

WIPCO Informer

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\$25 Credit--Find Your Location # 8	

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

Nominate a Local Volunteer by June 30!

Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognized for making a difference? Nominate them for the Shine the Light contest by June 30 and they could win \$3,000 for their local charity or nonprofit.

At Western Iowa Power Cooperative, we are really excited to participate in this statewide effort to celebrate our cooperative commitment to community. There are so many incredible volunteers throughout our service area who deserve to be recognized.

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, this is the fourth year of the Shine the Light contest, which celebrates the people who make our communities better. Three winners will be announced in September and each will receive a \$3,000 donation for their charity or nonprofit. The winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media.

How to Nominate

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from Western Iowa Power Cooperative, you're a co-op member-consumer and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com by June 30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. Nominators will need to provide basic contact information and answer this question in 500 words or less: *How has your nominee made a difference in the community and how might their local charity/nonprofit use the \$3,000 donation?*

Help us shine the light on our community volunteers; make a nomination by June 30!



Nominate a volunteer in June and they could win \$3,000 for their local charity!

Contest entries accepted at IowaShineTheLight.com



Marcus Rihner
General Manager

Your Trusted Solar Experts

At WIPCO, we believe in and advocate for an “all-of-the-above” energy approach. “All-of-the-above” reinforces the fact that we depend on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply which includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources, including solar and wind, to supplement base-load generation, including natural gas, nuclear, hydro-power, and coal. We continue to work with policymakers and regulators on the state and federal levels for a sensible “all-of-the-above” generation approach.

When it comes to solar energy specifically, WIPCO has spent decades building (figuratively) a vast amount of knowledge on the subject. If any of our members has a question about solar, from technical questions to rates to whether or not solar would be a fit for a given home, farm, or business, we want to be well-prepared and educated to be able to answer those questions and have those discussions. WIPCO has also spent many years building (literally) solar arrays for the benefit of our membership, as well as a handful of other projects for other cooperatives, businesses, and individuals. To put it simply, we want to serve you as your trusted solar experts.

Businesses attempting to sell solar systems to our members is nothing new, and WIPCO’s stance has consistently been to strongly recommend that you contact us before committing so we can be sure you are being given accurate and honest information. Our experiences with solar generation have taught us many things, and we would be happy to share that knowledge with you so you can make the most informed decisions for you and your family.

In recent months, you may have received a call or letter from businesses requesting to potentially purchase land or land options for large-scale “community solar” projects. As we always will when we hear about inquiries such as these coming to our members, WIPCO has conducted ample research on this topic, and we have confirmed that these “projects” are dependent on currently nonexistent state legislation. This potential legislation, as proposed to date, would not benefit our members or WIPCO as a whole. If you receive a call regarding potential sale of your land for such a purpose, please note that anything you are promised WIPCO will do is not coming from us. If WIPCO has a proposed use for land that would benefit our membership, you will always be contacted by us directly.

Solar energy continues to be an important topic in the industry, and if you are interested in learning more, we would be grateful for a chance to speak with you. Our WIPCO-owned solar arrays allow us to offer a true Cooperative Solar program, and we are well-versed in many other aspects of solar power as well, from installation and maintenance to industry trends and things to look out for. As with any topic in energy, we plan to continue to be a trusted expert for our members on solar, now and into the future.

Welcome to WIPCO, Benett Dozler!

Join us in extending a warm welcome to Benett Dozler, our newest team member here at WIPCO! Benett is from Harlan, Iowa, and brings a little bit of WIPCO experience with him! Benett was previously on our line crew as summer help last year, and we are so excited to welcome him back! His favorite part about working with us last summer was the group of people he worked with. Now, as he steps into his role as an apprentice lineman, Benett is excited to make a difference in his community while being closer to home.

We can't wait to see what you accomplish, Benett!



6 Convenient Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill with Western Iowa Power Cooperative

Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) offers its members a variety of convenient options to pay their electric bills. Here are six different methods available:

Online Payment: Members can easily pay their bills online through WIPCO's secure website. This option allows you to manage your payments at any time, from the comfort of your home.

Over the Phone: For those who prefer to handle their payments via phone, WIPCO provides a dedicated phone service. Simply call the customer service line to make a payment using your debit or credit card.

WIPCO App: The WIPCO app offers a mobile-friendly way to pay your bill. Available for both iOS and Android devices, the app provides a convenient platform to view and pay your bills, as well as monitor your account. 33-06-2424

By Mail: Traditional mail is still a reliable option. Members can send their payment via check or money order to WIPCO's mailing address. Make sure to include your account number on your payment to ensure it is processed correctly.

In Person: For a more personal touch, you can visit WIPCO's office to pay your bill. This option allows you to ask any questions and receive assistance directly from a customer service representative.

Auto-payments by ACH: Setting up auto-payments through Automated Clearing House (ACH) is a hassle-free way to ensure your bill is paid on time every month. This option automatically deducts the payment from your checking or savings account.

Auto-payments through Debit or Credit Card: Similar to ACH auto-payments, this method allows you to set up automatic monthly payments using your debit or credit card. It provides the same convenience and ensures you never miss a payment.

With these diverse payment methods, WIPCO ensures that every member can find a convenient and efficient way to manage their electric bills.



WIPCO Plans for 2024 District and Annual Meetings

We are thrilled to announce two exciting events on the horizon that you won't want to miss! As summer approaches, mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 27th, and Thursday, August 29th, for two unforgettable gatherings filled with camaraderie, information, and fun for the whole family.

District Meeting: August 27th

The District Meeting, planned for Tuesday, August 27th, at The Stables at Copper Ridge in Denison. This event is an excellent opportunity for members to engage in meaningful discussions, connect with co-op employees, and stay informed on important developments in our community.

Annual Meeting: August 29th

Following the District Meeting, we invite you to join us for the Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 29th, at the Onawa Recreation Center in Onawa. This cornerstone event of our Cooperative allows us to reflect on our achievements, discuss future endeavors, and exercise our democratic rights through director elections.

Director Elections: Your Vote Counts!

This year, members will have the chance to cast their votes for directors in districts 3, 5, and 6. Keep an eye on your mailboxes in July for official WIPCO election ballots. Remember, every member's voice matters, so be sure to return your completed ballots by close of business on Thursday, August 29th, or return at the event for a chance to receive a \$10 bill credit and participate in exciting prize drawings.

Theme: Reliability Across Generations

The theme of this year's meetings is "Reliability Across Generations." As we come together to discuss the future of our cooperative, we emphasize the importance of reliability in providing sustainable energy solutions that will benefit current and future generations. 43-08-11586

Join Us for Exciting Activities

In addition to important discussions and elections, both events will feature a catered meal prepared by Staley's Food Service, Inc. from 5:00-7:00pm. Bring the whole family and enjoy a variety of kids' activities, including bounce houses and bucket truck rides!

Stay Connected

We will include the 2023 Annual Report in the August Infomer newsletter, and Director election results will be posted on our website and Facebook page following the meeting.

We look forward to your active participation in these events as we come together to celebrate our cooperative community and shape the future of WIPCO. See you there!



DISTRICT MEETING

AUGUST 27TH, 2024
THE STABLES AT COPPER RIDGE
DENISON, IOWA
5-7PM

ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 29TH, 2024
ONAWA RECREATION CENTER
ONAWA, IOWA
5-7PM

No Posting Zone: Utility Poles

Most jobs do not require you to climb 40 feet in the air and conduct business within a few feet of high voltage power lines that carry 7,200 volts of electricity. However, for many utility workers, this is just another day at the office.

Across the nation there are millions of utility poles that provide the electricity that powers everything in your daily life — including the brewing of your morning cup of coffee and the lighting you turn off before going to bed. The electricity we depend on would not be possible without the utility workers who maintain and repair these utility poles.

The Safe Electricity program urges everyone to keep utility poles free from all personal materials such as balloons, fliers, and metal objects like staples or tacks. By respecting utility poles, you can help keep your community powered, and your local utility workers safe.

This practice is not only illegal in many areas, but also creates hazards for the linemen who repair and maintain utility poles and other electrical infrastructure and can increase your monthly utility bill.

Utility workers use specialized climbing devices to perform regular maintenance and repair damaged power lines at the top of utility poles. Nails, tacks, and other metal objects that are used to attach objects to utility poles can interfere with the safe operation of the climbing boots used by utility workers.

Foreign objects that are embedded in utility poles can also snag or damage the protective clothing that keeps line workers safe from electrical shock. These men and women already work in extremely hazardous conditions, so everyone who relies on electricity should take steps to make their job as safe as possible.

Other items that have been found on utility poles include tree stands for hunting. If you plan on hunting, do not place tree stands or other objects on utility poles. Doing so not only creates a risk for utility workers, but it is also extremely dangerous for yourself or anyone who uses it. For your own safety, please keep as much distance between yourself and overhead power lines as possible.

For more information on staying safe around power lines, utility poles, and electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS!

Staples, nails, and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric line workers. These sharp objects can puncture insulated gloves or other protective clothing and expose workers to high voltages.

6 Your Source of Power and Information

Ensure uninterrupted savings with Switch Makes Cents!

Western Iowa Power Cooperative is upgrading switches for all existing subscribers to enhance your service and savings. Schedule your free upgrade by July 1st, 2024, to continue enjoying the benefits without any interruptions. Don't miss out on this opportunity—call us now at 712-263-2943 to set up your upgrade appointment.



HEAT UP THE GRILL

TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Using your grill in the great outdoors helps lower your energy bill. If you cook outside, less energy is needed to cool your kitchen.



When you start to plan for a new grain bin or move an existing one, please contact WIPCO.

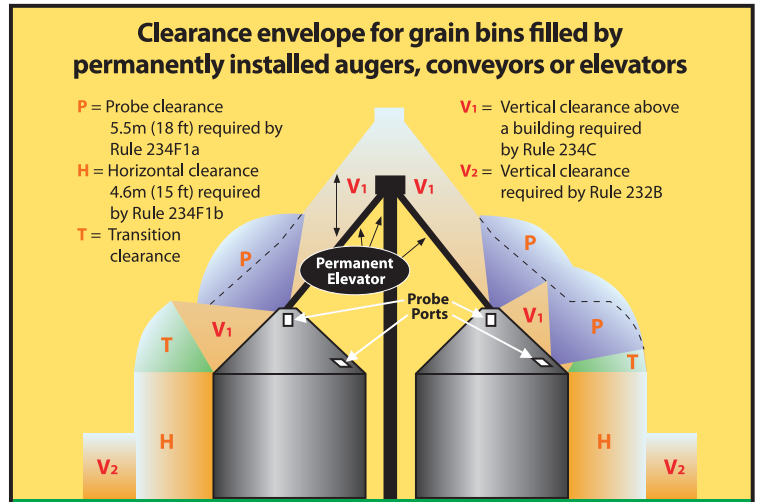
WIPCO and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators. 20-05-2244

The attachment to this article shows a drawing of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact WIPCO.

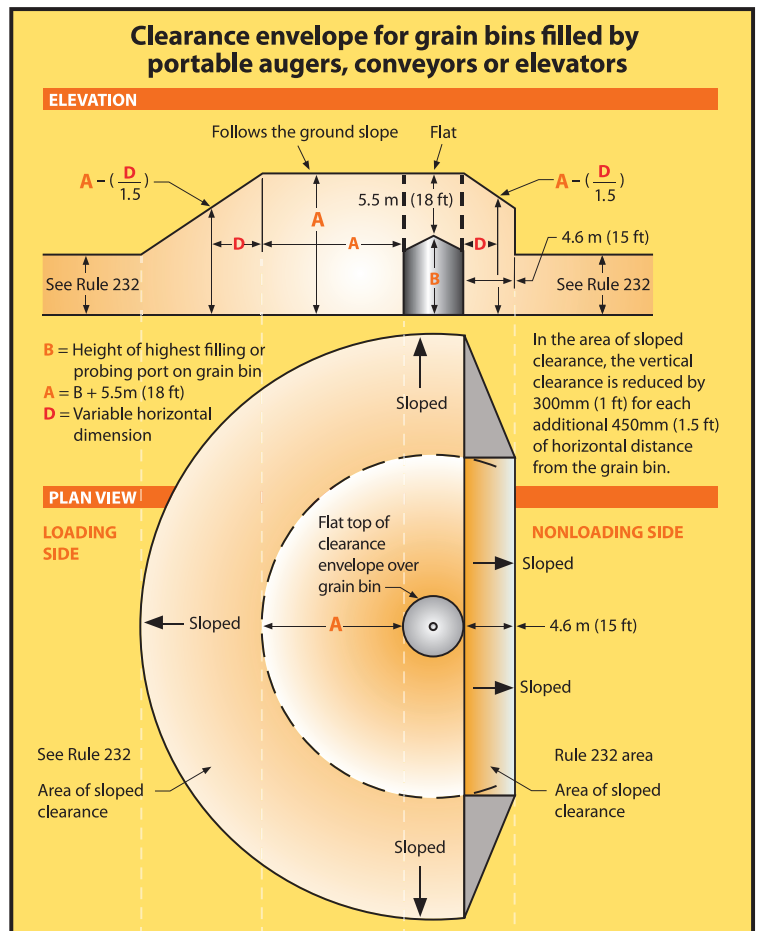
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

WIPCO is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call the Cooperative.

Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings,



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

Safety Tip

Only use a gas or charcoal grill outdoors. Grills are designed to be used outside where there is plenty of ventilation. Using one in a closed or partially enclosed space can cause carbon monoxide build up and cause CO poisoning.



Safe
Electricity.org



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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 May newsletter belonged to Amber Irwin and John C Lofshult II.

**SAVE
\$25**



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MOBILE APP!**

