



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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

**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

May 2023

Brooklyn, Iowa

## My Final Farewell to T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative



**Dean A. Huls**

I have been blessed to work for this great cooperative for many years. I grew up in NW Iowa in the small town of Boyden seven miles west of Sheldon, home of Northwest Iowa Community College (NWICC). I was like

many high school graduates not knowing what they wanted to do after graduating. I had two high school classmates enrolled in the Power Lineman course, and they persuaded me to give it a try. I graduated from NWICC in May of 1980 and started what has now become a forty-three year career that began on June 1, 1980, at T.I.P. REC. I want to especially thank Darrel Heetland for hiring me and giving me the opportunity to work at T.I.P. REC. I have always wanted to work for a cooperative because I 100% believe it is very rewarding working for the members.

I still remember walking in the east door of the Map Room where the line crew met in the morning, just like it was yesterday. By the way, the map room still looks the same today as it did in 1980. I started my career as a 2nd Step Apprentice lineman. Back then we wore green uniforms and the trucks were painted yellow. Now our crews wear jeans and Hi Vis shirts, and the trucks are all white. I am so thankful for the guidance that the senior lineman gave me as I worked towards my journeyman classification. As a lineman taking calls in the night, working in floods, lightning, tornados, and ice snowstorms, I came to believe each lineman has a guardian angel watching over them as there are times that you wonder how you made it back home to your family safely. It was an honor and privilege to work with so many talented linemen over these years.

I was very fortunate to be able to advance at the cooperative as employees retired. In 2005 after being on the line crew for 25 years, I worked as an Electrical Advisor till 2013. This job was very rewarding as I worked with the member-owners, electricians and our line crews designing new services and line extensions. In 2012, I became the Assistant Operations Manager and

then in 2013 became the Operations Manager, working with CIPCO, Alliant and ITC coordinating our distribution substations with their transmission facilities, along with managing T.I.P. line crews. We were striving to build a strong infrastructure to provide our member-owners with increased reliability which is still a high priority today.

In 2017, I became the Assistant General Manager in addition to the Operations Manager as we were going through a management transition. During this time, we were able to implement a full inventory of our system and move forward with our mapping and staking technology upgrades through National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). These technological upgrades helped the linemen with their day-to-day tasks and after-hours calls as well as the office staff as we merged the two processes together. All employees and board members were given I-Pads which enabled them to perform their job duties more efficiently.

I have countless memories and have had many interactions with other cooperative personnel during my career that I will never forget. I will miss working with this group of employees that we currently have at T.I.P. REC as they have shown me so much flexibility and creativity to get the job done and challenged themselves to have the vision to move this great cooperative into the future. I do believe T.I.P. REC is the greatest place to work. I want to thank the board for the opportunity to guide this cooperative these last four years. It has been an honor to work with them and I will miss our end of the month board meetings.

As I reflect on all my years, we have faced many challenges and it did not matter which group of employees were working at T.I.P. REC - they were not going to stop and rest till everyone's lights were back on. "WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE" You cannot replace the cooperative spirit, it is special.

On behalf of my family, I want to THANK everyone that I was blessed to meet and the friendships I have made while working for this great cooperative family.

**STAY SAFE AND KEEP THE LIGHTS ON!**

**ATTENTION: SEE PAGE 4 FOR DEANA HULS RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE INVITATION AND NEW GENERAL MANAGER, SCOTT LONG ARTICLE.**

## 2023 Youth Tour Winner Clay Morse



T.I.P. REC is excited to announce that Clay Morse will represent our cooperative on the Youth Tour trip in June.

Clay and the other Iowa students will join with students from across the country in Washington, D.C. to learn more about cooperatives, U.S. history and our government. In addition, they will participate in leadership training, engage with elected officials, network with their peers, and tour monuments and museums in our nation's capital.

Clay is a senior at the Sigourney High School where he plays football, basketball, and golf and is involved in Key Club (a group of high school students that help with community projects and events), 4-H and the youth group at his local church. He plans to attend Indian Hills Community College for Business.

In his spare time, Clay enjoys deer hunting, fishing, golfing and lifting.

When asked why he entered the Youth Tour contest Clay said, "I think this is a great opportunity to learn new things and to meet new people."

T.I.P. REC feels supporting this program and investing in the next generation of co-op members is very important to the economic future of rural areas.

## Member Appreciation Day a Success



T.I.P. REC held its first Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, April 6 at the Keokuk County Expo in Sigourney. It was a beautiful day and we would like to thank our member-owners who joined us.

We had approximately 155 attendees who had an enjoyable meal of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and sides provided by Brothers Market in Sigourney. Country Goods provided delicious cookies that were amazingly decorated with an REC theme. The Lineman 360 Virtual Reality Headgear was a hit as you can see in the picture below.

A special thanks goes out to the Sigourney Fire Department for grilling and to the Sigourney Kiwanis for grilling and serving food during the event.

### Congratulations to the Bill Credit Winners!

#### \$100 Bill Credit

Robert L. Howe

#### \$50 Bill Credit

Dean Dyson

Andrew and Miranda Hinnah

#### \$25 Bill Credit

Francis Behounek

Mike Brown

Donald D. Herr

Howard L. Linder

Spence Reitzler

Todd R. and Lisa Schmidt

Terry L. Steinhart

Daryl K. Wood

## Employee Training

Linemen Tyler Hanson (top left) and Chase Tremmel are pictured practicing their CPR and AED skills during an all-employee safety meeting. Reviewing these safety procedures ensures that our employees are prepared to act if the need arises at work or elsewhere.



## March Tornadoes Cause Major Damage to our Southern Territory



On the evening of Friday, March 31, severe storms producing tornadoes hit our service territory causing tremendous damage to our system.

When outage calls started coming in, we immediately dispatched our T.I.P. REC crews and as we assessed the extensive damage, we called for mutual aid crews to help which arrived early Saturday morning. We had a total of 15 T.I.P. REC linemen and 18 linemen from other cooperatives which included: **Access Energy Cooperative, Mt. Pleasant; Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., Albia; Pella Cooperative Electric Assn., Pella; Consumers Energy Cooperative of Iowa, Marshalltown; and Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Bloomfield** to repair the damage and restore power.

We had some damage due to tree and wind damage on our Madison, Brooklyn, Victor, Homestead, Parnell and Millersburg substation areas but were able to restore



all the outages in those areas Friday night. The majority of the damage was on our southern territory where a tornado had gone through. We had five areas that sustained major damage:

east feeder of our What Cheer and Lancaster substations; south feeder of our Webster substation; and both the east and west feeders of our Ollie substation. These areas included our lines from just south and east of Martinsburg over to the towns of Ollie and Richland, and then north through the Skunk River bottom. We had to rebuild about 13 miles of line and approximately 90 poles were broken.



The line crews made amazing progress both Saturday and Sunday replacing poles, putting wire back up and energizing line. By Monday afternoon, the power was restored.

Thanks to all our member-owners for their patience and understanding as we worked to get the power back on.



We would like to thank all the dedicated and hardworking T.I.P. REC and mutual aid linemen who worked tirelessly to repair the damage and restore power. We have tremendous

appreciation for the job that you do. And the linemen who came to our aid is truly an amazing example of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives". We are so fortunate to belong to such a wonderful Cooperative family.

Go to our Facebook page to see pictures of all the linemen who worked during the storm.



## Please Help Us Find Director Nominees for the 2023 Director Election

The following nominating committee has been appointed to find candidates to run for your Board of Directors for the 2023 Director election. This year directors will be elected from the following counties:

### **Iowa, Keokuk and Poweshiek.**

If you are a co-op member and have a member whom you would like to have nominated for director, contact any of the members on your nominating committee listed below.

#### **Iowa County:**

##### **Dale Bringmann**

1828 240th St.  
Williamsburg, IA 52361  
319-330-6216

##### **Brett W. Kozishek**

2342 K Ave.  
Williamsburg, IA 52361  
319-330-7573

#### **Keokuk County**

##### **Mike Bensmiller**

25931 200th Ave.  
Sigourney, IA 52591  
319-330-9934

##### **Ronald A. Waechter**

24797 185th Ave.  
Sigourney, IA 52591  
641-660-4740

#### **Poweshiek County:**

##### **Don Henning**

2092 315th Ave.  
Chelsea, IA 52215  
641-485-2069 (cell)  
641-489-2731 (home)

##### **Dean Papesh**

3157 240th St.  
Hartwick, IA 52232  
319-444-0105

Nominees' names must be given to any nominating committee member **BEFORE Thursday, June 1, 2023.** Thanks for your help!

YOU ARE INVITED TO  
**A RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE  
HONORING DEAN HULS**  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31ST  
1 PM TO 4 PM  
T.I.P. RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
612 WEST DES MOINES ST  
BROOKLYN IA 52211  
PLEASE COME CELEBRATE DEAN WITH US.

## New General Manager Named



**Scott Long**

Your Board of Directors has selected Scott Long to assume the position of General Manager of your cooperative effective June 1, 2023. He is replacing Dean A. Huls who retired after 43 years of service at T.I.P. REC.

Scott brings a vast amount of knowledge to his new position - 25 years - as he previously was a lineman on our Sigourney crew for 15 years, Sigourney Member Service Representative for three years, Sigourney District Manager for three years and Operations Manager for four years.

He and his wife, Nicole, who is a Health Facility Surveyor, reside in Sigourney along with their beagle, Copper.

In his spare time, Scott enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting and traveling with Nicole.

Scott looks forward to working with the member-owners and our team of employees at T.I.P. REC.

## REC Day on the Hill



Pictured above left to right: General Manager, Dean A. Huls, Director, Jerry Henning, Operations Manager, Scott Long, and Directors, Ronald Hoffman and Gene Von Ahsen.

More than 200 employees and directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives convened at the Iowa Capitol this spring for the "REC Day on the Hill" event.

T.I.P. REC representatives had the opportunity to meet with our elected officials and to share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowa and rural economic development.

**NOTICE:** The Brooklyn office will be closed on Tuesday, May 16 from 7:00 am till Noon for an all-employee meeting.

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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.**