



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

October 2024

Brooklyn, Iowa

## Annual Meeting Highlights

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative held its 86th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 28, at the cooperative headquarters in Brooklyn.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Board President, Gene Von Ahsen.

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

The 2024 election process was explained by Mark Adams, Cooperative Attorney, and the report of the Nominating Committee and election results were given by Nominating Committee Chairperson, Tony Upah. The following were re-elected for three-year terms: two incumbents, James De Smet, representing Iowa County District 3 and Randy Upah, representing Tama County District 1.

Scott Long, CEO/General Manager, then gave an explanation of the prizes and \$5.00 bill credits for voting.

With there being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

## Congratulations to the Annual Meeting Prize Winners



Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, (right), is pictured presenting annual meeting prize winner, Kenneth Backen with the TCL Roku 55" Smart TV he won.



Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, (left), is pictured presenting annual meeting prize winners, Becky and James Poduska with the Blackstone 22" Electric Tabletop Griddle they won.



**WANTED:**  
Rural Iowa  
high school  
students  
who have a  
passion for  
leadership

Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at [IowaYouthTour.com](http://IowaYouthTour.com)



## Co-ops Power Communities with Purpose

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to our member-owners, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

In October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Cooperative Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For T.I.P. REC, our mission has always been to provide you with environmentally safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our member-owners' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local communities. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our communities a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including T.I.P. REC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

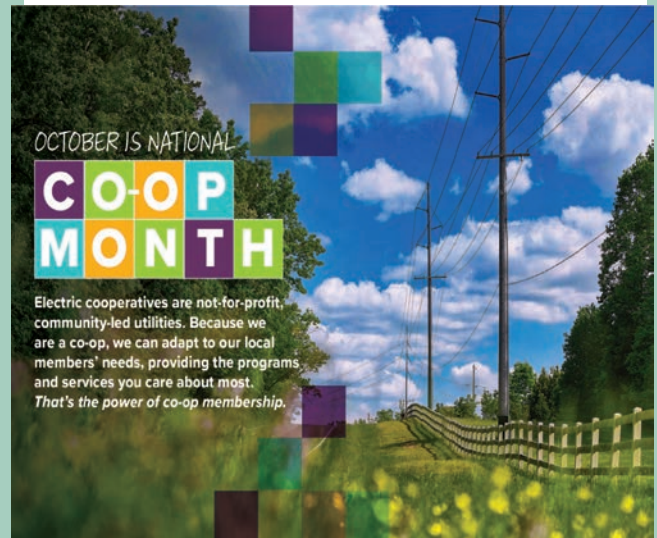
- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created *by* the members, *for* the members.
- 3. Member's Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At your cooperative, this happens through paying your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

**5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

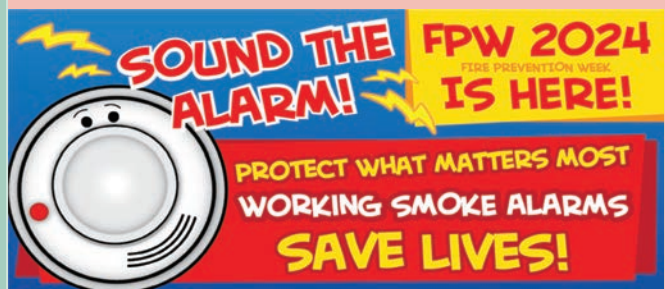
**6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

**7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is environmentally safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost to our member-owners. Our purpose is people - the local communities we're proud to serve.



October 6-12 is National Fire Prevention Week. Take a moment to review your home's fire safety measures . . . Check smoke detectors and develop (or review) your household escape plan. Let's prioritize safety together!



## Shine the Light Contest Nominee Dixie Albertson Nominated by Ashley Albertson



From a passionate, creative, and committed individual – to a selfless mom that took in foster children in an emergency – these are a few words that describe Dixie Albertson, an altruistic volunteer from the tiny town of Fremont, Iowa, that boasts a population of 700. You can see

Dixie's work plastered all over their little city, as she is the founder of Royal Lime Design, a freelance design company, whose work is widespread in our area (and beyond) not only because of her sought-after unique professional design services but also due to the many pieces that exist because of her philanthropic nature. Since Dixie moved to Fremont six years ago, her actual footprint is bigger than any size the community could ever hope to fill. Fremont just celebrated its 175th birthday, and Dixie led the committee's more-than-year-long planning efforts as Chair in organizing this free-to-the-public three-day celebration. Her attention to detail and organizational skills allowed for a seamless event that kept its 25+ committee members on track. The countless hours she spent in addition to her Chair duties included design work for the celebration's logo, advertising materials, and social media. Due to her efforts, the event's professionalism was top-notch. Her commitment to the town of Fremont extends far past its September centennial. Since 2008, Dixie has served on the Fremont Development Committee, a small, yet-mighty volunteer group that supports the town by planning free monthly events for all in an effort to promote community togetherness. Not only has she served as a general member of this fabulous group, she has also taken on the leadership roles of President and Secretary. You will see Dixie's friendly face at many of these events – early helping with setup and staying late to assist with cleanup. Her design efforts have once again been a piece of Dixie's extended involvement, as well as an important factor in each event's success, as she has donated hours of her time each week over the past six years to produce beautiful advertising materials for these monthly events. In addition, Dixie is a member of the Fremont Community Church where she is the Director of Youth Ministry, a Fremont Elementary 'Leaders in Kids Education' group member, marching band partner-in-crime, 4-H mom,

and fire department supporter. This only highlights some of Dixie's selfless involvements. Fremont is a lucky little town with many great organizations. But Fremont is also lucky to have Dixie because with her there it is that much better.

T.I.P. REC along with our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, who matched our \$200.00 donation, gave Dixie's charity the Fremont Community Foundation a donation of \$400.00. Dixie plans on donating this toward the purchase of a Jaws of Life for her community.

Thank you Dixie for being such an upstanding volunteer in your community.



Pictured above back left to right: Directors, Lee King, Gene Von Ahsen, James De Smet, Craig Stallman, Randy Upah, and Jerry Henning. Front left to right: CEO/General Manager, Scott Long, Dixie Albertson, Directors, Anne Axmear and Ronald Hoffman.

## Editor's Choice Contest Winners



Congratulations to Brent and Jennifer Meier for winning the Craftsman 1,900 Max PSI Electric Cold Water Pressure Washer when they entered the *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine's Editor's Choice Contest! We hope they get a lot of use out of their prize!

## Iowa County Food Bank Receives \$300 Operation Round Up Donation



Pictured above back left to right: Debbie Gruenwald, Williamsburg Food Manager, Jay Gruenwald, Williamsburg Treasurer, and T.I.P. REC CEO/General Manager, Scott Long. Front left to right: T.I.P. REC Director, Gene Von Ahsen, Paula Watkins, Williamsburg President, and T.I.P. REC Director, Craig Stallman.

Our District 2 Directors, Gene Von Ahsen and Craig Stallman were happy to present a \$300 donation check to the Iowa County Food Bank representatives in Williamsburg.

The Iowa County Food Bank's mission is to provide emergency food assistance to Iowa County residents on a short-term basis. It is a nonprofit incorporated in 1982 by citizens from Marengo, Williamsburg, Conroy, and South Amana. The food bank is operated entirely by 16 volunteers.

It is a community supported organization with funding sources including donations from churches, civic groups, businesses and individuals. The funds are used to purchase food almost exclusively, however, in the past they have used money to purchase shelving and freezers.

They have two locations: Marengo and Williamsburg where food can be picked up by appointment. To make an appointment for the Marengo location, call Audrey at 319-721-7640 to pick up food at the First Presbyterian Church, 902 Marengo Ave., Marengo, IA. For the Williamsburg location, call Suzanne at 319-668-1375 to pick up food at the First Presbyterian Church, 504 S Highland St., Williamsburg. Individuals and families may use the food bank four times per calendar year. Individuals do not need a referral and everything is kept confidential. They provide canned and dry goods as well as gift certificates for perishables to Brothers Market or Big G.

In 2023, they completed 613 food bank appointments which provided food for 2,520 individuals.

If you would like to donate to the food bank, a list of their food needs is on their Facebook page. You may drop off donations at the First Presbyterian Church in Williamsburg and Big G in Marengo.

This donation was made possible by our member-owners who participate in our Operation Round Up Program where their monthly bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar and put in an account to be distributed to help those in need.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency

improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,200 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30 percent.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits) to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

**NOTICE:** The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, October 23 from 7:00 am till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

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TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 320 Industrial Drive, Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.