WIP(⇒) Informer

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7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

COOPERATION AMONG

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

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

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!



Message for our Members



Marcus Rihner General Manager

Stay Safe around Power Lines

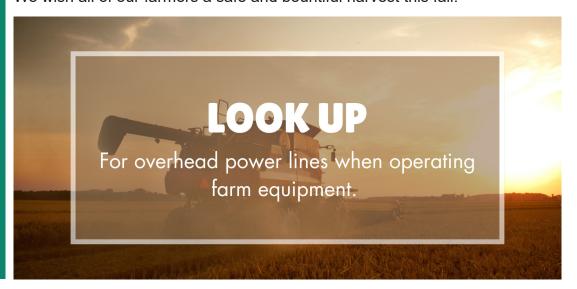
With harvest in full swing, October is a great time to take a look at electrical safety. The safety of our members, employees, and the general public will always be a top priority at WIPCO, and this is even more prominent in a busy season like fall in western lowa. As you work through those early mornings and late nights this harvest season, we ask that you keep the following tips in mind.

Be Aware of Line Locations – If WIPCO overhead lines, larger transmission lines, or secondary (member-owned) lines run through the field you are working in or along the roads you will travel on to reach that field, please take a moment to re-familiarize yourself with these line locations. When possible, plan a route that will avoid getting too close to overhead power lines. In the times when you do need to pass under power lines, be sure that you are absolutely certain that the line clearances will allow your equipment to pass safely without contacting the power lines.

Keep an Eye on Your Equipment – As farm equipment has gotten larger and more efficient, the maximum heights of augers, booms, and other implements have increased as well. WIPCO maintains line clearances per electrical safety codes, but some equipment can still reach heights tall enough to cause a potential contact. 47-22-19394 Always keep an eye on your equipment and its proximity to any nearby power lines.

Never Touch a Downed Line – In the event that a power line does come down, whether as a result of contact with equipment, weather such as storms, or any other reason, do not approach the line or attempt to touch it in any way. Always assume that a downed power line is energized. Stay clear of the line and call WIPCO immediately. Even after hours, your call will be answered and crews will be dispatched as needed.

We wish all of our farmers a safe and bountiful harvest this fall!



What's Happening at WIPCO

2024 Annual and District Meeting Recap

Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) held its annual meeting this year with the theme Reliability Across Generations, reflecting the cooperative's commitment to providing dependable energy and service for years to come. The district meeting took place on August 27th at The Stables at Copper Ridge, followed by the Annual Meeting on August 29th in Onawa. Nearly 900 attendees enjoyed a meal catered by Staley's Food Service as they took part in the evening's events.

Board Elections and Contest Winners

This year, three board directors from Districts 3, 5, and 6 were up for reelection, allowing members to vote for those who will guide WIPCO's future. The meetings also included the announcement of coloring contest winners, showcasing the talents of the community's youngest members.

Presentation by Marcus Rihner

Executive Vice President and General Manager, Marcus Rihner, gave an address focused on three key areas of reliability:

Energy Reliability: Ensuring a dependable power supply through infrastructure investment and continued emphasis on an all-of-the-above power supply which includes reliable, always-available energy sources.

Financial Reliability: Maintaining fiscal health to keep energy rates as stable as possible, even in challenging economic conditions.

Reliable Information: Transparent and timely communication with members and continuing education with employees, directors, and legislators on power supply, safety, and industry trends.

Employee Milestones

WIPCO celebrated several employees reaching service milestones: Jaxson Pauley, Apprentice Lineman – 5 years Wade Pitt, Foreman – 20 years Jeremy Kreger, Staking Technician– 20 years Ryan Henschen, Electrical Service Technician Supervisor – 30 years

Family Fun

Families in attendance enjoyed a variety of activities, including bounce houses and bucket truck rides, making the event enjoyable for all ages.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this year's meeting a success. WIPCO remains dedicated to serving our members with reliability and care for generations to come!















What's Happening at WIPCO

Introducing WIPCO's Newly Elected Director

At this year's Annual and District Meeting, members were able to vote for Western Iowa Power Cooperative directors in District 3, District 5, and District 6. Bart Heisterkamp was elected to District 5. Incumbents Craig Riesberg (District 3) and Ross Wood (District 6) were reelected. 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.

Bart Heisterkamp and his wife, Lisa, live southeast of Blencoe in Sioux Township. They have two children. Bart has farmed fro 25 years and raises about 700 acres of corn and soybeans. He is a member of St. Bernard's Catholic church of Blencoe and Serves on the West Monona Community School Board of Directors. Bart enjoys music concerts, sports, camping, and NASCAR.



Congratulations to our list of Annual Meeting Drawing Winners

\$20 Credit Winners

Marty Kerkhoff Larry Klocke

Jennifer Lynn

Jerry Menke

Bruce Mohr

Kelly Mouw

Roger Roth

Matt Rasmussen

Allen Reimers

Vicki Mink

Mike Ahart **Brandon Albers** Karen Anderson-Borschers Melvin Berger Larry Bronson II John Campbell **Delbert Clausen** Randal Coenen Brian Croker Wade Fengenbush Kevin Fineran Sheila Groth Heartland Co-op Daniel Irlbeck Wayne Kafton Rebecca Kahl

Joel Sailer Dale Schneider Jeff Segebart SF LLC Colleen Shol Clint Small Rick Stanislav Sunset at the Oasis Ernest Ullerich Jr Timoth Vogl Gay Vogl Jason Vogl Keith Vonnahme Myrick Whiting III **Euguene Wimmer**

\$50 Credit Winners

Ryan Bygness David Seger Leonard Cadwell Ed Snow Lyle Sporrer Gordon Cose Larry Teel Clifford Cox **Daniel Cummins** Gene Thiedeman Judy Erlewine Tom Wegner John Ertz Jr

Christopher Fester Stanley Griffith Colleen Gronemeyer **Donald Hopp** Lynn Irlbeck Sam Johnson Kelley Family Farms LLC

EST Grother Farm Partnership

Sharen Kleckner

Brad Kusel

Merle L & Marge Losh Matthew Maynard Gisela E Meeves **Gaylord Moeller** Edward Neddermeyer

David Parr

Linda and Pete Rambo Willliam Ranniger Keith Rhodes

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	(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	38	38
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g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		0	0	
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a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	3290	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	3328	3328
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National First Responders Day

National First Responders Day, observed annually on October 28, is an excellent time to recognize and honor the vital role of first responders. They make it their business to take immediate action when disaster strikes.

First responders play a crucial role in protecting public safety and responding to emergencies. These dedicated professionals include firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians and paramedics. They face numerous challenges and make significant sacrifices to safeguard our communities.

It's important to note that utility workers, including those in the electricity sector, are also considered first responders. In 2003, President George W. Bush officially recognized public works professionals as first responders, highlighting the critical role utility workers play in emergency response and recovery efforts.

Utilities and first responders: An important partnership

Utility companies and traditional first responders often work hand in hand during emergencies. When natural disasters strike or accidents occur, utility workers are frequently among the first on the scene, working alongside firefighters, police and medical personnel to ensure public safety and restore essential services. 04-32-6123

When traffic accidents, high winds, ice storms and other events involve downed power lines or power outages, they can cause both visible and hidden hazards that can put everyone at risk. It's important for utility workers and other first responders to work together to minimize risk.

First responders have a critical role in keeping communities safe. National First Responders Day serves as a reminder of the importance of collaboration, preparedness and mutual support in times of crisis.

To all who selflessly serve as first responders to keep us safe — we share gratitude on National First Responders Day and every other day of the year.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org



2024-2025 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income lowa 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 you can **Dial 2-1-1**, visit https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap to locate and contact your local community action agency, or write to:

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

WHEN TO APPLY:

• Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled: October 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

All other households:

November 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

WHAT TO PROVIDE:

- **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

WAGE EARNERS:

Please provide 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 provide copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

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

Note - Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed above may be required for eligibility determination

INCOME MAXIMUMS				
Household	Annual			
<u>Size</u>	Gross Income			
1	\$30,120			
2	\$40,880			
3	\$51,640			
4	\$62,400			
5	\$73,160			
6	\$83,920			
7	\$94,680			
8	\$105,440			
For households with more than eight members,				
add \$10,760 for each additional member.				



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Contact Us

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Safety Tip

In the U.S., nine people are killed each day in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. When you drive, just drive. Distracted driving not only puts you and other drivers at risk, but it also endangers roadside crews, bikers, and pedestrians.





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 Rick Schroeder and Brody Kafton.

SAVE \$25

