

The logo for REC (Rural Electric Cooperative) features the letters 'REC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a black background that is partially overlaid by a green diagonal shape on the right side.

# TIPS From T.I.P.

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

**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

March 2025

Brooklyn, Iowa

## Welcome Back Legislative Reception



**Pictured above left to right: Directors, Jerry Henning and Ronald Hoffman, Senator, Dawn Driscoll, and Directors, Anne Axmear and Craig Stallman.**

Nearly 170 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives, including T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, traveled to downtown Des Moines on January 14 to attend our annual reception at the start of the 91st General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature. At the event, co-op advocates were able to discuss concerns and priorities face to face with their state legislators. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUELIowa.

Representatives from Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives covered several important issues that could impact the affordability and reliability of electricity for the member-owners and communities we serve.

Our top legislative priority this session is protecting the state's defined electric service territories. In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve your home, farm or business. For almost 50 years, these defined electric service areas have provided certainty to electric cooperatives as we work to maintain affordable rates, foster a resilient electric grid and invest in economic development throughout rural Iowa. We strongly oppose any efforts to change or amend the service territory law and you can learn more about this issue at [www.ProtectRuralIowa.com](http://www.ProtectRuralIowa.com).

In the coming months, Iowa's 91st 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, Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power lives and empower communities. We'll have another opportunity to advocate for our members and communities at our annual Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Day on the Hill event on March 19. Learn more about our advocacy efforts at [www.IAruralpower.org](http://www.IAruralpower.org).

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.

## Nominating Committee Members Needed for 2025 Director Election

In 2025, directors will be elected from **District 1, District 2 and District 4.**

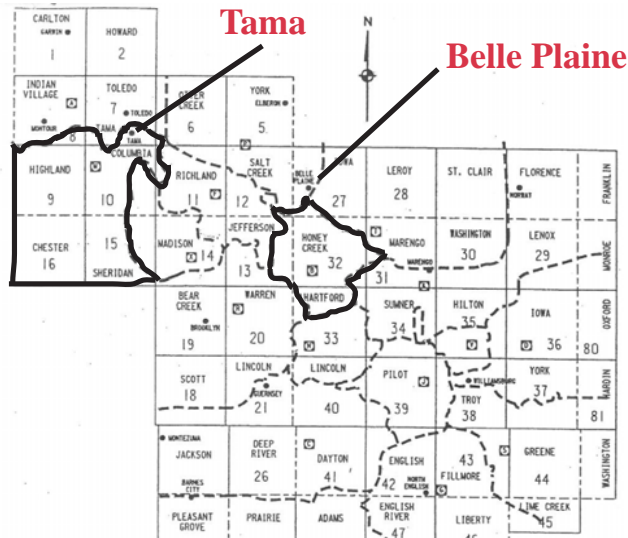
If you are a co-op member and you know of a member from any of these districts whom you would like to serve on the nominating committee selecting director candidates, contact any present director or the cooperative office and give that member's name before **March 19, 2025.**

See the map on our website to check your township to make sure you are in the district up for election. **Go to [tiprec.com/board-directors](http://tiprec.com/board-directors) and click on the tab below the directors' pictures.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## SBS Inspections Inc. Testing and Treating Poles this Spring



T.I.P. is continuing our pole testing, treatment, and replacement program this spring. 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.

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 **Belle Plaine** and **Tama** substation areas. After digging a hole around the bottom of the pole and 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 our member-owners with more reliable electric service.



## Lord's Pantry of Keokuk County Receives \$300 Operation Round-Up Donation



**Pictured above left to right: Director, Anne Axmear, CEO/General Manager, Scott Long, Lord's Pantry Manager, Carol Bensmiller, and Director, Ronald Hoffman.**

Our District 4 Directors T.I.P. Anne Axmear and Ronald Hoffman were excited to present a \$300 donation check to the Lord's Pantry of Keokuk County in Sigourney, Iowa.

The Lord's Pantry is located at 615 S Jefferson Street in Sigourney. Their hours are Monday, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and Friday, 10:00 am to noon.

Carol Bensmiller manages the pantry along with three to four other volunteers. Each year they help hundreds of struggling families. Not only do they provide food and personal care items, they also help homeless individuals and families find housing.

T.I.P. REC would like to thank the volunteers at the Lord's Pantry and our member-owners who donate to this fund. It definitely makes a difference in our communities.



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

### T.I.P. REC 2025 WASHINGTON, D.C. YOUTH TOUR TRIP

- ✓ All-Expenses Paid Trip
- ✓ June 15-21, 2025
- ✓ Open to sophomores, juniors or seniors whose parents/guardians are T.I.P. REC members
- ✓ **Deadline to Apply: March 14, 2025**

For Details go to [tiprec.com/youth-tour](https://tiprec.com/youth-tour)

Jaidyn Rugg,  
2024 Representative

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is offering an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-21, 2025, to sophomores, juniors and seniors whose parents/guardians are members of T.I.P. REC. **The deadline to apply is March 14, 2025.** For trip details and to apply go to [tiprec.com/youth-tour](https://tiprec.com/youth-tour).

## BREAKING LIVE NEWS

### SCHOLARSHIP HEADLINE NEWS

The deadline to apply for scholarships is approaching fast. Fill out an application for a chance to have T.I.P. REC help further your education. The deadline to apply is April 11, 2025.

Don't miss this amazing opportunity!

We are also offering three scholarship opportunities this year. For details and to apply go to [tiprec.com/scholarship-opportunities](https://tiprec.com/scholarship-opportunities). **The deadline to apply is April 11, 2025.**

Don't miss out on these amazing opportunities!

## 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 annually to Youth Tour alumni. Applications are typically due in May and awarded in August/September. Visit [electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/scholarships](https://electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/scholarships) for details.

The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation also offers \$2,000 scholarships to individuals pursuing a career in electrical engineering, specifically those who plan to return to rural areas to work. Applications are typically due in May and awarded in August/September. For more information, visit [electric.coop/engineers-future-scholarship](https://electric.coop/engineers-future-scholarship).

## 2024 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 2024 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2024 (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 2024 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.

## T.I.P. REC Employees Volunteer to Keep our Rural Communities Thriving



Pictured above left to right: Nate Hopwood, IT Coordinator, and Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, holding the gift cards they received in recognition for having the most volunteer hours in 2024. Nate was the first place winner with 420 volunteer hours and Cole was second place winner with 368 volunteer hours.

Your T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative employees have been busy volunteering and bringing the “power of human connections” to our communities. Being a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, this demonstrates to our member-owners that co-ops bring more to them than just electricity.

T.I.P. REC’s twenty-six 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 **1231.5** volunteer hours and are continuing to volunteer today to keep our communities thriving. **Through this program a donation of \$615.75 was given to both Chris’ Heart Fund and Mason’s Light House.**

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

### Patronage Checks Returned After Payment in 2024

A list of the patronage checks that returned to us because of incorrect addresses is on our website at <https://tiprec.com/patronage-capital-credits>. Please help us locate these members.

## 10 Year Service Award



Pictured above right is Nyle Kleine, Journeyman Lineman on our Brooklyn crew, receiving his Appreciation Certificate for 10 years of service from CEO/General Manager, Scott Long.

T.I.P. REC would like to thank Nyle for his 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, 2025**, to make payment arrangements to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

**NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, March 19 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.**

Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) and Click on the blue Pay Now tab at the top or log into SmartHub or Call 833-619-0894.

### 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, 320 Industrial Drive, Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.