

WIPCO Informer

What's inside...

Message from the Manager	2
What's Happening at WIPCO	3
2024 Scholarship Winners	4
District & Annual Meeting	5
Safety Spotlight	7
\$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

Memorial Day

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Western Iowa Power Cooperative will be closed on Monday, May 27th.

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

Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Western Iowa Power Cooperative encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity effort.

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first three years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communication for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're increasing our three charity donations to \$3,000 each this year to encourage even more participation across the state." 42-07-15767

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Western Iowa Power Cooperative, you're a co-op member-consumer and we invite 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.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and on social media.

Go to www.iowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination.





Marcus Rihner
General Manager

The Importance of Reliability

Before I started working at an electric cooperative, electric reliability wasn't something I thought about very often. Growing up, reliable electricity was a formality – something that I expected to have available to me anytime at home, at school, or just about anywhere else. Even in my adult life before starting my career at WIPCO, it was much the same: if I flipped on a light switch or activated the HVAC system in my home, I had an expectation that the electricity would be available immediately and reliably. The rare occasions when it was not available were surprising, inconvenient, and made everyday life feel like it was at a standstill until the power was back on. Even today while working directly in the electric industry, I still have these expectations as a WIPCO member, albeit with much more information regarding the processes that bring that electricity to my home.

Many of you who are reading this have likely thought about electricity in much the same way. Electric energy has become absolutely essential to American life over the past century, and has improved our quality of life in nearly limitless ways. WIPCO and our family of electric cooperatives across the state and the nation are proud to have been a part of making that happen, and we constantly strive to maintain the expectation that reliable power will be available when our members need it. In fact, the word itself is right in the heart of our mission statement: "Western Iowa Power Cooperative's mission is to enhance our members' quality of life by providing safe and reliable electric services."

One of the most important ways we maintain reliability is by continuing to invest in and maintain our electric system. Aging electric line, poles, transformers, or other materials involved in delivering electricity to our members' homes, farms, and businesses can have a negative impact on reliability. Maintaining and replacing components of our electric system when necessary is essential to our core mission. There is always a balance when it comes to the cost of these projects and their impact on reliability, but through careful planning and analysis, WIPCO has managed the electric line throughout our service territory efficiently and effectively for many years, and we plan to continue to do so for many years to come.

Another area in which WIPCO and our partners fight for reliability is in the legislative and regulatory sphere. More renewable energy sources like wind and solar are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear, and natural gas are being retired. While renewable energy has its place in the energy generation mix, 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 to supplement baseload generation, including natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, 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.

There are many metrics that measure electric reliability, and at WIPCO we are pleased to be able to say that these have been favorable for our system in recent years. Severe weather or other unexpected events may cause an outage occasionally, but we will do everything in our power to prevent poor energy policy from any similar impact. We will also continue to make and plan for wise and prudent investments to maintain and improve our electric system. Reliable electricity is essential to modern life, and we will continue to advocate for our members and the reliability you have come to expect from us!



Welcome to WIPCO, Blake Grobe!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our WIPCO team! We are excited to introduce Blake Grobe, a journeyman lineman, who has recently joined our Onawa line crew. Blake, his wife, and their two kids will be relocating to the area from Nebraska. Previously, he has traveled all over for work and is excited to settle down in one place. Blake will be an integral part of our Onawa crew and we look forward to the valuable contributions Blake will bring to our team and the positive impact he'll make as we continue to serve our community.



Congratulations, Cameron Youll!

We are thrilled to share the news that Cameron Youll has been promoted to the position of Denison Foreman at WIPCO. Cameron first started at WIPCO in 2021 as a Journeyman lineman with our Denison crew. Cameron's hard work, commitment, and exceptional skills have earned him this well-deserved advancement within our team. His leadership will contribute to our continued success in serving the community. Please join us in congratulating Cameron on his new role!

Reed Re-elected to Lead NIPCO Board

The board of directors of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) elected officers at its annual meeting on April 2nd in Sioux City.

Louis Reed was re-elected president of the NIPCO board.

Reed, a members of NIPCO's board since 1999, represents Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) and served as NIPCO's treasurer from 2003 to 2013. He was elected president in 2013.

Louis has been a director on WIPCO's board since 1995 and served as president of the WIPCO board for 23 years. Congratulations, Louis!



Prepare for power outages with a Briggs & Stratton generator.

SPECIAL GENERATOR PRICING

on purchases made by June 1, 2024.





Jalyn Struble - \$1,000

Jalyn is the daughter of Sara and Jeremy Struble and is a senior at West Monona High School. After graduation, Jalyn plans to attend Dordt University where she will study Biology on a pre-medical track. Jalyn's goal is to be accepted into a top medical school and practice medicine as a missionary.



Jodee Kruse - \$500

Jodee is the daughter of Deanna and Randy Kruse and is a senior at Boyer Valley High School. After graduation, she plans on attending Western Iowa Tech Community College. Jodee hopes to return to the area and build her own farming operation.



Alyssa Danner - \$500

Alyssa is the daughter of Tanya and Heath Danner and is a senior at IKM-Manning High School. After graduation, Alyssa's goals are to receive her Bachelors of Science Associate Degree and work as a nurse in a hospital in rural Iowa.



Sophia Schumacher - \$1,000

Sophia is the daughter of Amy and Nick Schumacher and is a senior at Maple Valley-Anthon Oto High School. After graduation, Sophia will attend South Dakota State University's School of Nursing Program. Sophia's goal is to become a nurse practitioner.



Rheanne Feilmeier - \$500

Rheanne is the daughter of Micki and Jeff Feilmeier and is a senior at Kuemper Catholic High School. After graduation, she plans on attending the University of Northern Iowa to study education.



Caleb Terry - \$500

Caleb is the son of Katie and Jason Terry and is a senior at West Monona High School. After graduation, Caleb plans on attending Buena Vista University to major in agricultural business and agronomy.

WIPCO Board Plans for 2024 District and Annual Meetings

WIPCO is again making plans to host two member events this fall. The District Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 27th at the Stables at Copper Ridge in Denison. WIPCO's Annual Meeting will be held at the Community Center in Onawa on Thursday, August 29th. Please watch for more details related to the events in future newsletters, bills stuffers, and on our Facebook page!

As a rural electric cooperative, WIPCO is guided by an elected board of directors. The board is responsible for setting policies and approving programs that are the basis for operating your Cooperative. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, special meetings, and continuing education - all things that are necessary to keep directors informed of cooperative business and the issues of the electric utility industry.

Are you or anyone you know interested in serving as a WIPCO board director? The 2024 Nominating Committee will meet in June to select candidates for Districts 3, 5, and 6. The upcoming elections will be held as a part of WIPCO's annual meeting on August 29th. If you are interested in serving as a director and meet the criteria of a nominee, as printed in the procedures for director elections in the April 2024 issue of our newsletter, please contact a member of the nominating committee, whose information is provided below. 32-02-1110

Once the slate of candidates is approved, a mail-in-ballot for the election will be sent to each member. Instructions on the mail-in-ballot procedure will be included in the June Informer newsletter.

2024 Nominating Committee Appointed

In compliance with the bylaws of the Cooperative, the Board of Directors has appointed the following members to act as the Nominating Committee for the selection of nominees for directors of the Cooperative to be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting:

District 3: Monona County
Beau Hanson - (712)281-0743

District 5: Monona County
Dennis McCandless - (712)886-5193

District 6: Crawford County
Ryan Boettger - (712)269-7091
Robert Miller - (402)699-4392

If you have someone you would like to be considered as a candidate for nomination to the Board of Directors, and they reside and receive service in one of the districts listed above, contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Please refer to the April 2024 Informer that is also made available on our website, or call our office for information on the director nominating and election process.

Western Iowa Power Cooperative



District Meeting
August 27th, 2024
The Stables
Denison, Iowa

Annual Meeting
August 29th, 2024
Onawa Community Center
Onawa, Iowa

6 Your Source of Power and Information

**2 KIDS
IN COLLEGE
\$115,000
MORTGAGE** | **RESTORING
POWER TO
THE
COMMUNITY**

**BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S
YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT.**



HIS JOB IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH. The last thing he needs is for you to drive into his utility truck because you ignored the flashing lights, cones and signs. When you see utility crews at work, slow down and move over. You have the power to protect a life.



**MOVE OVER
SLOW DOWN**



SWITCH MAKES CENTS

Ensure uninterrupted savings with Switch Makes Cents!
We're upgrading switches for existing subscribers.
Schedule your free upgrade by July 1st, 2024.

Call now: 712-263-2943.

Do not overlook overhead power lines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead power lines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of power lines.

Be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

Home maintenance

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

Yard work

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding. Also:

- Do not trim trees near power lines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

Farming

Review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

At work

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

Other reminders

- Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch.

Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant. For additional electrical safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.



(USPS 9340)

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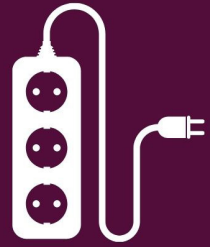
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Sadie Reisz, Editor

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

Safety Tip

Overloading extension cords or power strips means they can overheat and cause fires. Do not overburden them by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the strips or cords can handle. If any part of the extension cord or power strip is hot while in use, it might be overloaded.



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 April newsletter belonged to Sharon Cue and Barry Kounkel.

**SAVE
 \$25**

