

# T.I.P. *Current* Connection

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

March 2026

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Electric Cooperatives Discuss Priorities as Iowa's 2026 Legislative Session Begins



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

More than 150 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives were in downtown Des Moines on January 13 to attend a legislative “welcome back” reception at the start of the 91st Iowa General Assembly. At the event, co-op advocates discussed priorities face to face with their state legislators.

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) hosted the reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

“Hosting this annual reception at the start of the legislative session is a way for Iowa electric cooperatives to form long-term relationships based on trust and open communication,” remarked Leslie Kaufman, IAEC executive vice president. “With many new legislators and new faces in leadership this session, we value every opportunity to talk about the cooperative business model and the needs of our member-consumers.”

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

Electric cooperatives will again focus on protecting Iowa’s defined electric service territories, an important law that helps ensure every corner of the state receives consistent, cost-effective electric service. Another legislative challenge that could resurface involves third-party or “community solar” proposals that would attempt to allow non-utility solar developers to provide retail electric service inside an established utility’s service area, in direct conflict with service territory law.

Iowa’s electric co-ops are also seeking to further protect utility workers, who encounter threats, harassment and assaults while on the job. Strengthening penalties for violence against utility workers reaffirms our commitment to the safety of cooperative employees and our communities.

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. 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. Learn more about our advocacy efforts at [www.IAruralpower.org](http://www.IAruralpower.org).

### Nominating Committee Members Needed for 2026 Director Election

In 2026, directors will be elected from **District 2, District 3 and District 4.**

If you are a co-op member from any of these districts and 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, 2026.**

See the map on our website to check the township to make sure it is 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.**

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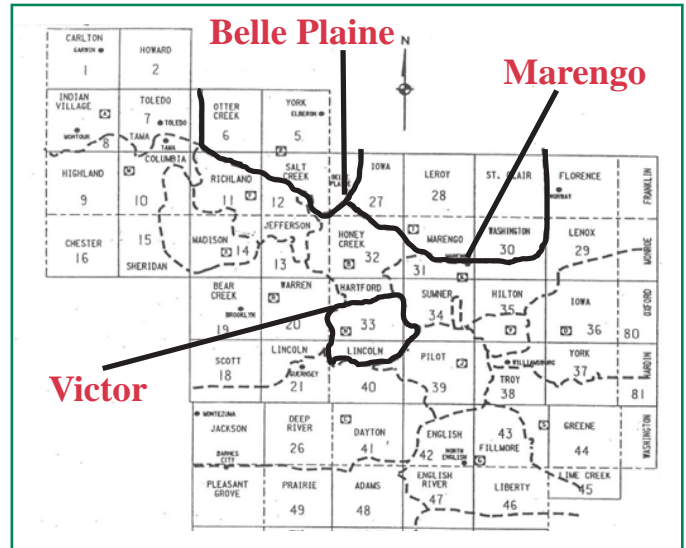
## Director Earns Training Certificate



Your cooperative is pleased to announce that Director, Lisa Tichy has completed the first step in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) director training. Pictured above is Lisa holding the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate she received.

T.I.P. REC provides quality education and training for your board of directors so they are knowledgeable of issues that effect the operations of your cooperative. This training enables our directors to make informed decisions that will guide the cooperative to a successful future.

## SBS Inspections Inc. Testing and Treating Poles



Your cooperative 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 again hired SBS Inspections Inc. from Olathe, CO, to perform this maintenance program.

Around the end of March or early April, SBS Inspections crews - using pickups and 4-wheelers which will be marked with "Sub-Contractor for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative" signs - will start testing and treating poles in the **outlined** areas above. These include our **Koszta, Victor and Vining** 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. Changing out the rotted poles that are beyond saving and giving a groundline treatment of wood preservative to other poles helps to provide more reliable electric service to our member-owners.



Always look up and look out for overhead power lines when using a ladder. Carry ladders horizontally instead of vertically when moving them outdoors.



## 2025 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 2025 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2025. (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 2025 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.

### 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, 2026**, to make payment arrangements to avoid disconnection of your electric service.



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



## Apply for Scholarships



### Patronage Checks Returned After Payment in 2025

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.

## Bringing the Power of Human Connections to Our Communities



Pictured above left to right: Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, and Nate Hopwood, IT Coordinator, holding the gift cards they received in recognition for having the most volunteer hours in 2025. Nate was the first place winner with 459 volunteer hours and Cole was second place winner with 380 volunteer hours.

How do our T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative's employees bring the "power of human connections" to our communities? Every year our employees volunteer many hours of their time giving back to our church's, youth sports programs, in-school programs and much more.

T.I.P. REC's twenty-five employees have been showing that we support 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 **1334.75** volunteer hours and are continuing to volunteer today to keep our communities thriving. **Through this program a donation of \$667.38 was given to both Austin's Crusaders and The Wall that Heals.**

Being a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, this demonstrates to our member-owners that co-ops bring more to them than just electricity. We care about the well-being of our communities and want to help make them a better place to live.

**NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, 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.**

## 2026 DIRECTOR ELECTION SCHEDULE

<b>MARCH 2026</b>	Need Nominating Committee Member Names for Election - District 2, District 3, District 4
<b>MAY 2026</b>	Nominating Committee Seeks Board Candidates & Conducts Nominating Committee Meeting
<b>JULY 2026</b>	Election Packet Mailed Mid-July Election Voting Begins
<b>AUGUST 2026</b>	Voting Deadline: August 14, 2026 Election Results Announced at August 26, 2026, Annual Meeting

For more details, please visit our website <https://www.tiprec.com/annual-meeting> or read our monthly newsletter

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



After spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.

## Budget Billing

If you opt for budget billing, your account is averaged for your last year of usage. That amount is what you would pay each month over the next 12 months. Periodically your account will be reviewed to ensure that your monthly payments are keeping up with your actual usage. If you are interested, give our office a call.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

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