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October is National Co-op Month!

Western Iowa Power Cooperative is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods and services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including WIPCO, exist to serve their members by providing affordable, reliable energy. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs. A great example of Western Iowa Power evolving to meet our members needs is our new WIPCO app that is available now for download.

This October, we celebrate Co-op Month and focus on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities

WIPCO helps our communities grow by promoting economic development, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of our members.

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders

WIPCO helps grow tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school safety demonstrations, scholarships, or donations to 4-H participants and county fairs, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive.

Co-ops Grow For You

At WIPCO, your satisfaction is important to us. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you! 24-06-16519



CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

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



Marcus Rihner,
*Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

Is a Co-op Career in Your Future?

At WIPCO, we take great pride in powering the lives of our members and empowering the communities we serve. This would not be possible without our group of dedicated employees, who are committed to continuing to provide the safe, reliable, and affordable power you have come to expect from

your electric cooperative. It takes many different people with many different skills to keep WIPCO running smoothly, and we offer rewarding careers in several areas of expertise.

Many of our employees are lineworkers, and this career path is very in-demand at WIPCO, in Iowa, and throughout the country. Electrical line work offers great pay and fulfilling work, and most post-secondary electrical line work programs can be completed in one to two years. Upon graduation from such a program, most lineworkers will spend several additional years continuing to train in an approved apprenticeship program, such as our apprenticeship program here at WIPCO. However, this training is done on the job, while receiving highly competitive wages and benefits.

We also employ electricians at WIPCO, and the ability to do this work “beyond the meter” is a service we provide to our members that is rare among electric cooperatives. Becoming a certified electrician is similar from a schooling perspective to becoming a lineworker: a relatively short amount of time at a post-secondary school, followed by an on-the-job apprenticeship. The work of an electrician at WIPCO is fast-paced and varied, ranging from in-home wiring and HVAC installation/repairs to work on grain bins and irrigation pivots.

WIPCO and other electric cooperatives also have employees with expertise and training in accounting, graphic design, human resources, engineering, management, customer service, and many other areas. To put it simply, if you or a friend, family member, or loved one has an area of expertise in which you would like to pursue a

career, there is a good chance that a position at an electric cooperative would be a fit!

Careers with electric cooperatives like WIPCO will continue to be in demand well into the future, and we would encourage anyone who is assessing their career options to consider a career in the energy industry. More information on WIPCO’s career opportunities can be found on our website at www.wipco.com/careers, and for information on electric cooperative careers across the country, check out careers.electric.coop.

Many Paths.

The energy sector provides many career paths including marketing, engineering, finance, cybersecurity and more!

Hands-On Experience.

Lineworkers, engineers and technicians work on the frontlines to power our communities.



2023 Annual and District Meeting Recap

“Creating Member Connections” was the theme for this year’s District Meeting held at the Onawa Community Center in Onawa on August 29 and the Annual Meeting held at The Stables at Copper Ridge in Denison on August 31. This year, we hosted a record number of members and guests, with Staley’s Food Service catering a delicious pork chop dinner to well over 900 attendees!

Four directors were elected to the WIPCO Board during the Cooperative’s 27th Annual Meeting. These directors are Ken Smith (District 1), Louis Reed (District 2), Brian Lundell (District 7), and Gary Volkert (District 8).

Coloring Contest winners were announced and those in attendance were presented with their prizes.

Executive Vice President and General Manager, Marcus Rihner, informed the members and guests on the Cooperative’s successes and challenges in the year 2022 and what to expect from the Cooperative in the coming years. Highlights from Rihner’s report include how the Cooperative uses technology such as the new mobile app to connect with our members, returning patronage and bill credits to our members, and the continued need for an all-of-the-above energy strategy so we can continue to provide members with safe and reliable electric services.



Rihner also highlighted the many successes of the Cooperative’s employees. This year, we recognized nine employees’ service anniversaries and one future retirement. These employees are Rick Lorenzen - Warehouse and Material Clerk (5 years), Michael Akers - Operations Manager (5 years), Marcus Rihner - Executive Vice President & General Manager (5 years), Billy Hauptz - Operations Coordinator (5 years), Jasmine Salgado - Cashier (5 years), Stephanie Wiese - Assistant Manager (10 years), Christie Richardson - Administrative Assistant (10 years), Mark Trotter - Foreman (15 years), and Jeff Sorensen - Electric Service Technician Supervisor (35 years).

Rihner announced Mari Miller’s future retirement. Miller has been with the Cooperative for 34 years. In those 34 years, she served the members in many roles, her most recent being Office Supervisor/Communicator/Benefits Administrator.

Kids in attendance enjoyed a bounce house, bucket truck rides and other fun activities. Several electric vehicles were on display including WIPCO’s Tesla Model 3 and NIPCO’s Mustang Mach-E. All members who registered at the events received a \$10 bill credit along with a chance to win energy bill credits ranging from \$20 to \$50. A list of bill credit winners and more photos can be found on pages 4 and 5.



Marcus Rihner (r) congratulates Electric Service Technician Supervisor, Jeff Sorensen (l) for his 35 years of service.



Marcus Rihner (r) congratulates Office Supervisor, Mari Miller (l) for her 34 years of service as she announced her retirement.



Employees registering members at the District Meeting.



A view of the Annual Meeting from the sky. Office staff got the chance to see things from our lineman’s perspective!

4 More News from District & Annual Meetings

Hight Retires After 25 Years on Board of Directors



Executive Vice President & General Manager, Marcus Rihner (left) presents retiring Board Director, Leroy Hight (right) with a plaque commemorating Leroy's 25 years of service on the WIPCO Board of Directors. Hight retired from the Board in August.

Leroy Hight, WIPCO Director serving District #7, retired from the Board on August 31 after 25 years of dedicated service.

Leroy was elected to the South Crawford REC Board in 1995 and continued on the WIPCO Board after the consolidation of South Crawford REC and Monona County REC in 1997 until 1999. He was reelected to the Board in 2002 and continued to serve until his retirement in 2023. Leroy served as assistant secretary/treasurer from 1995 to 1999 and from 2004 to 2008 and treasurer from 2008 to the present. Leroy also served on the Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative Board from 1997 to 1999 and on the Jordan Soldier Valley Telephone Board for a number of years.

During his time on the board, Leroy obtained certificates in Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership,

and Director Gold Credential programs.

"I have enjoyed representing the members all these years, and will miss working with them and the employees," said Hight. "It was a very rewarding experience."

After retirement, Leroy will continue to spend time with his wife, Marlene, traveling, playing golf and enjoying their children and grandchildren.

We will miss Leroy's dedication to the members and employees of WIPCO and wish him the best!

Thank you, Todd Brus!



Executive Vice President & General Manager, Marcus Rihner (left) presents retiring Board Director, Todd Brus (right) with a plaque commemorating Todd's 9 years of service on the WIPCO Board of Directors. Brus retired from the Board in August.

The Cooperative would like to thank Todd Brus for his service on the WIPCO Board as Director for District 8. Todd retired from the Board in August after 9 years of service. Brus served as vice president from 2019 to the present. Best wishes to Todd!

Playing it Safe Online



Cybersecurity is the practice of shielding our identities, banking, health records, and sensitive information. Given our growing reliance on internet-connected devices, here are some tips to help you with online safety:

- 1. Enable Multi-Factor Authentication:** Add an extra layer of security to your accounts. Even if a hacker has your password, they won't access your accounts without multi-factor authentication.
- 2. Keep Software Updated:** Regularly update your software from trusted sources to protect your personal data. Beware of fake pop-ups requesting urgent downloads or, better yet, turn on automatic updates.
- 3. Beware of Phishing:** Be cautious with emails or texts that seem too good to be true, urgent, poorly crafted, or unusual. Most cyberattacks start with phishing attempts.
- 4. Use Strong Passwords:** Create robust passwords using long, unique, and complex combinations. Consider using a password manager for added convenience and security.

As we prioritize your safety, we also focus on securing our services. WIPCO invests in maintaining and upgrading equipment to withstand weather challenges and utilizes cutting-edge technology to protect against cybersecurity threats.

Together, we can make our interconnected world safer and more secure for all.

Introducing WIPCO's Newly Elected Directors

At this year's Annual and District Meeting, members were able to vote for Western Iowa Power Cooperative directors in District 1, District 2 (incumbent Louis Reed was reelected), District 7, and District 8. Those voted on to the Western Iowa Power Cooperative board are responsible for setting policies and approving programs that are the basis for operating your Cooperative. Directors must attend monthly board meetings, special meetings, and be able to attend continuing education courses which are all necessary to keep directors informed of cooperative business and up-to-date on the issues of the electric utility industry. 58-03-28898



District 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 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



District 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.

Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you head out.



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



Do not shoot at or near powerlines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them.



Do not place decoys on powerlines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose a serious hazard to our line crews.

6 Looking out for you...



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Congratulations to our List of Annual Meeting Drawing Winners

Winners of the \$50 energy credit drawing:

- Joe Ahart
- Michelle Bata
- Judy Brodersen
- Les Brown
- Todd Brus
- Bonnie Carlson
- City of Moorhead
- Clifford Cox
- Ronald Cross
- Douglas Gronau
- Timothy Houston
- Daniel Irlbeck
- Robert Jensen
- John Johnston
- Joe Lander
- Gaylen Marsh
- Todd Martens
- David Maule
- Patricia Miller
- Monona Co Sanitary Landfill
- Richard Ruth
- James Sailer
- Joe Schierbrock
- Richard Schleis
- Ron Sibbel
- Thomas & Marian Solien
- Byron Stanislav
- Beverly Stehr
- Taber Terry
- Ross Thul
- Nathan Wall
- Samantha Wolf

Winners of the \$20 energy credit drawing:

- Kevin & Ronda Aikman
- Donald Anderson
- Rodney Backhaus
- Joel Boeck
- Ronald Bolyard
- Craig Brodersen
- Richard Chase
- Lawrence Christensen
- Lary Clark
- Crawford County Secondary Roads
- Barry Erickson
- Lyle & Teresa Ernst
- Todd Frank
- Steven Garrett
- Lori Genzen
- Verdean Gierstorf
- Roger Harm
- Brent Johnson
- Robert Kroll
- Kevin Johnson
- Steve Johnson
- Gene Kragel
- Betty Kuhlmann
- Dennis Lally
- Sheila Lindsey
- Dean Lord
- Roger Lorenger
- Christopher Loyd
- Ben Martian
- Gary Martindale
- Stephanie Nelson
- Royce Noelck
- Ben Puck
- Matt Rasmussen
- Scott & Tracey Reetz
- Jerome Riesselman
- Richard Scheuring
- Darrell Schmidt
- Jude Schoenherr
- Ray Schulte
- Jeff Segebart
- Jeremy Sigler
- Frank Terry
- Roger Wegner
- Rodney Yockey



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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).

2023-2024 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2023-2024 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, **Dial 2-1-1**, or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**
October 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024
- **All other households:**
November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

INCOME MAXIMUMS	
<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Annual Gross Income</i>
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,280 for each additional member.

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.



BRIGGS & STRATTON

Reliable power when you need it.

Briggs & Stratton Standby Generators available at Western Iowa Power Cooperative.

Power your Home with Confidence

At Western Iowa Power, we want to give you peace of mind when it comes to backup power. Whether you need power for your whole home, or just the essentials, our Briggs and Stratton line of generators has you covered. These generators are designed with more power, a compact footprint, and are backed by a 6-year industry leading warranty. At Western Iowa Power Cooperative our skilled team is able to recommend, install, and maintenance all Briggs & Stratton generators. Call in, visit our website, or stop by for more information!



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*"This institution is an equal
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employer"*

DID YOU KNOW?

Using your dishwasher is **more** energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand. To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher without blocking any moving parts and use 'air dry' instead of heat dry!

Source: Department of Energy



DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP!



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 September newsletter belonged to Kim Brockman and James Lacey.

\$25
ENERGY
BILL
CREDIT