



TIPS From T.I.P.

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

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

August 2023

Brooklyn, Iowa

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF T.I.P RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The “Business Only” Annual Meeting of the Members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative (“Cooperative”) (“Annual Meeting”) will be held at the Brooklyn Headquarters, located at 612 W Des Moines Street, Brooklyn, Iowa 52211, at 1:00 p.m., on August 23, 2023, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees;
2. Election Results;
3. All other business which may come before the meeting, or any adjournment(s) thereof.

To satisfy the legal quorum requirements for our “Business Only” Annual Meeting, we are asking that members vote by Mail-In Ballot or Electronically via SmartHub in the election.

Dated: August 1, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Hoffman', written over a white background.

Ronald Hoffman, Secretary

NOTE: Due to the major road construction project affecting the location where we normally have our Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors has decided to change the format of our annual meeting to a “Business Only” meeting this year, and there will be no meal, membership gifts, prize drawing, or voting taking place at the meeting. To view the annual meeting documents go to tiprec.com/annual-meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel four degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

2023 Board Election Voting Deadline



The deadline to vote in the 2023 director election by Mail-In Ballot or via SmartHub is Wednesday, August 16th. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



2023 Nominating Committee



Pictured above standing left to right: Mike Bensmiller, Dean Papesh, and Don Henning. Sitting left to right: Ronald Waechter, Chairperson, Brett Kozishek, and Dale Bringmann.

Your nominating committee met on June 1, 2023, to nominate candidates for your Board of Directors election to be voted on via Mail-In Ballot or SmartHub. The election results will be announced at the Business Only Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

We would like to thank the nominating committee for participating in the election process.

Notice of Patronage Dividends Payments

In accordance with a policy change enacted in 2018 by a vote of your Board of Directors, all active members will receive patronage dividends in the form of a bill credit. **That bill credit will be applied to your bill mailed on August 10th.**

This year's patronage dividend includes allocations for the following years:

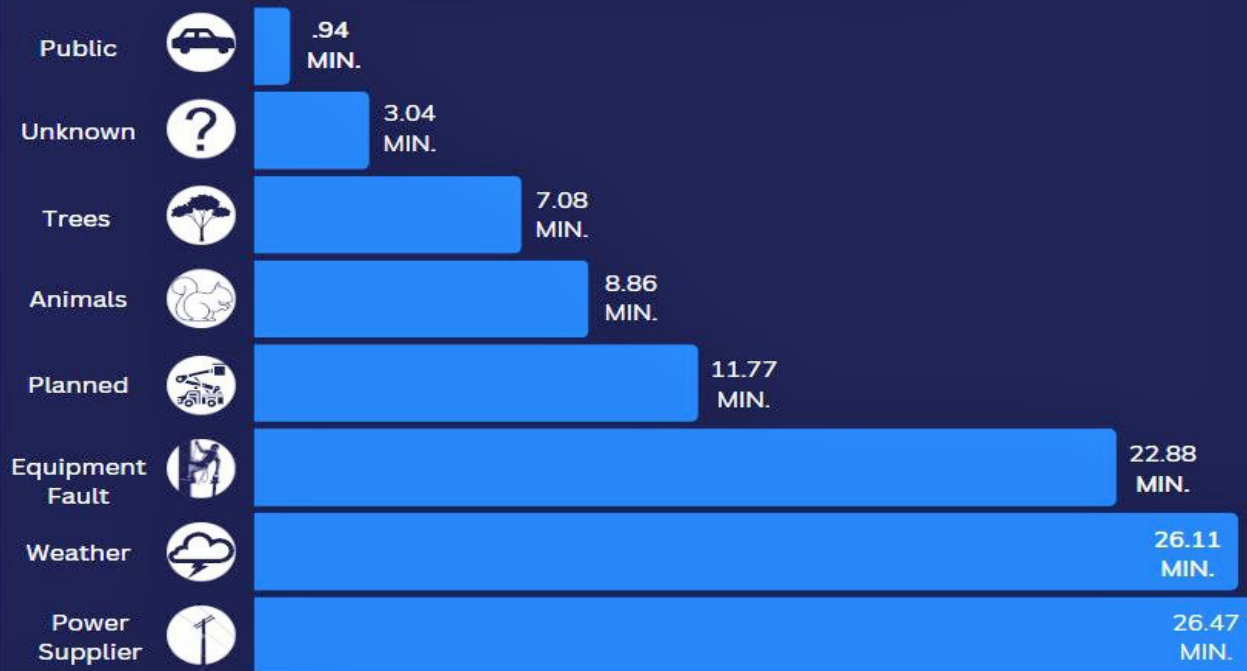
- 25% of 2006 Allocations
- 70% of 2007 Allocations
- 10% of 2022 Allocations

By not printing and mailing a paper check, your Cooperative is being both environmentally friendly and financially efficient.

If you have a credit on your electric bill and would like the credit to cover other electric bills in your name, please contact the office.

If you would like to know the exact dollar figure for dividends applied for each of the years above, please call our office after August 14, 2023, and we can look it up for you. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Phone: 1-800-934-7976.

2022 AVERAGE MINUTES PER MEMBER ACCOUNT BY OUTAGE CAUSE



Keep Kids Safe Around Trees and Power Lines



When kids take a break from indoor activities, they may head outdoors to play. If they will be climbing trees, scope out the area first to ensure that the treetops do not have power lines running through them.

Not realizing power lines are energized, children may reach up to grab a line or accidentally come too close to it when they are playing or sitting high up in a tree.

Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, contact could happen once weight is added to the branch.

In addition, teach kids to fly kites, drones and remote control planes or toys in open areas free from power lines.

If a toy or other object lands in a substation, please call us and we will retrieve the item. Never approach the fence or try to enter the substation area.

Please take the time to teach children and teens how to respect and identify potential electrical hazards.

Clay Morse Recommends Washington, D.C. Youth Tour Trip



Clay Morse (second from left) is pictured with other Iowa Youth Tour students while touring at Mount Vernon.

Clay said that his favorite place he toured while on the trip was Arlington National Cemetery-it really opened up his perspective on things about people in the force. He also commented, "I would recommend this trip to anyone! It really was an opportunity of a lifetime and I made some friendships that I will never forget!"

T.I.P. REC is glad that Clay enjoyed his trip.

Stop by and see us at the Iowa State Fair!

Visit our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building. We'll hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for kids (*while supplies last*). Stop by our co-op safety selfie station!



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives of Iowa

Connect with your Co-op at the Iowa State Fair!

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2023 Iowa State Fair. T.I.P. REC is proud to be a Touchstone Energy member, which means we're part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member-owners use energy wisely.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from August 10-20, make sure to stop by and see us in the air conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station.

We look forward to connecting with you at the fair this summer so please stop by our booth and say hello!

Efficiency Upgrades to Help you Save

If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money-and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can also purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of *smart*, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels-and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey.

If you're wanting to make your home energy efficient but you're not sure where to start, your best bet is to enlist the help of an expert to conduct an energy audit of your home. T.I.P. REC offers a residential energy audit performed by third-party company that provides infrared pictures that show air leaks and hot and cold spots in your home at a cost of \$175.00. Call our office to set up an appointment.

Summer Intern, Sawyer Callahan



Pictured above (middle) is summer intern, Sawyer Callahan along with Journeymen Linemen Nate Edgerton (right) and Andrew Kloppenburg (top left).

They are having a tailgate session which is done before starting every job. They discuss the job details, what each employee will be doing, safety procedures and answer any questions that might arise.

We hope this internship helps Sawyer learn the ropes and experience what it is like to be a lineworker as he plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College and take the Powerline Program.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, August 16th 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.