T.I.P. *Current* Connection

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

November 2026 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Adam Hawkins Helps Bring Power to Guatemala Villages

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative's Brooklyn Line Foreman, Adam Hawkins, joined other lineworkers (7 from Iowa, 4 from Colorado and 7 from Oklahoma) and completed an electrification project in September. They built infrastructure, wired homes, a school and a health care center in two rural villages in Guatemala.

The following is what Adam had to say about his life-changing experience:

By far the biggest challenge on this project for Adam was the steep and rocky terrain. On the first day the anchors were not set so they had to dig all the holes and bust all the anchors by hand and it was raining and the terrain was muddy so that was challenging. They used a bust anchor which is a type of anchor that works in rocks. They dug a hole, set the anchor down in there and used a tool to bust the anchor and it grabs onto the rock.

Adam said the hotel prepared a different meal every night, all good meals, a lot of black beans, plantains and fresh fruit. They would bring a sack lunch up in the mountains to the crews for lunch every day. It was very good food, nothing processed.

Adam commented about the camaraderie, "This group of guys I'm working with is just awesome, I could not have asked for a better group of guys to be with, everyone works well together, learning new ways to do things because we were working with people from Oklahoma and Colorado. Our photographer and videographer were incredible. Those guys have been so awesome to work with and they stayed out of our way and let us do our thing and captured the moments that matter."

Adam brought LCD tablets to give to the three classrooms to share. The teacher was super happy to get them. The kids also loved the airplanes he brought for them and he said it was pretty cool to see a little kid carrying an airplane up the mountain a couple days later.

Interacting with everybody, the kids and the parents was great. When coming up the mountain to get to the job site there were lines of kids waving and smiling so happy to see us, they would come running up to us wanting toys because they knew we were all loaded with them. Some of the parents whose kids were not there asked if they could take some toys to their kids.

Before the lighting ceremony Adam commented, "Just to see everyone, they've seen our faces for two weeks now and they see the progress of the lines going up to the mountains but they haven't seen the lights come on yet. Seeing the lights come on for the first time and seeing their faces light up with joy is what he looks forward to the most."

If you have the opportunity to go on this trip, Adam said he would strongly encourage it, it's a life-changing experience not only the project that you are doing and seeing all the villages and people but the friends you meet doing it, It's the friendships you make and the memories you'll make. Just the fact that you are helping someone out, it's just awesome all around.

Adam gave a shoutout to T.I.P. REC, the Iowa Statewide and his wife, Lee, for holding the fort down until he got home. Everyone played a part in this project and he is so grateful that he was able to be part of it all. It was life-changing!

Is Your HVAC System Ready for Winter?

Here's what to check this fall

As cold weather approaches, fall is a good time to ensure your heating/cooling system is ready for winter. A few simple maintenance steps can improve comfort, reduce energy use and help prevent a breakdown when you need heat the most.

Schedule a professional inspection

- Have your heating system inspected by a qualified HVAC professional each year, preferably before winter weather arrives. A professional can check for worn parts, airflow issues, safe operation and other problems that may not be obvious to a homeowner.

Change or clean air filters

- Check your air filter regularly and replace or clean it as needed - usually every one to three months - depending on if you have allergies, pets, or heavy system use. A dirty filter can block airflow, make your system work harder and affect indoor air quality.

Check airflow throughout the home

- Ensure all registers and vents are clean and not blocked by furniture, rugs, curtains or other items.
- Vacuum vents to remove dust and keep air moving freely. If you notice excessive dust around vents, uneven heating or weak airflow, it may be time to have your system and ductwork checked by a professional.
- Keep most of the registers open throughout your home. Closing vents in unused rooms may seem like a way to save energy, but it can disrupt airflow and make your system work harder.

Reduce heat loss

- Look for drafts around windows and doors, and seal gaps with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Check insulation in attics, basements and crawl spaces. Proper insulation can help keep warm air inside and reduce strain on your heating system.

Prepare outdoor HVAC equipment

- Remove leaves, branches, grass clippings and other debris around outdoor HVAC equipment. Trim shrubs and vegetation to maintain at least two feet of clearance around the unit.
- Check gutters and downspouts to ensure water drains away from HVAC equipment.
- Check your furnace's outdoor air intake and exhaust pipes. Snow, ice or debris can block airflow, keep your furnace from operating properly and increase the risk of carbon monoxide buildup.

Adjust your thermostat for energy savings

- Install or program a smart thermostat to match your household schedule. Lowering the temperature when you are asleep or away from home can help save energy without compromising comfort.
- Review the settings on your smart or programmable thermostat before winter begins. You could set the fan to "auto" during mild fall weather to circulate air efficiently without unnecessary energy use.

Know when it may be time for a replacement

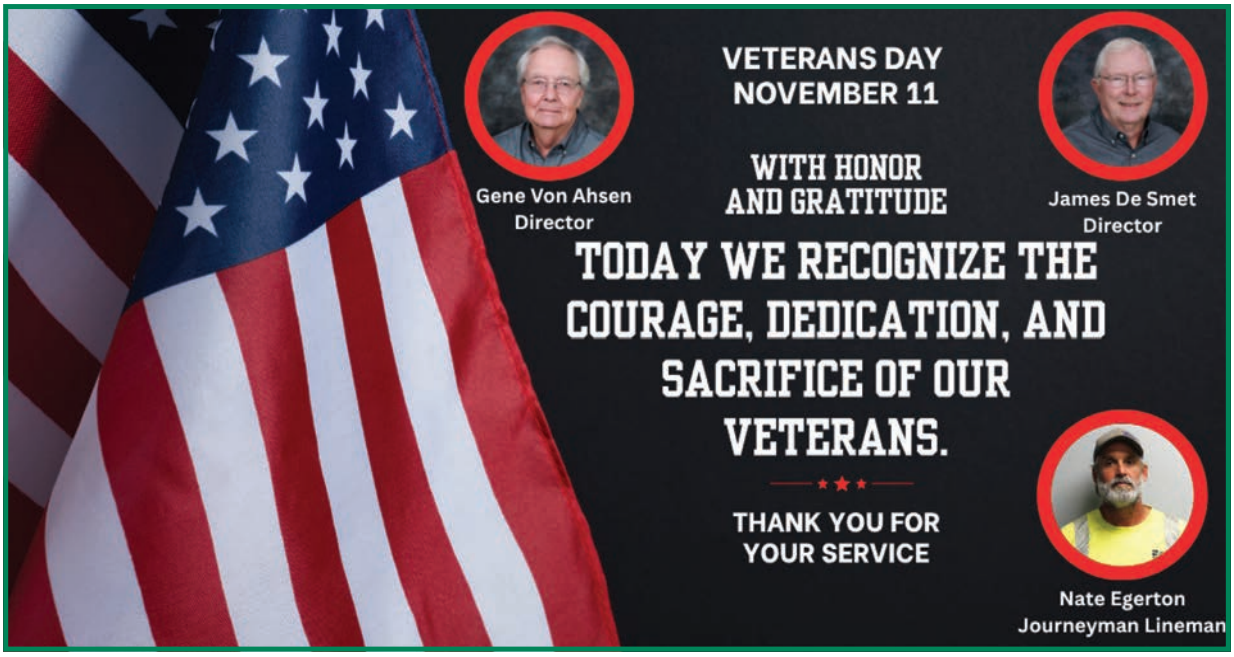
Heating systems more than 10 years old may operate less efficiently than newer models. Planning ahead can help you avoid an emergency replacement during extreme cold.

- Watch for signs such as increasing energy bills, uneven heating, frequent repairs, unusual noises or a system that takes too long to heat your home.
- When it is time to replace your system, consider ENERGY STAR-labeled equipment for long-term energy savings and efficiency. Check out our rebates to help you save money at www.tiprec/rebates.

Representative Dean Fisher Visits T.I.P. REC

Pictured above left to right: Director Andy Weber, Representative Dean Fisher, CEO/General Manager Scott Long, and Director Jerry Henning.

After discussing issues that will affect rural electric cooperatives with T.I.P. REC representatives, Representative Dean Fisher received a campaign donation from Iowa F.O.R.E. PAC (Friends of Rural Electrification Political Action Committee).



Save Energy and Money By Utilizing an Energy Audit

T.I.P. REC offers an infrared thermographic energy audit that can help our member-owners use electricity in a more efficient manner and help save money on their electric bill.

This type of energy audit offers an on-premise energy audit utilizing a third party vendor. This audit is done with the aid of thermography using infrared imaging displays to show heat patterns that allow the detection of problems that are not easily identifiable. Windows, doors, insulation levels and lighting are among other things that will be checked. This energy audit results in a very detailed report.

The cost to the member-owner for the above residential audit is $175, with the cooperative picking up the remaining portion of the charges. Commercial energy audits are available but handled on an individual basis. You can schedule an energy audit by calling us at 800-934-7976.

If you are interested in a Do-It-Yourself energy assessment go to https://www.energystar.gov/campaign/home-energy-yardstick to begin.

Annual Pole Top Rescue Practice

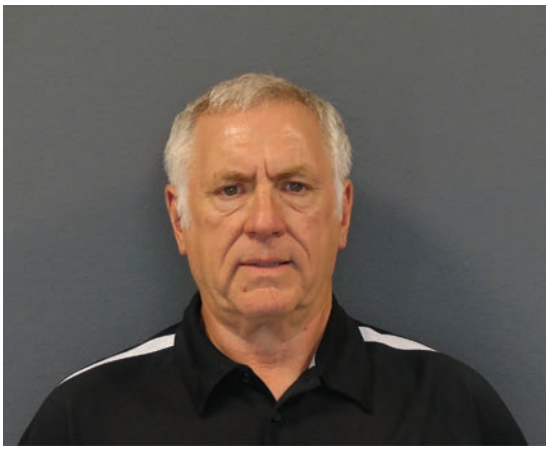
Pictured above are T.I.P. REC lineworkers practicing their pole top rescue procedures.

Every year our lineworkers review and practice the procedures for rescuing a fellow lineworker who may be incapacitated by an electrical contact or any other type of distress so that they can jump into action when needed.

Safety is top priority at T.I.P. REC and throughout the year our line crews review numerous electrical safety procedures to ensure that they are prepared to respond quickly and safely. Working around electricity is very dangerous and there are unique safety protocols that need to be followed.

Annually, T.I.P. REC lineworkers practice safety procedures as working around electricity is a very dangerous job.

New Board Member



Pictured above is Andy Weber who was newly elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. Andy will represent District 4 in Keokuk County.

He and his wife, Gail, a retired day care provider, have three children: Alison Muse, David Weber, and Audra Weber along with five grandchildren.

Andy works as a Feed Division Manager/Rock Hauling and Dump Truck Division at Farmers Cooperative Association in Keota.

In his spare time, Andy enjoys spending time with his family, keeping up their properties, and mowing Lancaster Heritage.

Andy would like to be part of seeing the new technology utilized by the rural population in both residential homes and by the farming community. We certainly need to share a close relationship with the farmers as they are a strong backbone to our rural livelihood. We need to keep evolving to keep up with our ever changing needs in our communities, state, and world.

Welcome Andy, we know you will be a great addition to our board.

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

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