



TIPS From T.I.P.

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

March 2023

Brooklyn, Iowa

Electric Co-ops Advocate for Rural Iowa Priorities as 2023 Legislative Session Begins



Pictured above back row left to right: Directors James De Smet, Gene Von Ahsen, Jerry Henning and Randy Upah. Front row left to right: Manager, Dean Huls, Director David Lee King, Senator Dawn Driscoll, and Directors Anne Axmear, Ronald Hoffman and Craig Stallman.

More than 150 directors, managers and employees from Iowa’s electric cooperatives discussed priorities with over 100 state legislators in January during the Welcome Back Legislative Reception in Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2023 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. For example, we’re concerned about secretive industrial and commercial corporations that are seeking to circumvent Iowa’s electric service territory laws; these protections exist to provide stability for Iowa homes, farms and businesses. Iowa’s electric co-ops

are also opposed to any legislation that would deny landowners the option to use their property for utility-scale solar generation if they so choose.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa’s rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, electric co-op directors, managers, and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues. Collectively, Iowa’s locally owned electric cooperatives provide affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties every day.



Pictured to the left is T.I.P. REC Board Members along with Senator Annette Sweeney (center).

Nominating Committee Members for August Annual Meeting

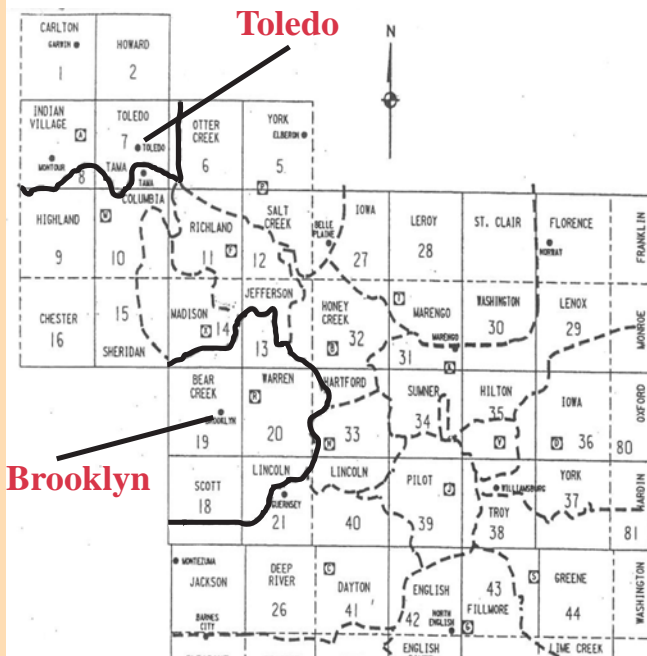
At your August 26, 2023 annual meeting, directors will be elected from the following counties:

Iowa Keokuk Poweshiek

If you are a co-op member and you know of a member from any of these counties whom you would like to serve on the nominating committee which will select director candidates, contact any present director or the cooperative office and give that member’s name before **March 21, 2023**.



SBS Inspections Inc. Testing and Treating Poles this Spring



Spring has arrived again and T.I.P. is continuing our pole testing, treatment, and replacement program. We test and treat our 1,700 miles of overhead line over a ten year period, or approximately 170 miles per year. We have hired SBS Inspections Inc. from Olathe, CO, again this year. Our overall average of poles rejected has dropped from 3% the first time through, 2% the second time through, to only 1.7 % the third time through.

Around the end of March or early April, SBS Inspections Inc. will start testing and treating approximately 3,700 poles in the **outlined** areas above which include our **Toledo** and **Brooklyn** substation areas. These men dig a hole about 18 to 24 inches deep and about 12 inches out from the pole. After exposing the wood, the poles are inspected and treated with a wood preservative, and then the hole is backfilled and the dirt tamped into place. This groundline treatment of wood preservative should extend the pole's life at least another 10 to 20 years.

SBS Inspection crews will be using pickups and 4-wheelers which will be marked with "Sub-Contractor for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative" signs.

By changing out the rotted poles that are beyond saving and by other poles being given a groundline treatment of wood preservative, we will be able to provide you with even more dependable electric service in the future.



T.I.P. REC's 1st Annual Member Appreciation day will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2023, from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm at the Keokuk County Expo in Sigourney, Iowa. A meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brothers Market will be supplying the hamburgers, hot dogs, party potatoes and baked beans. Patti Henning of Country Goods will supply cookies.

We will be giving an umbrella to the first 100 memberships to register at the door that day. There will be displays, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative's Lineman 360 Virtual Reality Headgear, a billing information booth, Sigourney linemen available to answer questions about the Live Line Demo, their trucks, tools and line equipment and a chance to win bill credits. We will be giving away 1 - \$100 bill credit, 2 - \$50 bill credits and 8 - \$25 bill credits. The drawing for bill credits will be after the event so we will contact the winners the next day.

The Brooklyn office will be closed for this event. To report outages call 800-934-7976.

Welcome Back, Tyler



Pictured above is Tyler Hanson, a Journeyman Lineman on our Sigourney crew. We are excited to announce that Tyler returned to work for the cooperative in January.

He and his fiancée, Sydney Davis, who is a COTA, have a son, Truen. In his spare time, Tyler enjoys hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

We are very happy to have Tyler back on our Team!

T.I.P. REC Employees - Volunteering to Help Keep our Rural Communities Thriving



Pictured above left to right: Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, and Nate Hopwood, IT Manager, holding the gift cards they received in recognition for having the most volunteer hours in 2022. Nate was the first place winner with 425.5 volunteer hours and Cole was second place winner with 174.5 volunteer hours.

Your cooperative employees have been busy demonstrating what the Touchstone Energy® brand means by showing members that co-ops bring more to them than just electricity; they bring the “power of human connections.”

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative’s 25 employees have been showing that we care about our communities and promise to stand behind the core values of Touchstone Energy® which are **integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to communities we serve** by taking the time to volunteer when a helping hand is needed.

Last year your co-op employees put in approximately **958.25** volunteer hours and are continuing to volunteer today to keep our communities thriving. **Through this program a donation of \$500.00 was given to both the BGM School’s Student Welfare Fund and the Sigourney Elementary School’s Snack Milk Fund.**

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative employees-volunteering to make our communities a better place to live.



2022 Patronage Dividend Allocation

Your patronage dividend is one of the primary benefits of being a member-owner of your non-profit rural electric cooperative. Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible.

Upon approval by your Board of Directors, T.I.P. members who had electric service during the year 2022 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2022 (If you had multiple services with T.I.P., these are included in the allocation amount.)

The patronage dividend allocation notice will be printed on current members’ electric bills that will be mailed in April. Those who were members in 2022 who no longer have electric service with T.I.P. will receive a notice in the mail. The allocation has no cash value and cannot be used towards payment of electric bills.

If a member is deceased, the member’s heirs need to contact the cooperative’s office to discuss payment options. If you were a member and have a change in address, please keep the cooperative informed. This will ensure any future patronage checks will be mailed to you correctly.

2022 Audit Completed



Each year your cooperative is required to have an audit of its books by a Certified Public Accountant to check that proper accounting practices are followed.

The 2022 audit was completed in January by the firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of Cedar Rapids. Pictured above from top left to right: Jacey Schiager, Craig Popenhagen and Anna Edel.

Directors Receive Training Certificates



Your cooperative is pleased to announce that three directors have completed National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) director training. Anne Axmear, (pictured above left), received her Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate, Craig Stallman, (pictured above right), received his Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and Ronald Hoffman, (center), received his Director Gold Credential (DGC).

NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD) - to earn this certificate it requires a director's attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses: Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning and Financial Decision Making.

NRECA Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) - to earn this certificate a director must first earn NRECA's CCD certificate and complete 10 credits in advanced, issue-oriented courses.

NRECA Director Gold Credential (DGC) - to earn Director Gold a director must already have earned NRECA's CCD and BLC certificates and earn three additional credits from the Board Leadership courses. To maintain this status a director is required to earn three credits of approved course work and/or conferences every two years.

T.I.P. REC provides quality education and training for your board of directors so they are knowledgeable of issues that affect the operations of your cooperative. Your board of directors play a crucial role in determining the strategic direction and priorities at T.I.P. REC. Investing in valuable education and training for board directors helps ensure that our leaders make informed decisions that will guide the cooperative to a successful future as we power lives and empower the communities we serve.

Winter Moratorium Ends April 1st

FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE ON ENERGY ASSISTANCE and have a past-due electric bill - please remember that you need to contact the Brooklyn office **before April 1, 2023**, to make payment arrangements to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

Budget Billing

If you opt for budget billing, your account is averaged for your last year of usage. That amount is what you would pay each month over the next 12 months. Periodically your account will be reviewed to ensure that your monthly payments are keeping up with your actual usage. If you are interested, give our office a call.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Tuesday, March 21 from 7:00 am till Noon for an all-employee meeting.

Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C. and Scholarships Available

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is offering an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 18-23 to sophomores, juniors and seniors whose parents/guardians are members of T.I.P. REC. **The deadline to apply is March 18, 2023.** For trip details and to apply go to tiprec.com/youth-tour.

We are also offering three scholarship opportunities this year. For details and to apply go to tiprec.com/scholarship-opportunities. **The deadline to apply is April 14, 2023.** Don't miss out on these opportunities!

Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to 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 and employer."

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