

# heartland LINK

A publication of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

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Innovative technologies create new ways to use electricity.



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**ECI REC Commits  
\$20,000 to Derecho  
Recovery**

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Photo credit: Courtesy photo

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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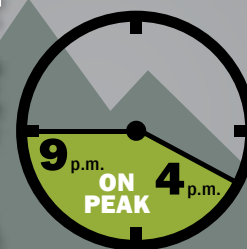
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# TAKE A LOAD OFF THE PEAK



**Help us beat the peak by using less electricity from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays.**

They're busy hours—you're starting dinner, watching TV, and catching up on laundry. But all this electricity use creates a lot of demand. We pay more for power during peak hours, and in turn your costs may also rise. So delay running that dishwasher, and help us keep costs down!

## take the member challenge

1. **COMMUNITY CONNECTED:** The \_\_\_\_\_ Disaster Recovery Coalition is a nonprofit organization that meets the needs of community members affected by disaster.
2. **ENERGY WISE:** "Beneficial \_\_\_\_\_" is a new catchphrase in the energy industry.
3. **SAFETY:** All ECI REC \_\_\_\_\_ are required to pass a pole-top rescue course each year.

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](mailto: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 December 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 Sept./Oct. 2020 *Heartland Link* entries. These members will receive a \$10 credit on their account.

Ronald Melick	Sammie Cromer
David & Debbie Schmitz	Florence Rippel
James Klever	Steven Lucas
Richard Griswold	Erma Neve
Rebecca Kline	Kevin & Rachel Webster
Larry Coulson	Gary Stearns
George Temeyer	Chelsea Peoples
David Beckner	Ron Bossler

Stay connected! We post operations news and outage updates at [facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec](https://facebook.com/eastcentraliowarec).

## Calendar Notes

**REMINDER** - Sun. Nov. 1:  
Daylight Saving Time

**CLOSED**

Weds., Nov. 11:  
Veterans Day

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 26 & 27:  
Thanksgiving

Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 24  
& 25: Christmas

Fri., Jan. 1: New Year's Day

## Contact ECI REC

**EMAILS**

[memberservices@ecirec.coop](mailto:memberservices@ecirec.coop)  
(rebates, product sales)

[csr@ecirec.coop](mailto:csr@ecirec.coop)  
(billing, new customers)

**WEBSITE**

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**HOURS**

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


(closed Saturdays,  
Sundays, and holidays)

# ECI REC Commits \$20,000 to Derecho Recovery

*a Community Connected feature*

**WE ARE PUTTING OUR** Community Reinvestment Fund dollars to work! At the August meeting, the ECI REC Board of Directors voted to use the Cooperative's Community Reinvestment Fund to give a monetary donation of \$20,000 to the Benton County Disaster Recovery Coalition. This donation will assist Benton County residents affected by the August 10 derecho.

The Benton County Disaster Recovery Coalition is a nonprofit organization that meets the needs of community members affected by disaster. The Coalition was organized after the 2008 flood to assist residents with unmet needs after all other sources of assistance had been exhausted—a mission it continues today. Coalition members include various service agencies and volunteers from our local communities.

The ECI REC Community Reinvestment Fund was created in 2003. It is funded by unclaimed patronage retirement checks. As opportunities or needs arise, ECI REC uses the fund to support the communities we serve. The distribution of funds focuses especially on community, health, and youth initiatives. 

Cover photo: ECI REC CEO Teresa Floyd and Scott E. Hansen, Benton County Emergency Management and chairperson of the Benton County Disaster Recovery Coalition.

## Check Out Our Redesigned Website—ecirec.coop!


*a Cooperative Difference story*



**IF YOU HAVEN'T VISITED** our new website yet, we encourage you to take a minute to browse through it!

Website analytics from the first few weeks of operation indicate Account Services/Management, Energy Management/Rebate Forms, Contact Information, Outage Center, and News were the most important resources on our site. We believe we have made these areas more visible to our visitors. The SmartHub login space on the home page is a key component, providing easy and quick access to members for managing their ECI REC account(s). The site also provides a feed of our most recent Facebook posts and buttons with icons leading to popular pages.

Our redesigned website is located at the same URL. Simply type “ecirec.coop” into your browser to find it. We have learned that Chrome users are experiencing the exact look we planned for, while mobile users and other internet browsers may display our site a little differently.

As with all good websites, ours is a work in progress. One of the many benefits of being a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is the ability to use their web design and hosting capabilities to easily develop, edit, and navigate a user-friendly site in an affordable manner. We will continue to fine-tune a few of the sections, but we are very excited to bring our membership a refreshed and updated website! 

## Where Does Your Power Come From?

As a leading energy provider, CIPCO's balanced portfolio is comprised of a diverse mix of nuclear, wind, hydro, solar, landfill gas, natural gas, and coal energy resources. CIPCO is committed to providing environmentally friendly energy to its 12 Iowa distribution cooperatives, including ECI REC. As a result, nearly 70% of our generation is carbon-free.\*

\*All or some of the renewable energy credits associated with this generation may have been sold or may be sold in the future to other parties.

### CIPCO ENERGY PORTFOLIO

Source: CIPCO's 2019 Annual Report

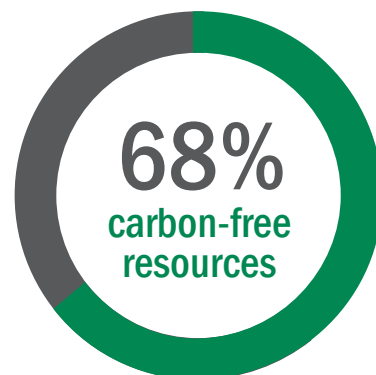
32% Coal

33.2% Nuclear

31.3% Wind

3.3% Hydro,  
Landfill Gas, Solar

0.2% Natural Gas





# Updates From the Field: ECI REC's Derecho Recovery

*a Keeping the Lights On feature*

**ECI REC CREWS CLOCKED** 10,000 miles in the emergency restoration period following the August 10 derecho—and that's not counting the mileage logged by the 6 mutual aid crews and multiple contractors who worked alongside us.

Getting poles and lines back up and restoring power to our membership was the first step toward recovery. When that was complete, our crews continued to put in 10-hour days to reinforce repairs to the distribution system and clear debris for harvest. Our crews also completed a preliminary assessment and documented the derecho damage for a FEMA submission, which will help with the cost of bringing our system back to where it needs to be (see stats below).

## A Story From the Road

"I've been through damaging ice storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, floods, and even other derechos," said Operations Manager Tom Schmitt. "But never in my 30 years with ECI REC have I seen anything as devastating and destructive to *both* the transmission and distribution systems as the August 10 derecho. It was so powerful it nearly crippled our ability to restore power back to our membership."

The weekend following the storm, Schmitt and Engineering Technician Scott McLaughlin hit the field to assess some of the damage. They also reached out in person to a handful of members who had been impacted by significant damage that would prevent their power being safely restored as soon as the rest of the membership. Schmitt recalls one member flagging them down on a gravel road to thank them for keeping members informed and working so hard to get power restored.

"The understanding and appreciativeness of our members was humbling," said Schmitt. "They wanted to help in any way they could—with equipment, water, cookies, and all kinds of generosity, even though many were without power and dealing with damage to their properties. We were glad we had that chance in the field—it's an experience I'll always remember." 🍪

## From Our Members

"A huge thank-you to all the staff and especially the lineworkers who worked above and beyond to get power back on. You are appreciated more than you know! I even hugged the lineman who came to tell us our electricity was restored." - **The Folkmanns**

"I wish you could have seen me when the electricity came back on ... You just made this 75-year-old lady dance! You have all been so good any time we have a problem here!" - **Joanne Moeller**

"Thank you very, very much for getting our power restored so quickly. Amazing work that was greatly appreciated!" - **Michelle and Steve Mayer**

"Thank you for all the extra-long days! We appreciate you—hands down the best around!" - **Tootsie Pops Daycare**

"You guys are phenomenal during disasters! Great job—it's much appreciated!"  
- **Rebecca Baltisberger Anderson**

## Initial Storm Stats & Findings

**Broken Poles: 375**

**Transformers Purchased: 56**

**Leaning Poles: 386**

**Conductor Damages: 71 spots**

**Conductor Resags: 330 spans**

**Conductor/Pole Reties: 334**

**Neutral Conductor Down: 201 spans**

**Broken Insulators: 53**

**Surge Arresters: 9**

**Loose Guy Wires: 128**

**Distribution Poles: 150**

**Overtime Hours Worked: 1,188**

**Miles Driven: 10,083**

### Personnel in the Field: 48

We would like to recognize and thank the 18 members of the ECI REC team as well as the 30 personnel from mutual aid crews and outside contractors who came to work with us during the emergency period. We could not have done it without the help of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, North West REC, Highline Construction, Inc., CRC Trenching Co., Maurer Tree Services, and Hendryx Electric. We appreciate you!

# Beneficial Electrification

**A win-win-win for utilities, the environment, and electricity users**

*an Energy Wise article*

**“BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION”** is a new catchphrase in the energy industry. It refers to the growing recognition that using clean electricity to keep our homes and businesses running is a cheaper, greener, and smarter way to meet our energy needs.

The nature of electricity continues to change, as does our nation’s environmental goals. That means our policy thinking needs to change as well. Research suggests that aggressive electrification of energy end uses—such as space heating, water heating, and transportation—is needed for the United States and the world to achieve ambitious goals for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and our carbon footprint.

Beneficial electrification happens when we use electricity to accomplish a task (or end use), and in doing so satisfy at least one of the following conditions without adversely affecting the others:

- » Does it save consumers money over time?
- » Does it benefit the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- » Does it improve product quality or consumer quality of life?
- » Does it foster a more robust and resilient grid?

## Beneficial Electrification is Environmentally Friendly


Innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity rather than on-site fossil fuels, like propane, natural gas, and gasoline. This concept is known as **beneficial electrification** and suggests that the use of more all-electric appliances and equipment like water heaters, ranges, lawn mowers, and electric vehicles provides consumers with greener products and benefits the environment.



*Image source: NRECA, with alterations*

Here are examples of common tools for beneficial electrification:

- » Air-source heat pumps
- » Geothermal heat pumps
- » Electric water heaters
- » Electric vehicles
- » Electric-powered lawn mowers, chainsaws, weed trimmers, etc.

Beneficial electrification programs are a valuable opportunity to engage both electric utilities and environmental groups in identifying solutions that work well for consumers, local communities, and the environment. Visit ECI REC’s website to learn more about beneficial electrification. 

*Resources: EESI, NRDC, EIA, and NRECA*



## Kids Learn Electrical Safety


Member Service Technician John Tegler presents demonstrations on electric safety for the Progressive Ag Safety Day held at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Courtesy photo from Vinton Today.



# Cooperative Offers Two Helpful Notification Programs

*a Keeping the Lights On message*


## THE HELPING HAND REMINDER PROGRAM

is a good option for members who struggle to pay electric bills in a timely fashion, perhaps due to illness or forgetfulness. When the account of an enrolled member becomes delinquent, ECI REC notifies their designated contact person. The contact person then reminds the member who missed their payment—they are under no obligation to pay the delinquent bill. Members can withdraw from the program at any time by contacting an ECI REC customer service representative at 877-850-4343. 



HELPING  
HAND  
REMINDER

## THE NOTIFY LANDLORD BEFORE DISCONNECT PROGRAM

is available if you own rental property that resides in ECI REC's service area and receives electricity from the Cooperative. Once enrolled, you will be notified prior to a meter disconnect while you are renting out the property, which can be helpful if your tenant contacts ECI REC to disconnect the meter when they are moving out. Or, a renter may have late bill payments that could result in meter disconnection. In certain situations and weather conditions, the owner may want to avoid the disconnect. 



NOTIFY  
LANDLORD  
BEFORE  
DISCONNECT

Enrollment for both programs can be completed by filling out the forms online at [ecirec.coop](https://ecirec.coop) under Account Services, Member Programs. Or, access either form online by scanning its QR code above.

# Happy Holidays!

The ECI REC team sends wishes for a safe and happy season to our members.

## Give the Gift of Electricity with a Power Boost Gift Certificate From ECI REC

Giving the gift of electricity may not be at the top of your list of ideas this holiday season, but it may be the perfect fit. Having a winter heating bill covered or partially covered could be a great, unexpected surprise for a friend or family member, and it's easy to do. Simply fill out the form online at [ecirec.coop/power-boost-gift-certificate](https://ecirec.coop/power-boost-gift-certificate). Both check and credit card payments are accepted. You may also access the form by scanning the QR code.



Photo credits: Annie Spratt (door) and Joanna Koskisa (garland), Unsplash.

CALL  
BEFORE  
YOU  
DIG  
IT'S THE LAW!



Iowa One Call:  
811 or 800-292-8989

 **ECI REC**

**LED  
REBATES  
EXPIRING  
SOON!**

Install before  
December.



**MORE SAVINGS.  
MORE MEMORIES.**

**connections.coop**

Save money this holiday season using ECI REC's Co-op Connections® Card. Get cash back when shopping online and local discounts (our participants are listed below) for all your gift-buying needs.

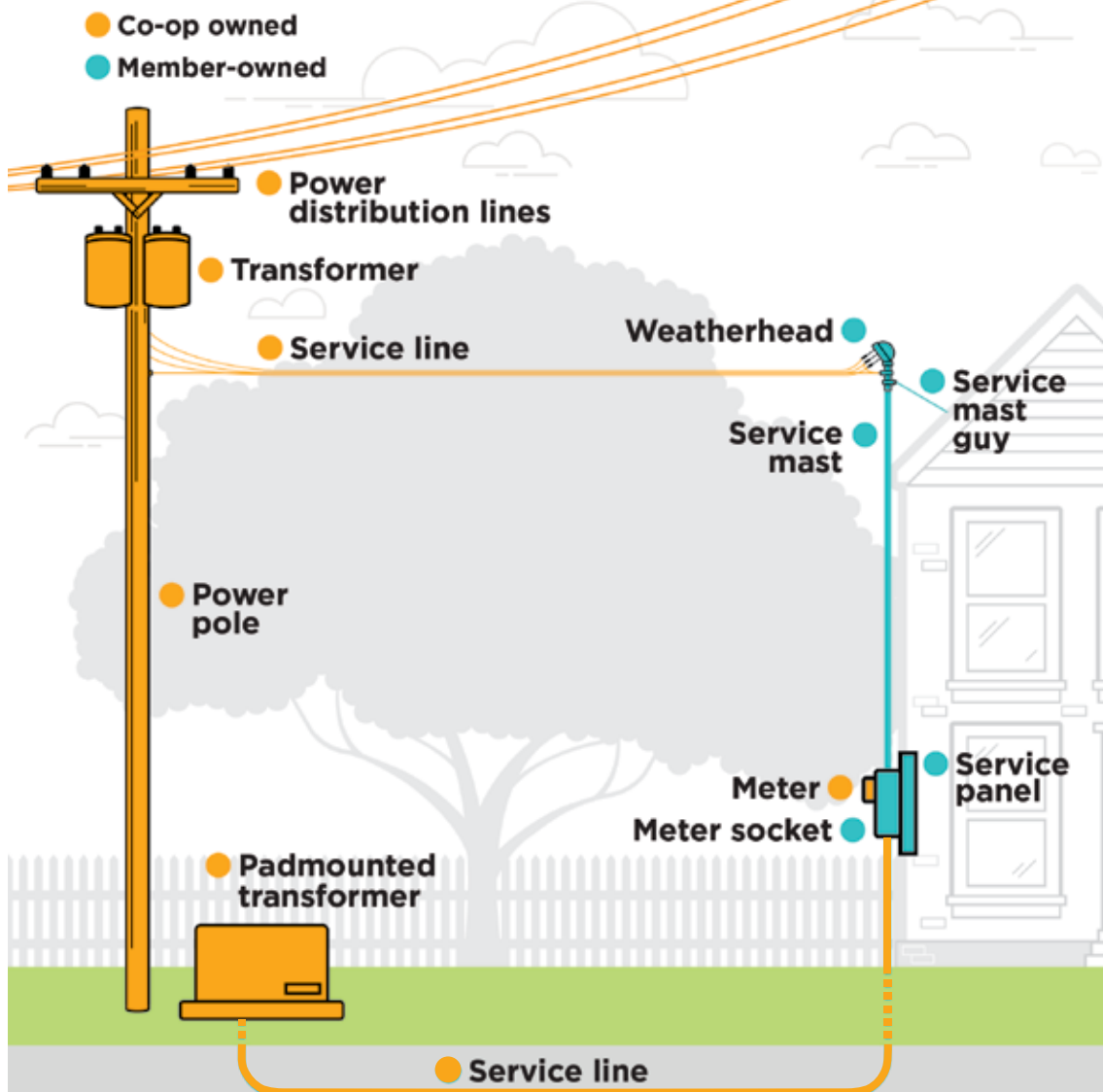
Emmy Lou Candles | Polar Blair's Den | Bill's Pizza & Smokehouse  
Cy & Charley's Tire & Appliances | E & T NAPA Auto Parts | Fabulous Fridays  
Heartland Acres Agribition Center | In the Country Garden & Gifts | Okoboji Grill  
Michael & Dowd | Office Towne, Inc. | Styles Unlimited | Berry's Lanes, Inc.  
Cameron Clothing Company | Clingman Pharmacy, Inc. | Frazier Nursery  
Henkle Creek Mercantile | Subway | Viking Sewing Center  
The NEWS/Buchanan County Review

Photo credit: 136242093 © Okes | Dreamstime.com

# Who Owns What?

## Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in **gold**) and the member (in **blue**). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE.  
**SMARTHUB.**

Sign up or log on  
at [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop).



**ON THE GO AND  
IN CONTROL.**

**MANAGE**

your account

**REPORT**

service issues

**VIEW AND PAY**

your bill

**RECEIVE**

key notices

**MONITOR**

usage 24/7

...all in the palm of  
your hand and  
online.








Photo credit: Teresa Schremsner



## Annual Pole-Top Rescue Training Prepares Lineworkers for Emergencies

*a Safety story*

**ALL ECI REC** lineworkers are required to pass a pole-top rescue course each year. The timed exercises ensure each lineworker can safely secure and lower an injured or stranded teammate using two methods: manually with a rope, clips, and cables, or by lowering the teammate using the truck bucket. After the mannequin used in the training is safely lowered, the lineworkers practice performing CPR.

"We hope our crews are never in a situation where they have to use these skills, but these exercises build the confidence and knowledge they need to perform life-saving measures," said Operations Manager Tom Schmitt. 

# KEEP SAFE AND WARM THIS WINTER



When the chill of fall and winter set in, be aware of **potential fire hazards that are lurking in your home**. Whether you're keeping warm with heat from your furnace, space heater, fireplace, or electric blanket, **Safe Electricity** offers these tips to prevent a fire in your home:



**Have your furnace inspected annually.**

Always place your space heater on a **steady surface** and away from curtains, tablecloths, or other flapping fabrics. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off switch.



Be sure your **chimney is clear** before each use, and cover your fireplace with a screen to keep children and pets away from flames.



**Inspect electric blankets** for scorch marks or visible damage regularly.

## Proud to Support Our Youth!

### Bank Bucks for College

*a Community Connected message*

**ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!** Don't miss out on these scholarship opportunities!

- » **ECI REC Scholarship Program** – Up to ten \$1,000 scholarships are available 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. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, March 3, 2021**. Visit [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop) for more details. Look for the Scholarships page in the Community & News menu.
- » **Youth Tour Alumni Scholarship** – One \$10,000 and four \$1,000 scholarships are available to alumni of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Visit [www.electric.coop](http://www.electric.coop) for details.
- » **Engineers of the Future Scholarship** – \$2,000 scholarships are available to students pursuing a career in engineering. Visit [www.electric.coop](http://www.electric.coop) for details.



# Celebrating Our Team

*a Keeping the Lights On Feature*

Photo credit: Katie Stadheim

## Line Foreman Honored for 25 Years of Service

**LINE FOREMAN KEVIN WALTON** has reached an impressive milestone: 25 years with ECI REC. Congratulations, Kevin, and thank you for your dedication to the Cooperative and our members!

## Celebrating Promotions in the ECI REC Team



Robin

**TWO ECI REC TEAM MEMBERS** have moved into new roles! Effective August 31, Robin Moore accepted the position of cost accounting clerk. Robin has served ECI REC for nine-and-a-half years as part of the Consumer Service team. She has now joined the Finance team and reports to Jennifer Schmitz.



Tom

Effective October 1, Tom Schmitt accepted the position of operations manager. Tom is in his thirtieth year at ECI REC. He will continue to fulfill the responsibilities of line superintendent, while also setting rates for new services, upgrades, and facilities management.

"I am pleased to make this announcement," said CEO Teresa Floyd. "Please join me in congratulating Robin and Tom on their new roles!"

## It's Back! Apply Now for 2021 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

*a Community Connected message*

**EACH YEAR, ECI REC** pays the way for two high school juniors to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. On Youth Tour, students explore the Smithsonian Museum, meet congressional leaders, spend a day on Capitol Hill, and learn about American history and government.

This year, two sessions are being held to help give students this valuable opportunity and manage safety during the pandemic. Iowa cooperatives will participate in the second session, June 21–26. The NRECA anticipates most sites will be open by next summer and will be helping state delegations plan for any limitations.

Youth Tour applications can be found at [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop); look for the Youth Tour page in the Community & News menu. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, February 24, 2021**.

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

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Full Name: **National Rural Electric Co-op Finance Corp (NRECA)** Complete Mailing Address: **201701 Cooperative Way, Dulles, VA 20166**

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

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	(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)		7212	7262
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page 3))		51	48
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		7280	7310
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\* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 18 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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☒ I certify that 80% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

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*Lisa Franck*  
Lisa Franck, Manager of Communications/Editor

Date: **9/22/20**


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).

# Help Us Find These Former Members

*a Cooperative Difference report*

**IN MAY**, the Board of Directors of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative voted to retire \$565,413 in patronage back to its members. These margins—100% (\$465,413) of its 2005 margins and 11.75% (\$100,000) of its 2016 margins—were credited to current members on their June bills. Former members were sent checks. The 90-day window to cash these checks has now passed, and the people listed below have not yet cashed their checks. These dividends will be forfeited to the Cooperative if not claimed within one (1) year.


If you know of 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.

**Patronage represents the margins, or profits, that the Cooperative earns on electricity purchased by its member-accounts. These margins are the member-accounts' equity in East-Central Iowa REC. The Cooperative uses this equity to maintain its poles and wires, rebuild its distribution system, and pay expenses. When ECI REC's financial condition allows, these margins are returned back to the members who generated them. In the past 10 years, ECI REC has returned \$5,569,475 to its members.** 

Akmae, Inc	Brandley, Sonia	Cue, Robert	Gates, David	Holsinger, Alexander	Klumph, Harry	Meek, Dawn
Alberts, Richard	Brandts Livestock Inc	Culbertson, David	Geese, Bradley	Holt, Dixie	Knapp, Beverly	Mehmen Builders
Albertsen, Caleb	Brannaman, Bryan	Curtis, Patrice	Geiger, June	Holub, Gary	Knight, Velma	Meier, Donald
Albright, Rachelle	Brewer, Dale	Dahlstrom, Mark	George, Joseph	Hook, Scott	Knipp, David	Melton, Scott
Alderman, Troy	Brewer, Lonnie	Daugherty, Wm	Getty, David	Hoover, Daphane	Knipp, Mary	Merchant, Mindi
Allard, Robert	Bridgewater, Steve	Davis, Kyla	Gibson, Kevin	Hopkins, Earl	Knudsen, Trent	Merchant, Tammy
Allen Sr, Robert	Brinkema, Jack	Davis, Michael	Glaeser, Twyla	Hoskins, Dale	Knudson, Sam	Merriweather, Ernest
Alter, Christopher	Brown, Dennis	Davis, Samuel	Goodall, Ray	Houghtaling, Jason	Knudtson, Jennifer	Meskimen, Keith
Amacher, Dale	Brown, Diane	Davis, Wayne	Goodell, Monica	Howe, Renee	Konicek, James	Michael, Harold
Amos, Ronald	Brown, Josh	Deardorff, David	Graf, Tim	Hawk, Charles	Kono, William	Midwest Wireless LLF
Amos, Steven	Brown, Ken	Delarme, Donald	Grant, Kevin	Huffman, Mark	Koon, Tim	Miersen, Angie
Anderson, Bridget	Brown, Richard	Depaape, Andrew	Graves, Robert	Hulse Farm Trust	Kounty, Lyle Estate	Miller, Darla
Conservator	Brush, Rodger	Devries, Inc	Greaser, Margaret	Hummel, Roger	Kovacs, Pearl	Miller, Dwight
Anderson, Debra	Buchtela, Ronda	Dewitt, Janet	Greene, Jerome	Hummell, Jason	Kramer, Kurt	Miller, Erna
Anderson, Thelma	Buck, John	Dickey, Clint	Grefrath, Michael	Hunter, Richard	Kruger, Rick	Miller, Gary
Andrews, Cindy	Buelow, Bert	Docekai, Richard	Griffin, Steve	Hurst, Linda	Kruse, Lyle	Miller, Kevin
Anthony, Shirley	Burch, Douglas	Dochterman, Corey	Griffith, Bernice	Hyde, Evelyn	Kuennen, Brenden	Miller, Printerie
Aschbrenner, Quentin	Buresh, Gary	Domezal, John	Griffith, Craig	Inman, Carolyn	Kuena, Clarence	Miller, Tamara
Atherley, Michael	Burnell, Keith	Domeyer, Keith	Grimm, Robert	Interstate Power And	Kula, Leroy	Miller, Thad
Avenson, Clayton	Burrows, Patricia	Donnelly, Dick	Groom, Erica	Light Co	Kunde, Nick	Mills, Ben
Bachner, Jill	Bushee, Carla	Donnelly, John	Gusta, Shannon	Iowa Health System	Kuper, Robert	Mills, Kevin
Bacich, Thomas	Buttkofer, Jessie	Doonan, Brenda	Guyer, Cassandra	Iowa Wireless	Lahn, Zach	Minton, Daryn
Backer, Harry	Byrne, Immanuel	Doyle, Travis	Hadachek, Jon	J & J Construction	Lamphier, Marvin	Mochal, Amanda
Bain, Sean	Caillill, Jodi	Drafahl, Vinnie	Haisman, Shelley	J & J Farm Inc	Lane, Donald	Moeller, Mitch
Baker, David	Callahan, Dovie	Drahos, Wesley	Hallett, Chris	Jahlas, Robyn	Lane, Ronald	Moessner, Kelly
Baker, Roger	Campbell, Hunter	Draker, Kimberly	Hallmark LTD	Jasa, Rudy	Lang, Arin	Montavon, Jeffrey
Baldwin, Larry	Campbell, Steven	Drees, Curt	Halverson, Josh	Jeffries, Joy	Lange, Dean	Moore, David
Ball, Ashley	Carder, Doug	Driscoll, Todd	Hamerlinck, Kris	Jenkins, Charles	Lassen, Helen	Moore, Jonathan
Ballard, Mildred	Carlson, Thomas	Drish, Tom	Hamilton, Paul	Jenney, Justin	Leckness, Emily	Moritz, Aley
Ballheim Farm	Carman, Michael	Durkop, Shawn	Hammond, Traci	Jennings, John	Lenz, Pamela	Mullan, Brian
Balster, Bryce	Cashner, Burton	Dutka, Jessica	Hanna, Norma	Jensen, Craig	Lewis, Sarah	Murdock, Ron
Barbour, Melia	Cason, Richard	Eckes, William	Hannan, Mark	Jensen, Einar	Lillibridge Transportation	Murley, Chad
Barker, Dallas	Cassaday, Phyllis	Eckman, Nikki	Hanover, Linda	Jensen, Joshua	Long, John	Murphy, Marilyn
Barnhart, Shawn	Cendant Mortgage	Edmondson, Laura	Hansel, Tessa	Jepsen, David	Long, Kevin	Murphy, Todd
Bass, Duane	Chalupa, Katie	Edsall, Kevin	Hansen, Brad	Johnson Development	Looney, Angela	Murray, David
Baumert, Joseph	Chambers, Robert	Edwards, Wilford	Hansen, T	Johnson, Kile	Looney, Timothy	Murray, Peter
Baumgartner, Carla	Chesser, Stephanie	Eiben, Galen	Hanson, Cyd	Johnson, Robert	Lorenz, Larry	Musalall, Maher
Beau, Tara	Childress, April	Eiselstein, Edwin	Hanson, Joann	Johnson, Ronald	Losenicky, Beatrice	Musgrove, Scott
Belknap, Duane	Clar, Christopher	Elliott, James	Hanson, Leonard	Jones, D	Lukas, John	Naber, Jerry
Bennett, Jennifer	Clark, Roberta	Emrich, Mark	Hardersen, Penny	Jones, Donna	Luloff, Janet	Naylor, Allen
Bensend, Marvin	Clark, Ronald	Engledow, Melissa	Harker, Dolly Jean	Jordening, David	Macho, Jeffery	Neebel, Margaret
Bentley, Bruce	Clark, Stephen	Eubanks, J	Harsen, Lindy	Junge, Carolyn	Madison, Norma	Neel, Rachel
Benton/Linn Wireless	Clement, Jeni	Ewoldt, Terry	Hart, Brian	Kaiser, Mary Jo	Mahan, Cindy	Nehl, Sam
Berkes, Urban Trust	Clinton, Erwin	Faith Bible Institute	Hart, Dennis	Kane, Adam	Mahoney Jr, Dan	Nelderhiser, Betty
Berstler, Wesley	Close, Ronald Estate	Fank, John	Hart, Larry	Kanke, Chad	Mahoney, Charles	Neighbors, Joseph
Beyer, Kelli	Coffland Family Farm	Feldman, Floyd	Hartgrave, Dorna	Kaplan, Kristi	Mahoney, Edward	Neil, Kerri
Bicket, Dawn	Coil, Tina	Felker, Terry	Hartman, Joe	Karcher, Ruth	Malek, John	Neill, Joanne
Big Timber Inc	Coleson, Kari	Fettkether, George	Haworth, Paul	Karol, Kimberly	Manville, Betty	Neyman, Gregory
Bilsland, Clarence	Connell, David	Fink, Richard	Hayes, Laura	Keilholtz, Jamie	Marble Eye Products	Niedert, Greg
Birch, Mason	Conner, Kurt	Fisher, Dean	Hayes, Shawn	Kellogg, Britt	Marble, Kurt	Nielson, Rex
Bird, Shirley	Cono Christian School	Flesher, Naomi	Hearn, Dennis	Kelly, Thomas	Marise, Lacey	Noe, Melvin
Birt, Jered	Cook, John	Floyd, Roland	Heine, Steve	Kennedy, Randall	Martens, Lucy	North, Patricia
Bishop, Randall	Cooke, Randy	Forsyth, Michele	Heiser, Marsha	Kennett, John	Martin, Dean	Northcutt, Kim
Biwer, Richard	Copeland, Jack	Fowler, Cassandra	Heiserman, David	Keppler, Keith	Martin, Wayne	Novotny, Edwin
Blackford, Anna	Corbin, Laura	Fowler, Julia	Heit, Brian	Kerndt Brothers Savings	Mason, Brandi	Nurre, James
Blaha, Lolita	Corcoran, Daniel	Fowlkes Jr, Arthur	Herzog, Mary	Bank	Maynard, Daniel	Oak View Construction
Blakley, Jacob	Cornish, Mark	Fox, Roger	Hettinger, Cheryl	KFMW-FM Broadcasting	Mccallister, Steven	Oberreuter, Gary
Blank, Joe	Cornwell, Kayla	Frack, Larry	Hettinger, Scott	Kiesey, D	Mccarty, Donald	Oconnor, John
Blatchford, Verna	Coughenour, Brodie	Franks, Duane	Heyer, Barbara	Kinder Morgan Energy	Mccleary, Stephen	Oconnor, Kelly
Blood, Karin	Countrymen, Betty	Fratzke, Allan	HHK Construction	Partners, LLC	Mccollum, Amber	Olson, Audrey
Blunn, Kelly	Covington, Jennifer	Frost, Emelda	Hill, Linda	King, Sheldon	Mccormick, Robert	Olson, Cecil
Boddicker, Mildred Estate	Cowan, Austin	Frost, Stanley	Himmel, Nathan	King, Thomas	Mcgrath, Lucille	O'Regan, Lisa
Boots, Jeffrey	Cox, Dana	Fuller, Jeff	Hinde, Danny	Kintzel, Travis	McIntyre, Jennifer	Orman, Thomas
Bourget, Tige	Cram, Kelly	Galbraith, Jonathan	Hinton, Galen	Kintzle, Alice	Mckim Jr, James	Ortner, William
Bowers, Mike	Crawford, Malinda	Galkowski, Marshall	Hocken, Theresa	Klein, Nicole	Mckinley Hilmer, Janet	Osborn, Brein
Brad'S Truck Repair	Crawford, Rick	Gardner, Miles	Hoek, Ralph	Kleitsch Farm LLC	McLaurie, Tye	Osborn, Jim
Brady, Clement	Creel, Bruce	Gardner, Roger	Hohn, Steve	Kleitsch, Steve	McMurrin, Doris	Osborn, Kim
Brainard, Sherry	Criswell, Brent	Garvin LP Gas	Hollister, Casey	Klimes, Liz	Mcneal, Cari	Osborn, Nicole
Branderhorst, Brook	Croal, Margaret		Holm, Megan	Kloubec, Nick	Meadows, Carl	Osborn, Jon



For the past 17 years, I have served ECI REC as the manager of finance and consumer services. I had the privilege of hands-on training with past chief executive officers, providing support and advice on strategic planning, staffing, and union negotiations. I assisted with strategizing policy changes, financial planning, retail rates, and regulatory issues to present to the Board of Directors. I spent 10 years preparing in earnest to take my career to the next level as CEO. I graduated from the Manager Internship Program and Cooperative Financial Certificate Program, and I built a network of colleagues across the state and nation.

During my time with ECI REC, we have invested in our employees, implemented technology, improved reliability, and remained true to our core mission of providing safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity to our membership. There is still much to be done—ideas to consider, strategic goals to meet, technology to research, investments to make in our employees, and lights to keep on—all while doing what is best for the Cooperative. I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to serve ECI REC's members and employees. 

Ostlie, Linda  
Overland, Mark  
Owen, David  
Owens, Jr, Donald  
Page, Larry  
Paris Brothers LLC  
Rees, Jeremy  
Patava, Robert Estate  
Patten, Lauri  
Patterson, Marilyn  
Patton, Lisa  
Paulsen Jr, Herman  
Paxson Communications Corp  
Pearson, Dennis  
Peck, John  
Pennington, David  
Perry, Michael  
Pershy, Todd  
Peters, Sarah  
Petersen, Leah  
Peterson, Marcia  
Peterson, Steve  
Petrzelka, Arthur  
Petrzelka, Bruce  
Petrzelka, Matt  
Pilipovic, Meah  
Pinnacle Towers Inc  
Pint, Norbert Estate  
Pipho, Shayne  
Pledge, Janice  
Plum, Bev  
Poole, Jenny  
Popelar, Tony  
Popour, Rodney  
Potts, Darrell  
Potts, Donald  
Powell, Tamara  
Power, Russell  
Prairie Health Partners  
Premier, Grain  
Preuss, Steven  
Price, Steve  
Prior, Stephen  
Pugh, Robert  
Purdy, Glen  
Purdy, Sarah  
Pusteoska, Doug  
Putnam, Gene  
R B Homes  
Randall, Chrystal

Randall, Marjorie  
Rausch, Greg  
Rave-Boffelli, Alexis  
Rawson, Kathy  
Recker, Michael  
Reeder, Mark  
Rees, Janet  
Reid, Rodney  
Reida, George  
Reisch, David  
Reiter, Chris  
Renfer, Larry  
Renner, Russell  
Reynolds, Doug  
Reynolds, Tamra  
Rhea, James  
Rich Jan Farm Corp  
Ridings, James  
Riggins, Cheri  
Rilling, Holly  
Ritter, Lucie  
Robbins, Colby  
Robertson, Rebecca  
Robertson, Wendi  
Robinson, Carl  
Roehrich, Charles  
Roethler, Joseph  
Rogers, Gregory  
Rolf, Frank  
Rommann, April  
Ross, Sandra  
Roster, David  
Roth, Paul  
Rothlisberger, John  
Rowan, Tom  
Rowray, Vickie  
Rudd, Cassandra  
Ruhl & Ruhl  
Ryan, Nicholas  
Sadler, Ervin  
Sallee, Rebecca  
Salter, Damon  
Salviati, Lara  
Sammons, Kevin  
Sanders, Steven  
Sasse, Robert  
Scalf, Beverly  
Schad, Kathy  
Schares Estate, Marys  
Schlemmer, Linda  
Schmitz, Chris

Schmitz, Jackie  
Schmitz, Ray  
Schoeberl, Don  
Schott, Debra  
Schultz, Kimberly  
Schulte, Dixie  
Schulte, Jayson  
Schults, Cindy  
Schultz, Richard  
Schwarzoff, Kevin  
Scott, Darrell  
Scott, Lori  
Seeman, Cary  
Serene Wooded  
Access  
Shepherd, Billy  
Shilling, William  
Short, Mary  
Shriver, John  
Shultice, Trust  
Siemens, Wallace  
Silhanek, Rod  
Silker, Jeff  
Simmons, Jalissa  
Simons, Julie  
Skeers, Robert  
Skinner, Julie  
Smith, Amanda  
Smith, Dan  
Smith, George  
Smith, James  
Smith, Patty  
Smith, Randy  
Smith, Seth  
Smith, Stacy  
Snively, Bryan  
Soldwish, Reginald  
Spence, Curtis  
Spratt, Willis  
Spreen, Barry  
Spurgeon, Jeffrey  
Squires, Kaylene  
Stagenwald, Scott  
Starny Farms  
Stander, David  
Steffen, Larry  
Stepanek, Craig  
Stephenson, Edward  
Stevens, Nancy  
Stewart, Brad  
Stewart, Rita

Stock, J Raymond  
& Ada  
Stolfus, Michael  
Stolp, Keith  
Stoner, Corey  
Strait, Clair  
Stramer, Steven  
Stratton, Kelly  
Strauch, Tobey  
Strempe, Steven  
Strief, David  
Struchen, Thomas  
Stueck, Gene  
Sutton, Gregg  
Sutton, Jason  
Svensen, Alana  
Swaim, Randy  
Sweet, Tracy  
Switzer, Mabel  
T 2 LLC  
Taylor, Christopher  
Taylor, Nathan  
Taylor, Vicki  
Tefer, Charles  
Templeton, Paul  
Terrell, Karleen  
Tharp, Angela  
The, Maschhoffs  
Theilen, John  
Thode, Michael  
Thomas, Greg  
Thomas, Robert  
Thompson, Jodi  
Tiedeman, Troy  
Titcomb, Stephen  
Tomash, Alex  
Toom, Lorraine  
Townsend, Robert  
Townsend, Tyler  
Trantham, Carey  
Travis, Dale  
Triple J Acres  
Truslow, Mark  
Tudor, Bruce  
Ulizzi, James  
Underwood, Lewis  
Urich, Paul  
Utle, Ronda  
Vajgrt, John  
Valley, Arnold  
Vanutrecht, John

Varney, Mike  
Vaupel, Albert  
Vavra, J Orfa  
Vogel, Patrick  
Volker, William  
Vonlienen, Robert  
Voss, Cindy  
Votrobeck, Kevin  
Wahl, Kenneth  
Wall, Joseph  
Wambsgass, Warren  
Wanson, Kathy  
Ward, Brad  
Wasson, Alyssa  
Weekley, Larry  
Weig Sand & Gravel Inc  
Wells Fargo Home  
Mortgage Inc  
Wells, Charles  
Wells, Larry  
Wendel, George  
Werle Construction  
Werner, Clint  
Wessels, John  
West, Jackie  
Westemeier, Leroy  
Weston, Raymond  
Weuste, Kathy  
Wheeler, Raymond  
White, Kenneth  
Whiting, Candice  
Whitney, Martin  
Whitson, Michael  
Widener, Tim  
Widner, Jack  
Wiegand, Kirk  
Wierck, James  
Wildebou, Ronald  
Wilkin, W Ward  
Wilkinson, Phillip  
Wille, Margaret  
Williams, Lynn Estate  
Williams, Pamela  
Willis, Bobisu  
Wilson, Scott  
Wolfe, Alice  
Younker, Gerald  
Zelnio, Annette  
Zieser, Carl  
Zigrang, Jon  
Zimmerman, Gary

## YOUR BOARD

**Board District 1 - Jeff Elliott**  
(2020/2021 Vice President)

**Board District 2 - Julie Kester**

**Board District 3 - Allen Albers**

**Board District 4 - Gary McKenna**  
(2020/2021 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer)

**Board District 6 - Don Shonka**

**Board District 8 - Nick Donlea**

**Board District 9 - Steve Rau**  
(2020/2021 President)

**Board District 10 - Ryan Kress**  
(2020/2021 Secretary/Treasurer)

## CLASSIFIEDS: Free to members only

FOR SALE: Size 13D Mason work boot; size 13D Mason 7" side-zip brown dress boot; size 13D New Balance black walking shoe; size 13W Thom McAn brown tie Oxford. Located in Hazelton. Ph: 319-636-2938 or 319-440-2642.

Please email your ad to [classifieds@ecirec.coop](mailto:classifieds@ecirec.coop). Ads for the Jan./Feb. 2021 Heartland Link must be received by Dec. 1, 2020.

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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## Driving Electric? Don't Miss This Rebate!

- ECI REC offers rebates on residential Level II Chargers requiring a 240/208-volt input supply.
- Members may qualify for a rebate of 50% of the installation cost up to \$500.
- Rebate is limited to one charger per home.

Learn more about the program requirements from the rebate form at [ecirec.coop](http://ecirec.coop).

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East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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](http://www.ecirec.coop)



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## Message From the CEO: Humbled and Honored to Serve ECI REC

**IN MY FIRST MESSAGE** to our membership, I focused on the August 10 derecho—and rightly so, as the storm had a profound impact on both our Cooperative and our membership. Now, in my second message, I'd like to take some time to introduce myself and reflect on my new role as CEO.

During my interview, I recall one of my statements to the Board of Directors: "I truly love what I do at ECI REC, and at this point in my career that should be enough—but it is not. I want to lead our Cooperative."

It's an honor and a privilege to have been chosen from a pool of qualified candidates to serve as the next CEO and general manager of East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative. I am passionate about this Cooperative, our employees, and our membership. It is my desire to continue our vision of making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

I am new to the role of CEO, but I am not new to ECI REC, our values, or the cooperative business model. I began my career with Benton County Electric Cooperative Association, a parent cooperative of ECI REC, handling work orders and line material. I have been blessed with many great mentors along the way and have been promoted 4 times in my 28 years with the Cooperative.

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