Road Runner Custom
Machine, LLC
Roberts, Sharon L.
Robinson, Carl L.
Robu, James C.
Rodas, Charlene
Rodites, Nikki
Roeding, Harold A.
Roethler, Joseph C.
Rogers, Dave
Rohlana, Frank W.
Rolf, Frank E.
Root, Jon M.
Routt, Julia G.
Rowan, Tom
Rowray, Vickie J.
Rueber, Betty E.
Ryan, Earl F.
Ryden, Alan L.
Salisbury, Brenda S.
Salisbury, Daniel D.
Salter, Damon J.
Sampica, Steven J.
Sanders, Steven C.
Sanford, Brooke R.
Sanford, James
Sanger, William
Saunders, Rachel
Schaftelein, Clarence
Scheil, Jon W.
Schellhammer, Sara
Schilder, Steffanie J.
Schiller, Darlene R. Estate
Schirmer, Anthony H.
Schmitz, Ray
Schug, Harold L.
Schultz, Richard
Schumacher, Lawrence J.
Schutte, Ryan M.
Schwartz, Shirley
Scott, Beryl L.
Scott, Travis L.
Seals, Lori J.

Sears, Amanda J.
Seastrand, Matt J.
Seemann, Eric S.
Seilenbinder, Karen K.
Selk, George R.
Shakespeare, Dennis D.
Shannon, Clara Estate
Shannon, John J. III
Shannon, Michael D.
Sheckles, Daniela P.
Sheldon, Susan L.
Shelton, Anthony C.
Shepherd, Billy
Sherman, Barbara J.
Shoudy, Don J.
Showalter, Judy A.
Shultice Trust
Shultz, John D.
Shuster, Jennifer L.
Shuttleworth, Adam
Siemens, Wallace L.
Silhanek, Rod
Simmons, Jalissa K.
Skeers, Robert R.
Smith, Amanda M.
Smith, Betty A.
Smith, Dan L.
Smith, Donald
Smith, Jay D.
Smith, Kim H.
Smith, Norman R.
Smith, Sarah C.
Smith, Scott
Sopousek, Chad M.
Soppe, Ronald
Speckner, Josh M.
Spencer, Jack L.
Spinsby, Jacob R.
Stachar, Gil R.
Stallman, Rob J.
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Steinke, Shane E.
Stephenson, Curtis J.
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Stewart, Rita M.
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Stinson, Karen
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Stockfelt, Robin
Stokesberry, Shannon
Stone, John
Stout, Johanna

Stout, Whitney M.
Strief, David L.
Strike, Stuart A.
Stroo, Chuck
Stroud, Michael W.
Stubenrauch, Dellene I.
Stueck, Gene
Stull, James
Sturgeon, Dale E.
Suchy, Teresa A.
Sulzner, Justin P.
Suttles, Corey F
Sutton, Rick J.
Sutton, Scott A.
Svensen, Alana
Svoboda, Mike
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Sweet, David A.
Sweet, Tracy M.
Swift, Michael J.
T 2, LLC
Taivalkoski, Merribeth
Taylor, Glenda
Thompson Properties
Thompson, Danny K.
Thompson, Garry A.
Thompson, Jason E.
Thompson, Kenda
Thompson, Rodney R.
Three Doors Away, LLC
Timm, Willie
Timmons, Brahn
Titcomb, Stephen
Tjelmeland, Scott
Tomash, Alex E.
Travis, Dale W.
Trimble, Kayeleen
Triton Barns
Troester, Natalie
Troyer, Perry
Trumblee, Randall E.
Tucker, Janice F.
U of I Community Credit
Union
US Citadel, LLC
Unertl, Michael W.
Unrau, Brooke
Unrau, Brooke
Utley, Ronda
Valadez-Sierra, Patricia
Van Heiden, Rick
Van Tonder, Jan
Vanree, Jeffery D.
Varney, Mike
Vavra, J. Orfa
Venenga, Steve M.

Veridian Credit Union
Vice, Terry L.
Vincent, Brian K.
Vogeler, Randy
Vogl, Erin
Vogt, Jacqueline C.
Vredenburg, Luann K.
Walker, Brad V.
Walker, Michael J.
Walker, Robert Trust
Walrath, Wally
Walther, Helen Estate
Walther, Sharon
Wambsgass, Warren
Ward, Brad A.
Warther, John R.
Washburn, Andrew C.
Weaver, Taryn E.
Weber, Rachel M.
Weichman Farm
Wells, Charles L.
Wendel, George
Wendel, Nancy S.
Wendt, Brandon J.
Werner, Frederick
Werner, Michelle
Wernett, Carol Estate
West, James W.
Wheeler, Lynn
Whipple, Charles
White, Jason D.
Wiegand, Kirk
Wilgenbusch, Nick
Wilkinson, Dustin L.
Williams, Anna B.
Wilson, Amber
Wilson, Benjamin P.
Wilson, Jason
Winjum, Matthew R.
Wissmiller, Brock D.
Wittmer, Angela
Wittrock, Kelsie
Woelke, Nathan T.
Woods, Carla
Wright, Aaron L.
Yates, Debra S.
Yearous, Vanessa G.
Yock, John
Young, Richard P.
Young, Robin A.
Younker, Gerald W.
Younker, Karla A.
Zahorik, Mike J.
Zuck, Levi J.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7 · CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperative members make a difference! Sometimes community impact happens through a large project or donation. Other times, it's one member giving a few dollars—or one person making sure a neighbor doesn't miss a bill.



SCAN TO VISIT THE
RECare & HELPING
HAND PAGE ON OUR
WEBSITE.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Through RECare

a Community Connected feature

AT ECI REC, concern for community is more than one of our cooperative principles—it can be as simple as neighbors helping neighbors.

Through our RECare program, ECI REC members can voluntarily contribute to help households in need. Donations are distributed through local community action agencies, which use the funds to assist low-income households with winter heating bills and home weatherization. Members can choose a monthly contribution with the amount conveniently added to their electric bill or make a one-time donation.

During the 2025–2026 program year, ECI REC members generously provided \$5,562 in RECare assistance, helping 15 member households when they needed an extra hand. On average, each household received approximately \$293 in assistance.

Those dollars came from members just like you, including 46 members who give monthly and 4 who made one-time contributions.

It is a simple idea with a meaningful impact: members helping fellow members through difficult seasons.

WANT TO HELP?

You can join your fellow ECI REC members in helping your neighbors through RECare. Choose a recurring monthly contribution or make a one-time donation, and your contribution will be added directly to your electric bill. Even \$1.00 a month can make a difference.

To get started giving, visit our website or call 877-850-4343. 

Photo credit: Adobe Stock / Fotostock

Helping Hands Give Extra Peace of Mind to Members and Their Loved Ones

a Keeping the Lights On feature

ECI REC'S Helping Hand Reminder Program offers a simple way to look out for someone you care about.

This free program is designed for members who may occasionally miss a utility payment because of illness, memory challenges, or other circumstances. If an enrolled account becomes past due, ECI REC notifies a person the member has designated as their Helping Hand.

The designated person is not responsible for paying the bill. They simply receive notification so they can

remind the member that a payment is due. There is no cost to participate, and members can withdraw from the program at any time.

Who might benefit? Think of a parent, grandparent, adult child, neighbor, or loved one who might appreciate having someone else receive a reminder if a payment is missed.

To learn more or enroll, visit our website or call 877-850-4343. 

Proudly Supporting the Local Fire Departments That Keep Us Safe

a Community Connected highlight

ECI REC is proud to support the volunteer and community fire departments that help protect the families, farms, and businesses throughout our service territory. Through a two-year giving campaign, the Cooperative is providing financial support to local fire departments in recognition of the essential services they provide. We are grateful for the dedication of these firefighters and look forward to supporting additional departments in the coming year.



Statement of Ownership

UNITED STATES

POSTAL SERVICE®

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title

Heartland Link

2. Publication Number

3. Filing Date

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Bi-monthly

5. Number of Issues Published Annually

6

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Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)

Teresa Floyd, PO Box 248, 2400 Bing Miller Ln, Urbana, IA 52345-0248

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Katie Stadheim, PO Box 248, 2400 Bing Miller Ln, Urbana, IA 52345-0248

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Katie Stadheim, PO Box 248, 2400 Bing Miller Ln, Urbana, IA 52345-0248

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name

Complete Mailing Address

East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

PO Box 248, 2400 Bing Miller Ln, Urbana, IA 52345-0248

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box

None

Full Name

Complete Mailing Address

National Rural Electric Co-op Finance Corp (CFC)

201701 Cooperative Way, Dulles, VA 20166

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:

Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title

Heartland Link

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below

September/October 2026 (09/08/26)

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

ECI REC Member-Consumer Information

a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)

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7455

b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)

(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)

7359

7394

(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)

0

0

(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®

0

0

(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)

0

0

c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))

7359

7394

d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)

(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541

0

0

(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541

0

0

(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)

0

0

(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)

0

0

e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))

0

0

f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)

7359

7394

g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))

61

61

h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)

7420

7455

i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)

100%

100%

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

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No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

a. Paid Electronic Copies

46

51

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7445

c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)

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7445

d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)

100%

100%

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Nov/Dec 2026 (11/02/26) issue of this publication.

Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Katie Stadheim, HR Director/Editor

Date

09/30/26

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Nov./Dec. 2026 9



A Taste of Tradition

Holiday favorites from our kitchens to yours!

a Community Connected feature

EVERY FAMILY has those special dishes that make the holidays feel like home. Some have been passed down for generations, while others have become new favorites along the way. This season, four ECI REC employees are sharing a few of their favorite holiday recipes with you. From our kitchens to yours, we hope you find something delicious to add to your holiday table! 🍴

What's Next? Better-For-You Bites!

AS THE NEW YEAR ARRIVES, many of us set goals to refocus on healthier meals. So members, we're on the hunt for recipes that are sneakily healthy, featuring good-for-you-ingredients that pack lots of flavor ... and fewer calories. Send them our way for your chance to have a recipe featured in the January/February Heartland Link!

Email your recipe to ecirec@ecirec.coop by December 1, 2026. If your recipe is selected for publication, you will receive a \$25 electric bill credit as our thanks! Selected recipes may also be featured on ECI REC's Facebook page.

THANK YOU

for your years of service!



JENNIFER SCHMITZ
Manager of Finance
31 years

NOVEMBER



TANYA ELLIS
Member Service Representative
6 years

NOVEMBER

Honoring Those Who Served

THIS VETERANS DAY, ECI REC proudly recognizes employees Robert Derifield and Robin Moore for their military service. We thank them, and all veterans, for their service to our country. 🇺🇸

Robert Derifield, Information Services Technician

Branch of service: Army Reserves

Years served: 8 years

Rank and/or military role: SPC Light Wheel Mechanic

Where did you serve? 960th Quartermaster Company in Cedar Rapids

What is one thing military service taught you that you still carry with you today? Improvisation. Sometimes you have to make do with what you have.



Robin Moore, Cost Accounting Clerk

Branch of service: Air Force

Years served: 3 years

Rank and/or military role: Sergeant. My job was crew chief on F-111 jets.

Where did you serve? My training was in Texas. I was stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

What is one thing military service taught you that you still carry with you today? The military taught me how to "hurry up and wait." If you have ever served, you know what I mean. 🇺🇸



Scalloped Corn

Submitted by Jennifer Schmitz, Manager of Finance

1 can whole corn, drained	1 box Jiffy cornbread mix
1 can cream-style corn	1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
8 oz. sour cream	Salt and pepper to taste
2 eggs, beaten	
½ stick margarine, melted	

Mix corn, sour cream, eggs, margarine, Jiffy cornbread mix, salt, and pepper in a bowl. Pour into buttered 2-quart casserole dish. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with cheese. Return to oven until cheese melts.

Christmas Salad

Submitted by CEO Teresa Floyd

This was my grandma's recipe. Though it's called Christmas Salad, it was always served at Thanksgiving.

LAYER ONE

Prepare 1 pkg. lime Jell-O in the bottom of a 9 x 13 pan. Refrigerate until set.

LAYER TWO

Prepare 1 pkg. lemon Jell-O with 1 cup boiling water. Add 16 large marshmallows and beat until stiff.

Mix remaining ingredients together with the Jell-O/marshmallow mixture (I use a mixer):

- 1 cup whipping cream, whipped
- 1 flat can crushed pineapple, drained
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup Miracle Whip

Pour over first layer. Refrigerate until set.

LAYER THREE

Prepare 1 pkg. cherry Jell-O and pour over layer two. Refrigerate until set.

I start preparing this salad on the Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving to allow 12 hours between each layer.

Grandma Ina's Sweet Dough Recipe

Submitted by Katie Stadheim, HR Director

This recipe comes from my great-grandma Ina Sackett and is a holiday favorite with the entire Sackett family. We shape the dough into cloverleaf rolls, crescent rolls, cinnamon rolls, coffee cake, and more.

2 packages yeast	½ cup sugar
¼ cup lukewarm water	1 tsp. salt
1 cup milk	2 eggs, beaten
¼ cup lard or Crisco	5 cups sifted flour

Soften the yeast in the lukewarm water.

Scald the milk. Add the lard or Crisco, sugar, and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Add enough flour to the milk mixture to make a thick batter. Add the yeast and beaten eggs. Beat well.

Add more flour to make a soft dough. Turn onto a lightly floured board and knead until satiny. Place in a greased bowl, cover, and let rise until doubled. Punch down the dough.

Shape into the desired style of rolls or coffee cake. Let rise until doubled.

Bake at 375° for about 15 minutes for rolls or about 25 minutes for coffee cake.

Grape Dessert

*Submitted by Tanya Ellis,
Member Service Representative*

The mixture of all these flavors is truly delicious!

1 bag each red and green grapes	16 oz. sour cream
(adjust to desired consistency)	1 cup sugar
16 oz. cream cheese	2 tsp. vanilla

TOPPING

1 cup brown sugar
1 cup Butterfinger bits

Mix cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, and vanilla. Once this is creamy, add in the red and green grapes and refrigerate overnight.

Add brown sugar and Butterfinger bits to the top before serving.

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CLIP AND MAIL

See below for Member Challenge questions.

Answers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Account No. _____ We cannot accept answers by phone.

PERIODICALS

FIND TOOLS FOR MEMBERS AT ECIREC.COOP



24-Hour Bill Pay With SmartHub

See account information at ecirec.smarthub.coop or download the app.



Outage Center & Map

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Email ecirec@ecirec.coop and ask to receive our newsletter via email.



Iowa Rural Power

Join grassroots advocates for Iowa's electric cooperatives. Visit www.iaruralpower.org.

take the member challenge

1. COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE: Through all that change, the heart of _____ service remained much the same: neighbors willing to give their time to serve their neighbors.

2. KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON: If an enrolled account becomes _____, ECI REC notifies a person the member has designated as their Helping Hand.

3. COMMUNITY CONNECTED: As part of a two-year giving campaign, ECI REC is making donations to _____ throughout our service territory.

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answers to ecirec@ecirec.coop. Or, print the word(s) at the top of the 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 December 1. Ten names will be drawn from all correct entries.

last issue's challenge winners

The following names were drawn from the Sept./Oct. 2026 Heartland Link entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Dan D. Siemens

Jimmy Crumes

Wilda M. Ingamells

Donald N. Cook

Robert Havlik

Richard F. Greiner

George Smith

Joel Wichgers

Chris D. Sackett

Kenny J. Berns