



TIPS From T.I.P.

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

May 2022

Brooklyn, Iowa

REC Day on the Hill



Back left to right: General Manager Dean Huls, Directors Jerry Henning, Ronald Hoffman, James DeSmet, Randy Upah and Gene Von Ahsen. Front left to right: Representative Thomas Gerhold, Director Lee King, Senator Dawn Driscoll and Director Anne Axmear.



Back Left to Right: Directors James DeSmet, Jerry Henning and Randy Upah. Front Left to Right: Directors Ronald Hoffman and Anne Axmear, Representative Dean Fisher and General Manager Dean Huls.

Nearly 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives came to the Iowa State Capitol on March 22 to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. "Our advocacy day on the hill is an important opportunity to personally touch base with our elected

officials and share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowa and rural economic development," remarked Roger Solomonson, board president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Specifically, advocates talked to legislators about a digital sales tax inequity that Iowa's electric cooperatives hope to resolve before the 2022 Legislative Session ends.



Back Left to Right: Directors Anne Axmear, Gene Von Ahsen, James DeSmet and Jerry Henning. Front Left to Right: Director Randy Upah, Representative Dave Maxwell, Directors Lee King and Ronald Hoffman.



Back Left to Right: Directors Randy Upah and Jerry Henning. Front Left to Right: General Manager Dean Huls, Director Lee King, Senator Kevin Kinney, Directors Anne Axmear and Ronald Hoffman.

The inequity stems from an unintentional error made in 2018 legislation that requires Iowa electric co-ops to pay a new 6% sales and use tax on digital goods and services, even though investor-owned utilities are exempt. This error has had a big economic impact on Iowa electric co-ops and rural Iowans.

We thanked House members for supporting legislation to fix this error through HF2520 and encouraged senators to take up the issue. Following our advocacy event, the Senate passed SF2372 which is a larger legislative

package that addresses various policy issues, including language similar to the House File that would bring an end to this rural energy tax. Iowa's electric co-ops appreciate the work of the House and Senate on this issue and urge them to come to an agreement about which bill to send to the Governor for her consideration to restore tax equity for co-op member-owners throughout rural Iowa.

Advocates also educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost based rates and democratic governance.

Advance Notice of Member's Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the members, August 27, 2022, the following information is provided.

Membership

The Association shall have no capital stock, but membership in the Association shall be evidenced by a certificate of membership or an accepted membership application.

Annual Meeting

At each regular Annual Meeting thereafter, a number of directors equal to the number of directors whose terms expire at the time of such meeting shall be elected to hold office for the term of three (3) years, and until their respective successors shall have been elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the Association who is not a member receiving electric service to their principal place of residence from the Association. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the Association if the person is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise of a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Association, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances. Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member from office.

A member shall not become or remain eligible for the office of director if such member or their spouse has a relative as hereinafter defined working fulltime for the Cooperative. A relative for this purpose shall be defined as such member's parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles or first cousins and in addition any spouse of any of the foregoing persons.

Nominations

The nominees for the position of Director shall be named by a nominating committee, which nominating committee shall consist of two persons from each of three geographical areas. Said committee shall be named by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative. Said committee shall strive to select two nominees from each geographical area and the persons thus selected shall be reported to the Annual Meeting. The names shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting so that printed ballots can be prepared.

Members of the Cooperative shall be reminded of their opportunity to suggest persons to the Board for said nominating committee in the newsletter of the Cooperative several months prior to the annual meeting, or by such other means as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. The members shall also be reminded of their opportunity to suggest nominees to said nominating committee as candidates for the position of director after such committee has been appointed. No nominations shall be received from the floor at the time of the Annual Meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If



your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.



Mark your calendars to attend your 2022 Annual Meeting being held the morning of Saturday, August 27. We are having an in-person Annual Meeting this year and will be serving breakfast before the meeting. The business meeting will follow in the new BGM auditorium. More details coming soon.

We hope to see everyone there!

Utility Poles are NOT Bulletin Boards



Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs-as well as the signs themselves-pose dangers to T.I.P. REC line crews who must climb poles.

The safety of our line crews is of utmost concern for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative. Your line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making line workers vulnerable to electrocution.

Line workers have reported poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts, and even support legs for deer stands, lights, and carports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk, anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure at least ten feet away from utility poles.

When we find a satellite dish, sign or other object attached to our poles, we will be notifying you to remove it in a timely manner.



**Effective May 1 our Office Hours have changed to:
7:00 am - 3:30 pm
Monday - Friday**

2022 Shine the Light Contest



Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Iowa's electric co-ops are excited to bring back our Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, we'll accept nominations and select three winners who will each receive a \$2,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We were truly inspired by the flood of contest entries we received last summer," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're increasing our three winner donations from \$1,500 to \$2,000 each this year to encourage even more participation across the state."

Member-owners and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from T.I.P. REC, you're a co-op member-owner 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-owner. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Three winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules. 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.

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

PLUG
INTO
SAFETY



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Make electrical safety a priority
this month, and every month.

At T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the member-owners we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

Safety is a TOP priority at T.I.P. REC. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all member-owners of our communities safe. That's why you'll see safety articles in our newsletters, Facebook safety posts, and a section on our website dedicated to safety. We also host safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We also teach students about electrical safety at home and on the farm.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances we use everyday, it's important to educate everyone about electrical safety.

Providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year is our priority but equally important is keeping our communities safe around electricity.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Electrical Safety Presentations



This spring Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, visited the Fremont, Keota, Williamsburg, Iowa Valley, and Sac & Fox elementary schools along with hosting local Homeschoolers at the office to spread the word on electrical safety. Cole gave an electrical safety presentation using interactive boards while having the students answer questions about electrical safety at home and on the farm.

After the presentation, students were given an electrical safety workbook, bookmark, pencil, color changing eraser, tattoo and stickers.

NOTICE: Your REC office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th.



NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Tuesday, May 17 from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

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