



# TIPS From T.I.P.

Published By The T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative  
**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

October 2022

Brooklyn, Iowa

## Your 84th Annual Meeting



*Everyone enjoyed the delicious breakfast catered by Brooklyn Grocery*



*Peggy Wardenburg provided the pre-Annual Meeting entertainment*



*Carter King is pictured above at the Lineman Gear Up picture station*



*General Manager, Dean A. Huls, is pictured giving his Board President and General Manager's Report*



*Hadley Kiebach, with the help of her mom, Kate, gave an amazing presentation*



*Sarah Coleman, from Martin Gardner Architecture, and Nate Hopwood, T.I.P. IT Manager, gave a new facility presentation*



*Martin Gil drew for the electric bill credits, bikes and free prizes*



*Harper Murtha is pictured with the bike she won*



*Generator winner - Peggy Grimm and Pole Saw/Blower Combo winner - David Clarahan*

### Thank You for Attending the Annual Meeting

The employees and directors of T.I.P. REC appreciate our member-owners who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the annual meeting. We would also like to thank everyone for supporting your local cooperative throughout the year.

See page two for the annual meeting highlights.

**NOTICE:** The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, October 20th from 7:00 am till Noon for an all-employee meeting.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Annual Meeting Highlights



T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative held its 84th Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 27th, at the BGM High School Auditorium.

Members and guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast catered by Brooklyn Grocery.

Peggy Wardenburg provided the pre-meeting entertainment closing with a salute to the Veterans in attendance and the audience singing “God Bless America” and the “National Anthem” with her.

Pastor Josh Gerard of the New Beginnings Church gave a very nice invocation.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Board President, Gene Von Ahsen, followed by the introduction of the board.

The Certification of a Quorum and the reading of the Notice of Meeting was given by Ronald Hoffman, Secretary-Treasurer. There were motions to waive the reading of last year’s Annual Meeting Minutes and the Treasurer’s Report.

Mark Adams, Cooperative Attorney, conducted the election of directors and the election results were given by Nominating Committee Chairperson, Davis Axmear. The following were elected for three-year terms: incumbents, Gene Von Ahsen, representing Iowa County, and Anne Axmear, representing Keokuk County, and newly elected was Lisa Tichy, who will be representing Tama County. The amendment was also passed.

Hadley Kiebach, 2022 Iowa Future Little Miss United States Agriculture and 2022 Midwest Future Little Miss United States Agriculture, with the help of her mother, Kate, gave a presentation with Hadley telling the crowd about her pageants, how she represented her title at numerous events, her projects and her animals.

General Manager, Dean A. Huls, presented the Board President and Manager’s Report to the members updating the crowd on this year’s five-year work plan projects which will increase reliability. He gave an overview of your cooperative’s “all of the above” approach to electric generation, supporting the incorporation of new renewable resources alongside reliable, baseload generation. He told members that we are in the process of our scheduled five-year cost of service study with a third party and the results of this study will enable us to manage our costs and operate more efficiently. Lastly, he talked about our current facilities and our needs to provide you with the services that are demanded to supply safe, reliable, affordable electricity for years to come. He then had Sarah Coleman from Martin Gardner Architecture (MGA) and Nate Hopwood, our IT Manager, give a

presentation on our plan to construct a new facility.

Gene Von Ahsen and Dean Huls then presented a Retirement plaque to Director James Hines and thanked him for his 25 years of dedicated service on the board.

The employees then came up and Dean Huls introduced them along with their years of service.

At the end of the meeting, Gene Von Ahsen, and his helper, Martin Gil, son of Karen Gil-Maas of Williamsburg, drew names for the kids bike, grand prizes and electric bill credits.

Each membership in attendance received a thermal tote bag.

## Annual Meeting Prize Winners

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate everyone who received a bill credit and won a prize. Because of the length of the bill credit list we were unable to put it in this newsletter. You can find the complete list of winners and annual meeting documents on our website under Annual Meeting. These bill credits were applied to the September bills.

### 2- \$50 ELECTRIC BILL CREDITS

Mike Kolars

Watkins Farms LLC

### GENERATOR WINNER

Peggy Grimm

### POLE SAW/BLOWER COMBO

David Clarahan

### GIRL'S BIKE

Harper Murtha

### BOY'S BIKE

Hayden Murtha

**Focused on YOU.**

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**

## Holder Holdings, LLC Receives Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Loan



Pictured above front left to right: T.I.P. REC Representatives, Dean Huls, General Manager, Jason Jack, Accountant, and Raymond and Mindy Holder. Back left to right: Hueston Holder, Hallie Ellis and Hobey Holder.

Holder Holdings, LLC was the recipient of a \$150,000 Revolving Loan Fund loan from T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative. The loan helped the Raymond, Mindy, Hobey, Hallie (Ellis), and Hueston Holder family construct a self-storage business located north of Holiday Lake.

This loan helps promote business growth in rural Iowa.

## James Hines Retires from your Board of Directors



Pictured above right is General Manager, Dean Huls, presenting James Hines with the Retirement plaque for 25 years of service.

James has been representing Tama County on the board for 25 years. He has experienced a lot of changes in the electrical industry and his guidance and knowledge has been a tremendous asset to the cooperative.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to thank James for his many years of dedicated service.

## Welcome, Lisa



Pictured above is newly elected board member Lisa Tichy. Lisa will be representing Tama County on your board of directors.

Lisa and her husband, Brody Kellogg, who is a farmer and owns two small businesses, have three dogs. Lisa is currently employed at Martin Marietta Materials at the Ferguson/Gilman location as a Weightmaster. Lisa also helps run the office aspects of their dust control business and trucking business and has a successful Etsy store where she creates custom items.

In her leisure time, Lisa enjoys spending time with Brody and the dogs on the farm. She also enjoys showing her dogs. Lisa is co-founder and currently the secretary of Diamond in the Ruff which is a nonprofit animal welfare group. She also attends Marshalltown Community College where she will be graduating in the fall with an AAS degree in business.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to welcome Lisa to the board of directors and look forward to having her serve on the board.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window

likely need to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit [www.energy.gov/energysaver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver) to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

**We're Looking for Students Interested in Public Service and Leadership**  
**High Schoolers who attend our Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!**



Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, T.I.P. REC has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's

capital (prior to Covid) as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register and learn more details at [www.IowaYouthTour.com](http://www.IowaYouthTour.com).

"This new program is for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked Dean Huls, General Manager. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- **Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m. - Cooperative Business Model**
- **Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m. - Rural Iowa Advocacy**
- **Thursday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m. - Civic Involvement and Leadership**

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for two \$1,000 college scholarships.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a motivational speaker.

## Dress up with care for HALLOWEEN



When dressing your little ones (or yourself), keep these safety tips in mind:

-  Always wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
-  Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape to improve visibility.
-  Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eyecare professional.
-  Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision.
-  Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy.

In addition, inspect any plug-in decorations for signs of wear and tear (fraying or bare wires or broken plugs) and replace them if damaged.



## Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

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**TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.**