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Why do we hold director elections?

Democratic member control is a key cooperative principle, and WIPCO's annual director election is an important opportunity for members to have a say in the cooperative's direction.

Because WIPCO is a cooperative, WIPCO members elect local representatives--other WIPCO members--to serve on the 10-member board. Directors participate in setting policy and are expected to represent the interests of the entire WIPCO membership.

More information about how you can vote in the upcoming director elections can be found in this newsletter on page 6.

Also watch for more details on the 2023 Annual Meeting in the August newsletter, on our website at www.wipco.com and follow us on Facebook!

Western Iowa Power Cooperative's mission is to enhance our members' quality of life by providing safe and reliable electric services.



Manage your utilities the way you want anytime, anywhere.

Manage your Western Iowa Power Cooperative account the way you want with the WIPCO Mobile App.

- Online Bill Payments
- Convenient and Secure
- Easy to Use, No Contact
- Easy Account Management Tools
- View Usage
- View Statements
- View Past Payments
- Sign Up for Notifications
 - Statement Available
 - Payment Due Soon
 - Payment Received
 - Credit Card about to Expire

Questions? Call our office at 800-253-5189.



Available on iOS and Android. Search for WIPCO or Western Iowa Power Cooperative in your app store. After installing the app, create your account or login with your existing online WIPCO credentials.

Iversen Achieves CCD Director Certification

Congratulations to WIPCO Board President, Janet Iversen, who recently completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program. The CCD consists of 5 courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Congratulations, Janet!



*Marcus Rihner,
Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

Summer Reliability: Serving Your Energy Needs in Western Iowa

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a

report outlining its 2023 Summer Reliability

Assessment in May. In the report, NERC warns that two-thirds of North America is at risk of energy shortfalls this summer during periods of extreme demand.

Many electric utilities across the country are members of one of nine regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs), also referred to as power pools. These entities are federally regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and work on a regional scale to coordinate, control, and monitor supply and demand on the electric grid. RTOs do not own the power grid, but they work as “air traffic controllers” of the grid to ensure reliable power supplies, adequate transmission infrastructure, and “day-ahead” electric market coordination of wholesale electricity prices on behalf of their members.

NIPCO, WIPCO’s wholesale electric generation and transmission provider, owns and operates transmission resources in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) RTO footprint. While there are no high-risk areas identified in this year’s assessment, the number of areas identified as being at elevated risk has increased. The assessment finds that, while resources are adequate for normal summer peak demand, if summer temperatures spike, seven areas – the U.S. West, SPP,

MISO, ERCOT, SERC Central, New England, and Ontario – may face supply shortages during higher demand levels.

The report noted that areas in the U.S. West are at elevated risk due to wide-area heat events that can drive above-normal demand and strain resources and the transmission network. In SPP, the report indicated that wind energy output will be key to meeting normal summer peak and extreme demand levels due to little excess baseload electric generation capacity.

What does this mean for WIPCO?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear and natural gas are being retired. WIPCO believes in and advocates for an “all-of-the-above” energy approach. This “all-of-the-above” strategy reinforces that the U.S. depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation, including biofuels, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, and coal.

WIPCO, NIPCO, and NIPCO’s primary power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, are well-positioned to meet this summer’s peak demand. In fact, in 2022, NIPCO’s Reliability Factor (the percentage of time for which an average member in the NIPCO system, including WIPCO’s members, had normal power conditions and was not subject to any kind of outage conditions) was 99.9905%, and its 5-year average Reliability Factor is slightly higher at 99.9907%. Reliable electric service to our members remains a top priority

for us at WIPCO and our trusted energy providers at NIPCO and Basin.

It’s important to remember that our country’s electric grid is made up of thousands of generating stations and millions of miles of line. An unexpected power plant outage or natural disaster could impact SPP’s projections, and if any such event were to occur, we would communicate this to our members as quickly as possible.

What is WIPCO doing?

We will continue to work with policymakers and regulators on the state and federal levels for a sensible “all-of-the-above” generation approach.

The ongoing energy transition must continue to recognize the need for time for technology development while including all energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. Our families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford, and a diverse energy mix is essential to meeting these expectations day in and day out.

While we support and encourage the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when there simply isn’t enough energy from renewable sources alone to keep the lights on. This means we must continue to recognize the value of baseload generation plants now and into the future.

Our mission remains the same. We are here to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and do everything we can to continue to live up to this mission.

WIPCO Operations Manager Prepares for the Future



WIPCO Operations Manager, Michael Akers recently completed the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program. Michael is pictured (back row, far left) with classmates and Gary Pfann, Director, Executive and Staff Education at NRECA (bottom row, far right).

WIPCO Operations Manager, Michael Akers, has completed an intensive program in electric utility management. The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.

Akers is one of only a few electric utility management staff that will graduate from the Management Internship Program this year.

MIP participants go through three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate in new, innovative management techniques. Participants leave with a better understanding of what consumers want and how to ensure they get it.

By also covering the unique principles that govern the operations of electric cooperatives, the program helps the cooperative analyze other business ventures it may want to enter as well as enhancing the core organization.

Only rural electric cooperative CEOs and top-level management participate in the program. This allows greater emphasis of study on management and leadership challenges and the aspects of consumer-ownership that cooperatives enjoy. Participants focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making. 21-07-2850

Akers has completed one of the most exclusive management development programs in the nation for electric cooperatives.

Welcome New Employees



Marcus Imhoff

WIPCO recently hired apprentice lineman, Marcus Imhoff.

Imhoff is from Lebanon, Missouri. He graduated from California High and received an associates degree in electrical distribution systems from Ozark Technical Community College.

In his spare time, Marcus enjoys hunting and fishing.



Sadie Railsback

WIPCO welcomes Sadie Railsback as our new communications specialist.

Originally from Odebolt, Sadie graduated from OA-BCIG High and has a communication studies and events planning degree from the U of I.

Sadie will be married this July in Boulder, Colorado, and hobbies include the gym, golfing, and traveling to visit friends or family on the weekends.

Nominating Committee Meets



Nominating Committee members (l to r) Wray Wright, Roger McCandless, Bob Otto, Todd Brus, Craig Dozark, and Loretta Reimers. Not pictured - Matt Bieret

Thank you to the 2023 Nominating Committee, who met on June 5 to nominate candidates who have indicated their desire and willingness to serve on the WIPCO Board of Directors.

Director elections will take place on Thursday, August 31, 2023. See page 6 for mail-in ballot instructions. Look for the official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members included with the mail-in-ballots to be mailed to members' homes later this month. And, be sure to read the August issue of the WIPCO *Informer* for more Annual Meeting details.

4 Western Iowa Power Cooperative Director Candidates



District No. 1

Mike Friis

Mike and his wife, Linda, live south of Sloan in Lake Township. They have one daughter. Mike is retired after working 27 years as location manager for Western Iowa Cooperative and New Cooperative, where he was in charge of the day-to-day operations at the Blencoe and Onawa locations. He is a member of the Community Church of Christ in Sloan, past church council president, was EMT for the Sloan Fire Department from 1974 to 1995 and serves on the WIPCO Board as assistant secretary/treasurer. In his spare time, Mike enjoys golf, fishing, and travel.



District No. 1

Kenneth Smith

Ken and his wife, Cheryl, live north of Whiting in Lake Township. They have two children and two grandchildren. Ken worked 17 years as a journeyman electrician and general foreman working on industrial projects for Interstates Construction, 15 years as owner of C&K Auto Supply, and 11 years at a John Deere dealer. He is a member of the Community Church of Christ, Sloan and past deacon and elder at First Christian Church, Onawa. Ken enjoys grandkids' activities, working on vintage cars, motorcycles, carpentry, gardening, and fishing.



District No. 2

Tom Green

Tom and his wife, Sheryn, live south of Hornick in West Fork Township. They have two children and two grandchildren. Tom is currently semi-retired from farming a 600+ acre, irrigated corn/soybean rotation. He has his doctorate in psychological services and worked 31 years for Northwest Area Education Agency as a practitioner and administrator--the last 11 years managing Iowa's ESL assessment program and did consulting work for several colleges. Tom is a past director of the Western Iowa Co-op Board and current trustee for both New Farmers Drainage District and West Fork Township. He enjoys woodworking, welding, traveling, and watching the commodities and stock market.



District No. 2

Louis Reed

Louis and his wife, Terri, live east of Ticonic in Grant Township. The Reeds have two children and five grandchildren. Louis farms and raises corn, beans, alfalfa and has a cow/calf operation. He has past service on the Maple Valley School Board, the Monona County Soil Conservation Board and is a member of the Monona County Cattlemen. Louis is past president of the Western Iowa Power Cooperative Board, has served as a director since 1995 and is also president of the Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors. He enjoys traveling and spending time with his family.



District No. 7

Brian Lundell

Brian and his wife, Lisa, live north of Kiron (Wheeler Township) with their two sons, Noah and Caleb. Brian farms corn and soybean crops and raises hogs plus owns a coffee/ice cream store in Ida Grove. He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Kiron, is on the Kiron Fire Department (past treasurer and past assistant fire chief), member of the Ida County Pork Producers, serves as president of the Ida Grove Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the board of the Ida Grove Foundation, which was responsible for renovating the King Theatre. Brian enjoys flying, researching history, and collecting vintage signs with his dad.

District 7 - Brian Lundell will be running unopposed in this election.



District No. 8

Mike Fink

Mike and his wife, Patricia, live south of Deloit in Goodrich Township. They have 7 children and 6 grandchildren. Mike owns and manages a Century Farm in Crawford County. He started Midwest Satellite & TV with stores in Denison and Milford and retired in 2019 after 25 years. Over the years, Mike was Crawford County 4-H officer, Denison FFA officer, Denison Chamber and Crawford County Development member, and was a local officer and district and regional director for the Denison Jaycees. Mike's hobbies include running a portable band-saw sawmill, woodworking, hunting, fishing and golfing.



District No. 8

Gary Volkert

Gary and his wife, LuAnn, live east of Denison in East Boyer Township. They have three daughters and four grandchildren. Gary graduated from Eastwood HS and Iowa Lakes Community College. He has been in the seed business for 35 years, working for Nutrien Ag Solutions Wholesale as a seed specialist in Wall Lake and owns Volkert Sales, LC in Denison. Volkerts are members of Our Savior Lutheran Church. Gary is a former member of the Crawford County Fair Board. His hobbies include restoring classic Mopar cars, drag racing, Oliver tractors, spending time with family, and attending Minnesota Vikings games.

6 How to Vote by "Mail-in-Ballot"

The 2023 director election will be held by mail-in ballot. Members, please watch for your official WIPCO Election ballot in your mailbox later in July. Each member is entitled to one (1) vote. Also included in the mailing will be the Notice of Annual Meeting, director candidate profiles, a ballot envelope and a return envelope to be mailed or placed in one of our office drop boxes.

Your ballot will be kept sealed and in a secure location until opened and counted by WIPCO's attorney and official ballot counters. It is important that members use both envelopes to maintain the anonymity of the votes.

All ballots returned by close of business (4:00 p.m.) on August 31, 2023, will receive a \$10 bill credit and be eligible in the drawing for an electric grill and bill credits in amounts up to \$50. Members can also vote in person at our District Meeting or Annual Meeting and will receive a \$10 bill credit. Follow the examples on this page to mark and return your ballot when you receive it in the mail. 55-28-26296

**2. Place your ballot in the "Ballot" envelope and seal

BALLOT ENVELOPE

Place ballot in this envelope.
Place this envelope in the return envelope.

*1. Mark your ballot (Sample--Please do not mail back in)

**WESTERN IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE
MAIL-IN BALLOT FOR VOTING ON DIRECTORS
ANNUAL MEETING - AUGUST 31, 2023**
Vote for no more than one Director for each District.

THREE-YEAR TERM (Four to be Elected)

District No. 1:

Mike Friis

Kenneth Smith

District No. 2

Tom Green

Louis Reed

District No. 7:

Brian Lurdell

Unopposed

District No. 8

Mike Fink

Gary Volkert

(Mark ballot with an "X" in the square behind each nominee for whom you vote.)

SAMPLE
PLEASE DO NOT
MAIL BACK IN

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*****3. Place your "Ballot" envelope
in the postage-paid return
envelope and drop in the mail**



WESTERN IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE
809 Highway 39 North
P.O. Box 428
Denison, Iowa 51442

IMPORTANT!



EMPOWERING

Comfort

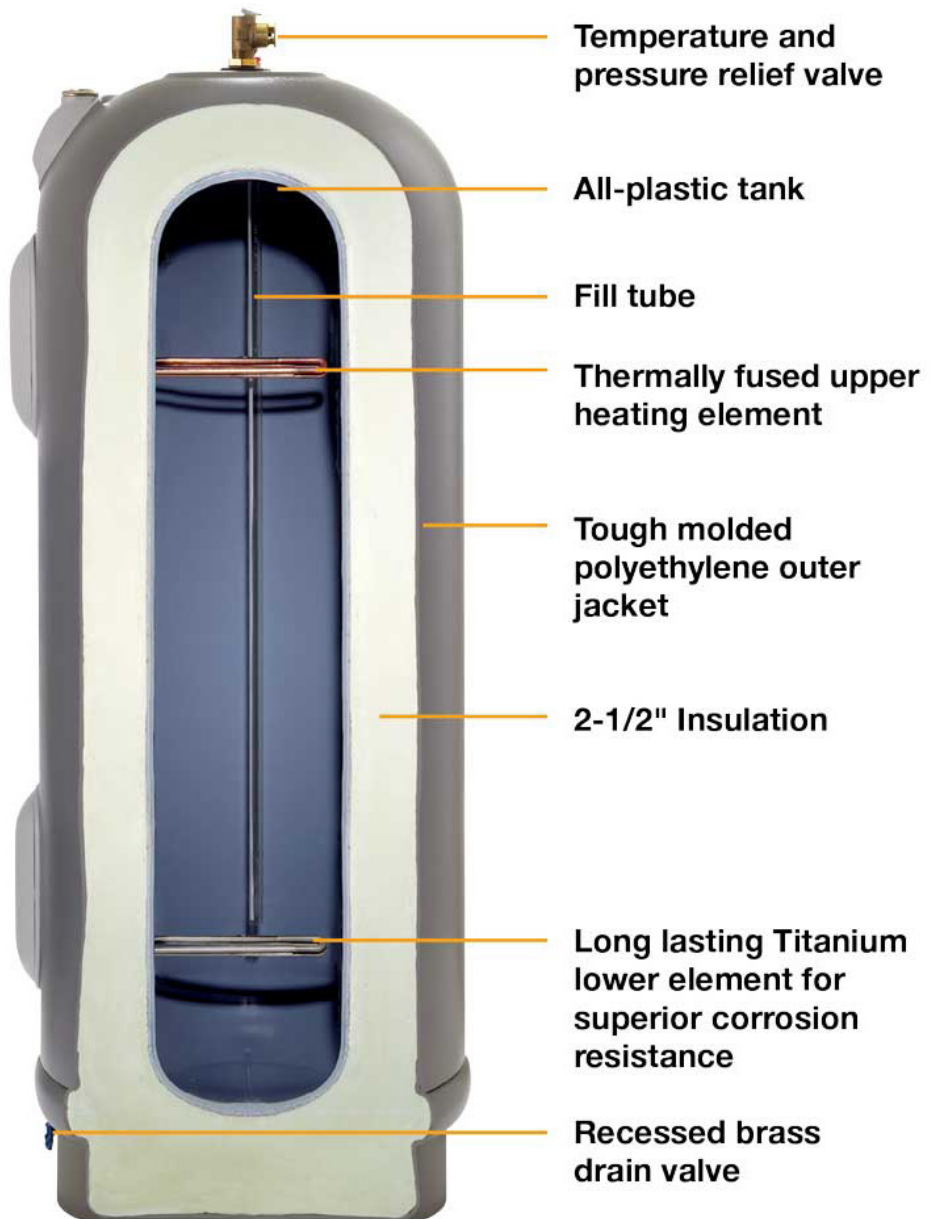
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809 Highway 39 North - P.O. Box 428
Denison, Iowa 51442
712-263-2943 OR 800-253-5189
FAX 712-263-8655
wipco@wipco.com

418 East Iowa Avenue - P.O. Box 115
Onawa, Iowa 51040
712-433-1622 OR 800-253-5189
FAX 712-433-2725
wipco@wipco.com

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Marcus Rihner, Executive V.P./General Manager
Mari Miller, Editor



*"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer"*

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Cooking outdoors will eliminate the electricity used to power the stove and avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Save \$25.00 on your REC bill

Read this newsletter carefully. Hidden somewhere within these pages are two Member location numbers. Find your location number in this newsletter, call the REC office by the 20th of the month, and you will receive a \$25.00 credit on your energy bill.



The location numbers in the June newsletter belonged to Eric and Miranda Hennings and Russell Uhl.