



# TIPS From T.I.P.

Published By The T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**January 2023**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## General Manager's Update Year in Review - 2022



**Dean A. Huls**

2022 was a very busy year for your cooperative. In spite of continuing challenges with extended delivery time on much of our line materials, our Operations Department was able to stay very busy building new services, completing service upgrades, working on line replacement projects totaling approx. 9 miles, and changing out substation transformers with larger ones at our Conroy, Madison and North English substations. In addition, we have changed out 76 poles (or 1.7%) of the 4,472 poles in our 10-year pole testing & treating program. All the work we completed in 2022 helps to ensure service reliability to you, our member-owners, which is a very important goal at T.I.P. REC.

The cooperative would like to congratulate the group of 2022 T.I.P. REC scholarship winners. Each year our scholarship committee selects scholarship winners and has commented on the outstanding quality of applicants. Last year's group represents another selection of fine young people from our service territory. In 2023, we have added more opportunities for students to receive scholarships. Watch for more details in your monthly newsletter, website and on Facebook.

Despite the challenges that we have seen with rising power costs from our power provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), rising interest rates, and the increasing costs of material, equipment, and expenses we ended the year financially strong. In addition, the Capital Expenditure Budget for 2023 has been approved by your board. As in past years, the budget focuses on keeping your cooperative financially sound while maintaining the reliability and affordability that our member-owners expect and deserve.

In 2022, T.I.P. REC showed our commitment to the

**NOTICE:** The Brooklyn office will be closed on Tuesday, January 17 from 7:00 am till Noon for an all-employee meeting.

communities we serve by giving two Revolving Loan Fund loans. The Brooklyn Ruritan Club received a \$40,000 loan to construct an addition on their current building and Holder Holdings, LLC received \$150,000 to construct a self-storage business. Helping rural businesses acquire funding enables our rural communities to thrive.

In August, T.I.P. REC held its first in person Annual Meeting since the COVID pandemic in 2019. New board member, Lisa Tichy, was elected to replace retiring board member, Jim Hines, who had 25 years of dedicated service on the board.

This fall excavating was completed by Shrader Excavating & Grading for the new facility located in the Brooklyn Industrial Park. The dry summer and good fall weather was very beneficial in completing the first phase of the project. Next will be the construction which will begin as soon as the materials are delivered and will continue for much of 2023.

Safety is a high priority at T.I.P. REC. Your cooperative holds monthly employee safety meetings, provides training and reviews safety procedures with our employees annually. A few examples include practicing pole top rescue, basket truck rescue, pole climbing competency, forklift safety, CRP, First Aid and using a fire extinguisher. We also feel it is a high priority to educate children and adults how to use electricity safely. We give electrical safety presentations at area schools and take our Live Line Demo to county fairs in the summer. Everyday our employees practice a work ethic that prioritizes being safe so they can return home to their families at night.

We suggest you visit our website and see what is happening new at T.I.P. REC in 2023. It offers so much information about your cooperative in one convenient place. As always, we encourage you to sign up for SmartHub and Operation Roundup and to please follow us on Facebook!

**Please mark your calendar** for April 6, 2023, to attend our 1st Annual Member Appreciation meal. The meal will be served at the Sigourney Expo in Sigourney, Iowa, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

## Unclaimed Property List

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, located at 612 West Des Moines St., PO Box 534, Brooklyn, IA 52211 is holding unclaimed property resulting from patronage dividends which are due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address listed above and/or by phone at 1-800-934-7976 during regular office hours.

AIKEN, JAMES R., CEDAR RAPIDS  
AMERICAN OUTDOOR, MERIDIAN, ID  
ANDEWAY, KELLY, OLLIE  
BAACK, ORVILLE, HOMESTEAD  
BECKLEY, DARYL, SIGOURNEY  
BIDWELL, ANN, MONTOUR  
BINE, LAWRENCE R., MARENGO  
BOSSHART, ALBERT V., KIRKSVILLE, MO  
BRITCHER, CHRYSTAL, MOUNT PLEASANT  
BUFFALO, MARY A., TAMA  
BURROUGHS, BRIAN E., LIBERTYVILLE  
COOK, RUSSELL J., WILLIAMSBURG  
CROZIER, GARY S., MARENGO  
DAVENPORT, VERNA, TAMA  
DENISON, SHARYLE, BRIGHTON  
DHONDT, RICKY L., PARNELL  
DIXON, RANDY, BLOOMFIELD  
DOWNING, DENNY, WHAT CHEER  
EAGLE, SHIRLENE K., TAMA  
ESTEE LAUDER SERVICES, PARK RIDGE, NJ  
EWALD, WAYNE V., WHAT CHEER  
FISHER, CARROLL, MARSHALLTOWN  
FLORSHEIM FACTORY, CHICAGO, IL  
FOSSIL STORES, RICHARDSON, TX  
FOSTER, LAWRENCE, NORTH ENGLISH  
FULL SIZE FASHIONS, MC COOK, NE  
GINGERICH, WAYNE, HARRISON, TN  
GREGOR, WILLIAM C., OXFORD  
HAGGAR CLOTHING CO., FARMERS BRANCH,  
TX  
HAMMES, WILLIAM C., SIGOURNEY  
HANSEN, BRIAN J., MACATAWA, MI  
HANSEN, HARRY F., TRAER  
HATLING, ARNOLD, STOCKTON  
HEAL, STEVEN R., LADORA  
HERITAGE LACE GALLERY, ANDERSON, MO  
HOLVEN, TRACY, TRAER  
HORRAS, ROBERT D., EXIRA  
LORI HUDEPOHL FOR THE ACCOUNT OF  
GERALD HUDEPOHL, MARENGO  
HUNZELMAN, TERRI, MARENGO  
IOWA TELECOM, NEWTON  
KEAHNA, REX D., TAMA  
KELLER, JOHN M., MARENGO  
KENWOOD SILVER CO., INC., ONEIDA, NY

KIRCHHOFF, KRAIG, ROCHESTER, MN  
KLUESNER, RANDY, DAVENPORT  
KORET OF CALIFORNIA, CHESTERFIELD, MO  
LECHTERS, INC., BARDONIA, NY  
LEVI'S OUTLET BY MOST, COLMBUS, OH  
MADISON, TERESA, KESWICK  
MC DONALD, FRED, LADORA  
MIDWEST WIRELESS, MANKATO, MN  
MIKASA FACTORY STORE #48, SPOKANE, WA  
MILLER, JOLEEN, AMANA  
MILLER, PATRICIA S., REASNOR  
MOYER, MARILYN, GILMAN  
MUSIC FOR A SONG #57, MARIETTA, GA  
NAUTICA OF WILLIAMSBURG #70, NEW YORK,  
NY  
PAPAKEE SR, CLYDE, TAMA  
PENNSYLVANIA FASHIONS, WARRENDALE, PA  
PFALTZGRAFF, WESTBURY, NY  
PFISTER, MIKE, HOMESTEAD  
PIPPERT, KAREN, DYSART  
PREMIER HOME CENTER, MARENGO  
PRUESS, DAVID J., DASSEL, MN  
REISCHLING, DELMAR, ORLANDO  
RINEHART CONSTRUCTION,  
WEST DES MOINES  
ROBERTS, JARED, CHELSEA  
ROBERTS, TROY, TAMA  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY,  
WILLIAMSBURG  
ROSEWOOD FARMS LLC, OSKALOOSA  
SANDERS, DAVID P., BARNES CITY  
SARA LEE DIRECT, RURAL HALL, NC  
SEARS, CLARENCE A., GILMAN  
SHADDEN, ROGER D., TOLEDO  
SMITH, MICHAEL, OSKALOOSA  
SPRAY, JOHN R., OLLIE  
STANLEY SR, DAVID, VICTOR  
STEENHOEK, JUDY, MANITOWSH WTR, WI  
TASTE OF CHINA, WILLIAMSBURG  
TRI-STATE OUTDOOR, TIFTON, GA  
ULTRA DIAMOND AND GOLD OUTLET STORES  
#115, CHICAGO, IL  
VEIT, JOHN, WINTER PARK  
WASSON, KENNETH L., LAKE ELSINORE, CA  
WATSON, EDWARD E., ALTOONA

WDW BOOK COMPANY, KNOXVILLE, TN  
WELCOME HOME, WILMINGTON, NC  
WILLIAMS, JAMES R., NORTH ENGLISH  
WILLIAMS, STEVE A., BROOKLYN  
WYSS, DARRELL E., PALM COAST, FL  
YELLOWHAMMER, ALLISON, TAMA  
YODER, EDWIN, PARNELL  
YOUNGBEAR, JOSEPHINE, TAMA

### Unclaimed Property List Notice

If T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative does not hear from the owner within six (6) months of this notification, we are allowed to retain this property (per Iowa law) to be used for economic development or deliver this property to the State Treasurer's Office for disposition as abandoned property.

### Are Portable Space Heaters Efficient for My Home?



needs.

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're

occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

### 25 Year Service Awards



Pictured above from left to right: James Hines, retired director, and Scott Long, Operations Manager.

James and Scott were recognized for 25 years of service to your cooperative at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting held the beginning of December.

Your cooperative is honored to have such a dedicated board member and employee.

## Scholarships Available to College Bound Seniors and Seniors Enrolling in Lineworker Programs



T.I.P. REC will be offering scholarship opportunities to graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are members of T.I.P. REC who are planning to enroll in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. We will be awarding one \$500 scholarship to each school in our service territory again this year.

In addition, we are awarding one \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who is planning to enroll in an accredited Lineworker Program. This applicants parents/guardians do NOT have to be a member of T.I.P. REC but must attend a high school within our service territory.

Scholarship details and how to apply will be in the February newsletter.

## Momentum is Building Conference for Contractors and Builders



Iowa-based builders and contractors are invited to learn about energy efficiency technologies at the 2023 Momentum is Building (MIB) Conference, scheduled for Feb. 16 and 17, 2023 at The Meadows Events Center in Altoona, IA. A major draw for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals is the opportunity to earn CEU credits at the conference. MIB attendees can also network with industry professionals, hear from recognized energy efficiency and building trades experts and gain insight on trending technologies. Registration is open at [www.MomentumIsBuilding.com](http://www.MomentumIsBuilding.com).

Sponsored and organized by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), the annual MIB conference also connects Iowa's construction industry with the local services and resources available from Iowa-based electric cooperatives, who serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across 99 counties.

There will be sessions on promoting the value of home certifications and how to prepare contractors for large, new Federal home improvement subsidies to come online as well as employee management best practices for small businesses.

## Win the 2023 Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C.!



We are excited to announce that this year's Youth Tour Trip is June 18 through June 23, 2023. This amazing opportunity will be open to high school

sophomores, juniors or seniors (students parents or guardians must be members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative) to enter for a chance to win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Details about the trip and how to enter will be in the February newsletter.

## Surveying

T.I.P. REC crews will be surveying our lines and equipment this month on our Chelsea, Tama, Victor, Vining, Marengo, Hayesville, Millersburg, Pilot and Webster Substation areas. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) for project tips and additional considerations.

**Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) and Click on the blue Pay Now tab at the top or log into SmartHub or Call 888-999-0275.**

## Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"

**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.**