



TIPS From T.I.P.

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

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

March 2024

Brooklyn, Iowa

2024 Welcome Back Legislative Reception

During the 2024 Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines, employees and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives discussed concerns and priorities with state legislators. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception on January 9 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 2024 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve.

For example, we're concerned about the potential establishment of Integrate Resource Plans (IRPs) in Iowa Code. IRPs would essentially force the early retirement of carbon-based electric generation facilities, resulting in stranded costs and reliability concerns for the member-owners we serve. Iowa's locally owned and governed electric cooperatives continue to support an "all-of-the-above" power generation strategy that ensures reliable and affordable electricity for our members.

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. Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues. Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.iaruralpower.org.

Nominating Committee Members Needed for 2024 Election

In 2024, directors will be elected from **District 1 and District 3**.

If you are a co-op member and you know of a member from any of these districts whom you would like to serve on the nominating committee selecting director candidates, contact any present director or the cooperative office and give that member's name before **March 20, 2024**.

See the map to your right to check your township to make sure you are in the district up for election. **For a larger map, go to tiprec.com/board-directors and click on the tab below the directors' pictures.**

Board Districts and Director Changes in 2024

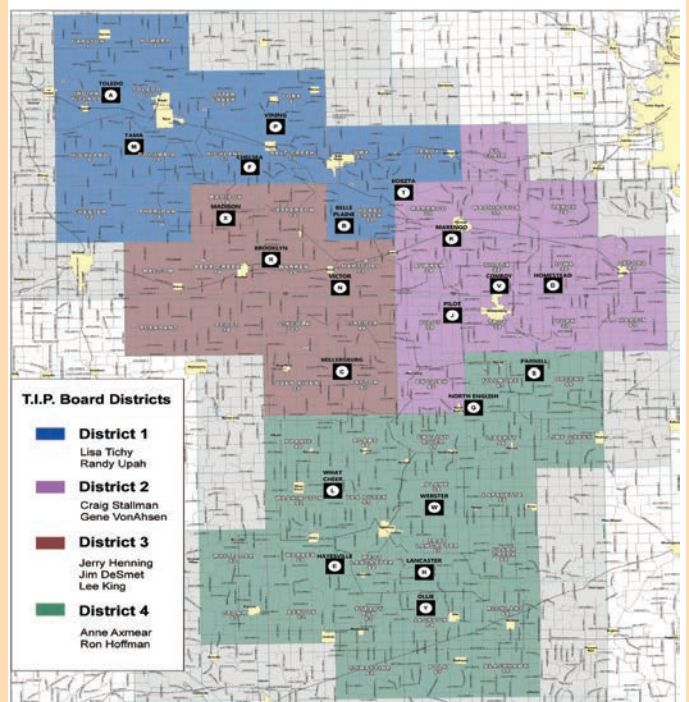
With the upcoming retirement of a board member who is up for re-election this year, the Board of Directors took the opportunity and voted on some changes for 2024.

First, with the upcoming retirement of a director, they voted to decrease the number of directors from nine to eight. The ninth director will fulfill their term through 2024 until after our Annual Meeting.

With eight directors, our member-owners will remain well represented in their districts. These eight directors will be able to govern and guide your cooperative successfully, well into the future.

In addition, they decided to adjust the districts so now there will be four districts instead of nine. Each will have two directors per district, up for re-election in opposite years. This will enable each district to have a more equal number of member-owners per director. Pictured below is the new Board District map.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please call our office at 800-934-7976. We are here to serve you, our member-owners.



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

2024 Youth
Tour Trip
Contest
Application
Deadline:
March 15, 2024

Don't Miss this
Trip of a
Lifetime!

Application
Deadline:
March 15, 2024



T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is offering an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-21, 2024, to sophomores, juniors and seniors whose parents/guardians are members of T.I.P. REC. **The deadline to apply is March 15, 2024.** For trip details and to apply go to tiprec.com/youth-tour.

T.I.P. REC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative offers three scholarship opportunities for students. For details and applications go to tiprec.com/scholarship-opportunities

Deadline to Apply
April 12, 2024

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 12, 2024.**

Don't miss out on these amazing opportunities!

RECare Program Helps Those in Need



For several years, T.I.P. REC has had a RECare program where members can make a one-time donation or a monthly donation to help other members in their county.

The RECare program funds we collect are sent to local community action agencies to distribute and help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

In 2023, we sent the following member contributions to local community action agencies:

MICA - Poweshiek County	\$75.50
MICA - Tama County	\$385.00
HACAP - Benton County	\$ - 0 -
HACAP - Iowa County	\$1,252.00
HACAP - Johnson County	\$ - 0 -
HACAP - Washington County	\$ - 0 -
SIEDA - Jefferson County	\$ - 0 -
SIEDA - Keokuk County	\$405.00
SIEDA - Mahaska County	\$ - 0 -
SIEDA - Wapello County	\$90.00
	<u>\$2,207.50</u>

Your donations make a BIG impact for those in need in your county. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others! Thank you for donating.

You care, we care, RECare.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Scholarships Available to Youth Tour Alumni and Future Electrical Engineers

The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation offers one \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships to Youth Tour alumni. Applications are typically due in May. Visit electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/scholarships for more information.

The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation also offers \$2,000 scholarships to college students pursuing careers in electrical engineering, specifically those who plan to return to rural areas to work. Applications are typically due in May. Visit electric.coop/engineers-future-scholarship for more information.

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



Pictured above left to right: Nate Hopwood, IT Manager, and Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, holding the gift cards they received in recognition for having the most volunteer hours in 2023. Nate was the first place winner with 463 volunteer hours and Cole was second place winner with 378 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 24 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 **1179.25** volunteer hours and are continuing to volunteer today to keep our communities thriving. **Through this program a donation of \$600.00 was given to both the English Valleys Elementary School Milk/Juice Fund and the Meskwaki Settlement Elementary School Lunch/Milk Fund.**

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

2023 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 2023 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2023 (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 2023 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.

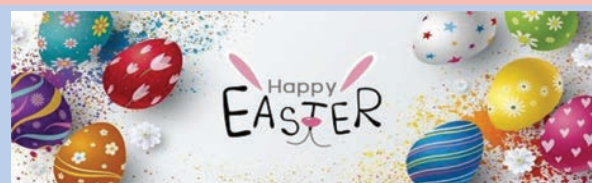
If a member is deceased, the member’s heirs need to contact the cooperative’s office to discuss payment options. If you were a member and have a change in address, please keep the cooperative informed. This will ensure any future patronage checks will be mailed to you correctly.

2023 Audit Completed

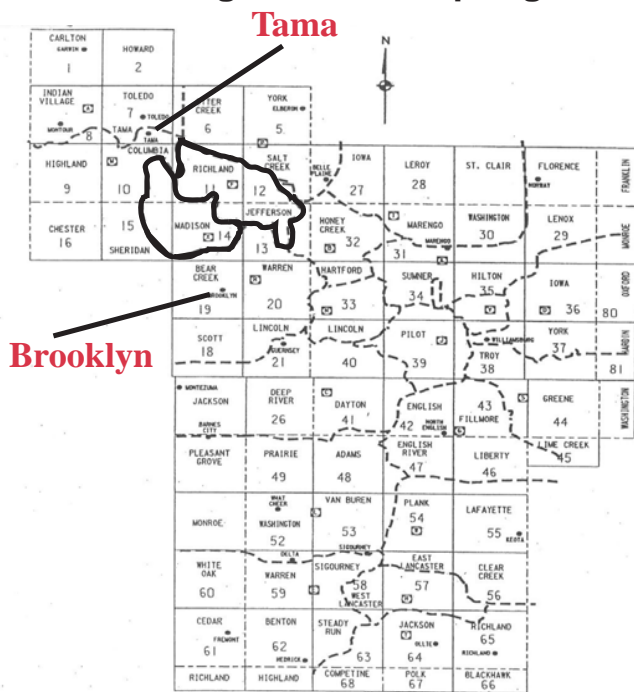


Each year your cooperative is required to have an audit of its books by a Certified Public Accountant to check that proper accounting practices are followed.

The 2023 audit was completed in January by the firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of Cedar Rapids. Pictured above from left to right: Jacey Schiager and Anna Edel.



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 the first time through was 3.89%, 0.78% the second time through, and 2.19% the third time through.

Around the end of March or early April, SBS Inspections Inc. will start testing and treating approximately 3,600 poles in the **outlined** areas above which include our **Chelsea** and **Madison** 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.

Changing out the rotted poles that are beyond saving and giving a groundline treatment of wood preservative to other poles helps to provide you with more dependable electric service in the future.

20 Year Service Award



Pictured above left is Lee Hawkins, Administrative Assistant, receiving her Appreciation Certificate for 20 years of service from CEO/General Manager, Scott Long.

T.I.P. REC would like to thank Lee for her dedicated service to the cooperative and our member-owners.

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, 2024**, to make payment arrangements to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, March 13 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

Attention Member-Owners:

Inserts containing important information will be enclosed in your monthly bill. Please be sure to read them.

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."

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.