

WIPCO Informer

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Denison Office Summer Hours

effective May 6th, 2024.

Monday	6:30am - 4:00pm
Tuesday	6:30am - 4:00pm
Wednesday	6:30am - 4:00pm
Thursday	6:30am - 4:00pm
Friday	6:30am - 11:00am
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED



Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Annual & District Meetings
August 2024

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

For safety's sake, do not mess with a meter

For your safety, never try to tamper with or pull (remove) a meter. Only electric utility crews should access an electric meter.

Illegally accessing a meter can cause an arc flash bright enough to result in blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of red-hot, shrapnel-like debris, according to the Cooperative Research Network. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire is often a result of meter tampering.

Individuals may tamper with a meter to bypass it, create an illegal connection to a power line, electrify fences or attempt to reconnect or disconnect the power, often with disastrous consequences.

More on meter safety

- Tampering with a meter is illegal in most states.
- Meters should only be installed, maintained or removed by electric utility crews.
- Accessing the backside of a meter can generate high voltage; pulling or tampering with a meter can cause electric shock, sparks, surges, explosions or fire.
- Electricity should always be connected or disconnected using a transfer switch or a dedicated disconnection point.
- There is no guarantee that a structure is deenergized by pulling a meter.
- If firefighters respond to a call and know they will need a disconnect, they should call the electric utility en route.
- If firefighters try disconnecting a home by pulling a meter, it can introduce additional problems and damage.

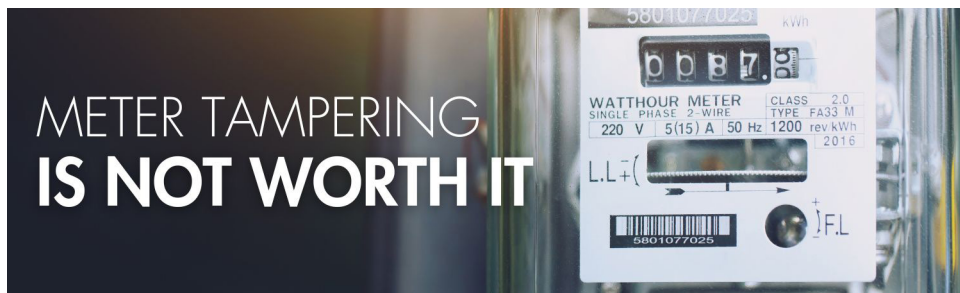
Direct any questions to Western Iowa Power Cooperative at 800-253-5189.

Other facts

If a home's electricity is shut off at a main disconnect, the house can be automatically reconnected if there is a standby generator or battery-stored power.

Only the electric utility can properly and safely disconnect a meter. Utility crews are trained in proper disconnection techniques and wear protective clothing and gear.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.





Marcus Rihner
General Manager

Summer Reliability Outlook

It is always great to have some encouraging news to share, and this month, I am happy to pass along positive news regarding the summer energy reliability forecast for our region.

This spring, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining its 2024 Summer Reliability Assessment. In the report, NERC raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and their challenges related to electric generation and transmission this summer.

The good news: WIPCO's service territory isn't in one of these regions.

Even with this positive report for our electric reliability to our members, I still want to take this space to discuss what this all means and how WIPCO continues to work with our industry partners to safeguard reliable and affordable electricity.

NERC's Summer Reliability Assessment

Thankfully, our RTO, Southwest Power Pool (SPP), is not listed in a risk category this summer. However, our neighboring RTO to the east, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), is in the "elevated risk" category for potential electric generation/capacity shortfalls.

SPP and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), WIPCO's power supplier, have worked diligently over the course of several years to plan, maintain, and advocate for reliable electric service, even in the case of drastic changes in weather.

What is SPP? What do they do?

SPP, our RTO, is also referred to as a balancing authority. SPP maintains the balance between the demand for electricity and the generation (supply) of electricity from generation resources within its 14-state footprint. The organization balances demand and generation continuously in real time between its 111 member companies, including NIPCO, ensuring enough energy is transmitted across high-voltage power lines to where it is needed at the exact moment when it is needed. This is crucial because if supply and demand get out of balance, costly damage can occur to parts of the grid and large areas of the country can lose power.

RTO's can be thought of as the grid's "air traffic controllers". Air traffic controllers don't own airports or airplanes, but they simply control the traffic to keep things moving smoothly. Similarly, SPP doesn't own or operate power plants or transmission or distribution lines, but they exist to ensure a steady flow of power.

What does this mean for WIPCO?

While this report is great news for WIPCO and our members, our work is far from complete.

The way electricity is generated is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear, and natural gas are being retired, often before they have reached the end of their useful life. WIPCO believes in and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. The "all-of-the-above" approach reinforces the fact that the United States relies on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply which includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation sources such as natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, and coal.

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.

Continued on page 3.

Manager's Message, continued.

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 and our approach to reliability remain 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.

THE LAST WATER HEATER
**YOU'LL EVER
NEED TO BUY**

 **1-800-253-5189**



Nominating Committee Meets

Thank you to the 2024 Nominating Committee, who met on June 11th to nominate candidates who have indicated their desire and willingness to serve on the Western Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors. 34-09-1152

Director Elections will take place on Thursday, August 29th, 2024. See page 6 for mail-in ballot instructions. Look for the official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members included in 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.



Pictured above from left to right is Ryan Boettger, Dennis McCandless, Robert Miller, Beau Hanson, Louis P. Reed.



Brett Davis

Brett and his wife, Christina, live outside of Mapleton, Iowa. They have three children. Brett has been in the trucking industry for 22 years, primarily hauling livestock both locally and all over the United States. In addition to this, he has always kept up with his cow/calf herd. He is currently a director on the Monona County Cattlemen, and a member of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. In his spare time, he enjoys attending his children's activities and tending to his cow herd.

District 3



Craig Riesberg

Craig and his wife, Abby, live north of Soldier in Jordan Township. The Riesbergs have two sons ages 9 and 11. Craig is an Agricultural Specialist with Iowa State Western Research Farm and runs a cow/calf, crop rotation farm. Craig is a member of Castana Fire Department and serves on the Board of Monona County Cattlemen's Association. In his spare time, Craig enjoys fishing and target shooting.



David Carlson

Dave and his wife, Nancy, live northwest of Moorhead in Belvidere Township. They have three children and three granddaughters. Dave actively farmed 1,000 acres northwest of Whiting from 1982 to 2001. The family moved to Sioux Center, and he worked construction from 2001 to 2009. They moved back to Moorhead in 2009. Dave works for Spring Valley Grain, is a Whiting Christian Church member and Elder, and the past president of the Monona County Fair Board Association. Dave enjoys hunting, fishing, and hiking.

District 5



Bart Heisterkamp

Bart and his wife, Lisa, live southeast of Blencoe in Sioux Township. They have two children, who both are currently attending college. Bart has farmed for over 25 years and raises about 700 acres of corn and soybeans. He is a member of St. Benard's Catholic Church of Blencoe and serves on both the West Monona Community School Board of Directors. Bart enjoys attending concerts, plays, sporting events, camping, and NASCAR.



Jack Webb

Jack and his wife Terri live west of Denison. They have four sons and one daughter. Jack retired two years ago from Denison Municipal Utilities after working 45 years there as the water services manager. He was in charge of the source management, treatment and distribution of water operations for DMU. He is a member of St Rose of Lima church in Denison. Jack enjoys hunting, fishing, golf and spending time with family and his six grandchildren.

District 6

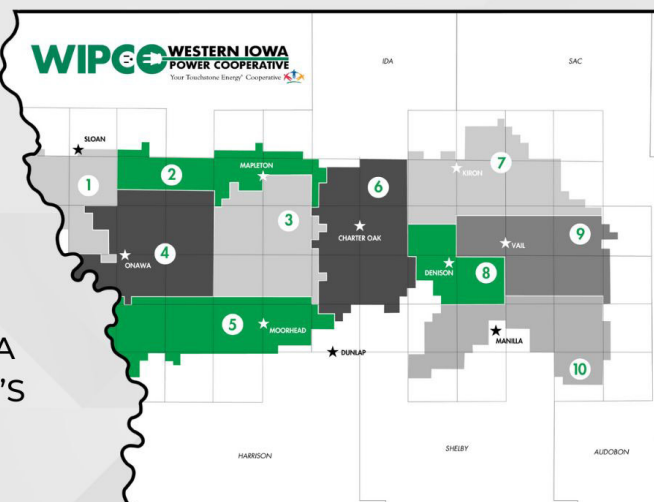


Ross Wood

Ross and his wife, Mallory, live North of Denison in Morgan Township. They have a son and a daughter. Ross works for the Iowa DOT's Local Systems Bureau as Western Region Field Technician and helps with the family farm operation. He is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, West Central Chapter of Izaak Walton League, a Morgan Township Trustee, serves on Schleswig's Fire Department, as well as Community Club and Education Endowment Foundation. He enjoys fishing, golfing, and spending time with his family.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE WESTERN IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE (WIPCO) BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ELECTED BY ITS MEMBERS, GOVERNS THE COOPERATIVE BY SETTING POLICIES, REVIEWING OPERATIONS, AND MANAGING INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS TEN-MEMBER BOARD, REPRESENTING TEN DISTRICTS WITHIN WIPCO'S SERVICE TERRITORY, MEETS MONTHLY AND ENSURES GOOD COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS. ANNUALLY, AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOUR IS ELECTED FROM THE BOARD, FILLING THE ROLES OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER, WITH AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER TO SERVE AS NEEDED. SERVING AS A WIPCO DIRECTOR MEANS LEADING WITH A COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY NEEDS.



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How to Vote by 'Mail-in Ballot'

*1. Mark your ballot

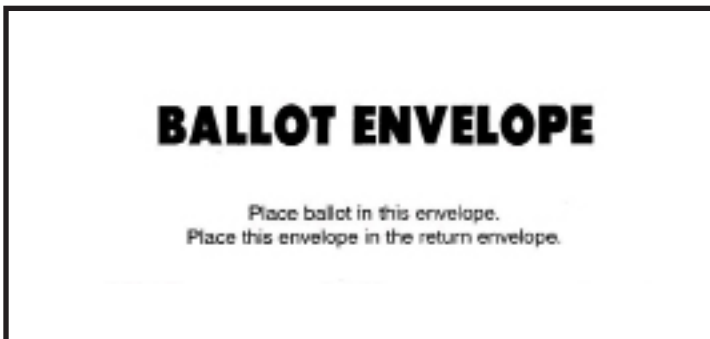
(Sample--Please do not mail back in)

The 2024 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 29, 2024, 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.

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



*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 29, 2024

Vote for no more than one Director for each District.

THREE-YEAR TERM (Three to be Elected)

District No. 3:

Brett Davis

Craig Riesberg

District No. 5:

David Carlson

Bart Heisterkamp

District No. 7:

Jack Webb

Ross Wood

**SAMPLE
PLEASE DO NOT
MAIL BACK IN**

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

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

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



IMPORTANT!

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

At Western Iowa Power Cooperative, we're more than just an electric utility; we're your dedicated partner in energy solutions. Our commitment to powering your life goes beyond providing electricity. We're proud to offer a comprehensive range of services designed to meet the diverse needs of our community, from residential to agricultural projects.

Expert Electrical Services

Our team of skilled electricians is ready to assist with any residential or agricultural electrical project. Whether you're planning a new installation, upgrade, or repair, you can trust our professionals to deliver safe, reliable, and efficient service. 44-24-31876

Briggs & Stratton Certified Dealer

As a certified Briggs & Stratton dealer, we offer top-of-the-line generators to ensure you never lose power when it matters most. Our team not only sells these high-quality generators but also provides expert maintenance and repair services to keep them running smoothly.

Electric Grills

Summer is the perfect time to upgrade your outdoor cooking experience. We have a variety of electric grills in stock, combining the convenience of electric power with the joy of grilling. Visit us to find the perfect model for your needs.

Water Heater Installation and Service

Reliable hot water is essential for every household. We specialize in the installation and servicing of water heaters, ensuring you have a consistent supply of hot water. Our experts are trained to handle any type of water heater efficiently and effectively.

Heat Pump Solutions

Stay comfortable year-round with our heat pump services. We install and service all types of heat pumps, providing you with energy-efficient heating and cooling options. Let us help you find the perfect system to suit your home or business.

Geothermal Installations

Harness the power of the earth with our geothermal installation services. Geothermal systems offer a sustainable and efficient way to heat and cool your property. Our experienced team will guide you through the entire process, from planning to installation and maintenance.

Solar Power Expertise

As one of the top solar power installers in Western Iowa, we are committed to helping you embrace renewable energy. Our solar solutions are tailored to meet your specific needs, providing you with clean, cost-effective power. Join the growing number of members who are making the switch to solar with our expert installation and support services.

At Western Iowa Power Cooperative, our mission is to empower our members with the best in energy services. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you with your next project. Together, let's build a brighter, more sustainable future.



(USPS 9340)

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 Manager

Sadie Reisz, Editor

**“This institution is an equal
 opportunity provider and
 employer”**

Safety Tip

All thunderstorms contain lightning. If a thunderstorm approaches when you are swimming or near water, get out of the water and stay away from the beach. If you are golfing, put down your clubs, get away from metal golf carts, take off your golf shoes, and get inside as quickly as possible.



Safe
 Electricity.org



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 Kristin Muller and David Teel.

**SAVE
 \$25**

