

T.I.P. Current Connection

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

May 2026

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives Advocate for Lineworker Protections During 2026 "REC Day on the Hill"



Pictured above left to right: Senator Dawn Driscoll, Director Ronald Hoffman, CEO/General Manager Scott Long, Director Craig Stallman, Representative Judd Lawler, Directors Anne Axmear, Gene Von Ahsen and Randy Upah.

Green was the dominant color at the Iowa State Capitol on March 17, but it wasn't only for St. Patrick's Day. Nearly 200 advocates were wearing green in support of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives during their 2026 "REC Day on the Hill" advocacy event.

"Our annual advocacy day at the state house is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact the members and communities we serve," remarked Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC). Representatives from T.I.P. REC joined the statewide advocacy effort.

The advocates were in full force on the rotunda floor to discuss utility worker protections as outlined in SF 2400. Through this legislation, those who harass, threaten or assault utility workers out on the job would face stronger penalties. Lineworkers are required by law to enter dangerous situations and work in hazardous conditions and should be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

Additionally, electric co-op representatives talked with their legislators about concerns with third-party

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2026 Board Election - Submit Director Candidates to Nominating Committee

The following nominating committee has been appointed to find candidates to run for your Board of Directors for the 2026 Director election. This year directors will be elected from the following districts:

District 2, District 3 and District 4.

If you are a co-op member and have a member whom you would like to have nominated for a director candidate, contact any of the members on your nominating committee listed below.

District 2:

Dale Bringmann

1828 240th St.
Williamsburg, IA 52361
319-330-6216

Brett W. Kozishek

2342 K Ave.
Williamsburg, IA 52361
319-330-7573

District 3:

Donald (Don) Henning

2092 315th Ave.
Chelsea, IA 52215
641-485-2069 (cell)
641-489-2731 (home)

Dean Papesh

3157 240th St.
Hartwick, IA 52232
319-444-0105

District 4:

Mike Bensmiller

25931 200th Ave.
Sigourney, IA 52591
319-330-9934

Ronald A. Waechter

24797 185th Ave.
Sigourney, IA 52591
641-660-4740

Nominees' names must be given to any nominating committee member **BEFORE Thursday, May 28, 2026.** Thanks for participating in the election process.



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solar provisions outlined in HF 2672. Iowa’s electric cooperatives support solar development when it makes sense locally, but allowing third-party programs sets a concerning precedent statewide. Additionally, third-party solar developers would not be held to the same consumer protection standards or regulatory oversight as Iowa’s public utilities.

During the event, co-op advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model including local ownership, member governance and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, investments in technology, electric safety, reliable power generation and student programs.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa’s electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at www.iaruralpower.org.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative to Pay \$421,122.00 in Property Taxes

The following is the breakdown, by county, of the property taxes to be paid by your REC for 2025-26:

Benton County	\$	1,093.00
Iowa County		40,000.00
Jefferson County		92.00
Johnson County		335.00
Keokuk County		39,349.00
Mahaska County		714.00
Poweshiek County		134,736.00
Tama County		22,693.00
Wapello County		31.00
Washington County		38.00
TOTAL		\$ 239,081.00

In addition to these property taxes, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), our power supplier, incurred property taxes which were passed on to your cooperative to pay amounting to \$182,041.00 in the ten counties we serve.



Help Us Shine the Light on Community Volunteers in June



Nominate a local volunteer in June and they could win \$3,000 for their charity!



IowaShineTheLight.com

It’s time to shine the light on our community volunteers! Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest this summer by nominating local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations during the month of June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

“We’ve been truly inspired by the people who have been nominated over the years,” remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. “We’re excited to make three charity donations of \$3,000 each this year to recognize local volunteer efforts across the state.”

Member-owners and employees of Iowa’s electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers from June 1 to June 30. If you receive electricity from T.I.P. REC, you’re a co-op member-owner and we invite you to nominate a friend, neighbor or relative who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. Nonwinning nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.

Our 2026 winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider honoring a local volunteer by making a nomination!

T.I.P. REC Sponsoring Julianne Brown on Youth Tour Trip



Unfortunately, we did not receive any applications for the Youth Tour trip again this year, so once again we decided to sponsor a student from a neighboring rural electric cooperative, Grundy County REC.

T.I.P. REC is excited to announce that we are going to send Julianne Brown on the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. in June!

Julianne and the other Iowa students will join students from across the country in Washington, D.C. to learn about cooperatives, U.S. history and our government. They will also participate in leadership training, visit with elected officials, network with their peers, and tour monuments and museums.

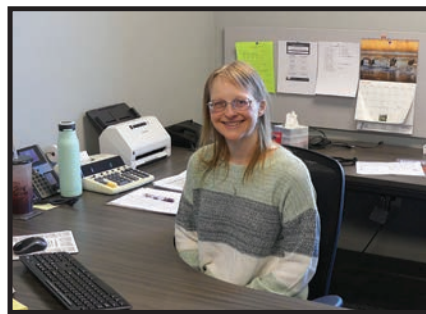
Julianne is a junior at BCLUW High School where she is a cheerleader for competition, football, and basketball also being the captain for all three seasons. She is involved in Model United Nations Club where she is the Deputy Secretary General (vice president of club), art club, National Honor Society, Leo Club (a volunteer club), and Drama Club where she was the manager of Hair and Makeup last year, and in the last play she was the lead role. Julianne is also the secretary of a student-led council at the local library where she is a student aide.

In her spare time, Julianne enjoys traveling, photography, theatre, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.

At her UN club's yearly conferences they debate, discuss, and make amendments around an array of topics. Julianne commented, "Out of the committee options, I like the Science Topics, and I see Science and Technology development in the future going hand in hand when determining needs and solutions for electricity generation. That is why I am interested in this opportunity. I am involved in looking at government and electrical solutions in Model UN and my community. This would be a great chance for me to get to learn more and better my knowledge of these topics and get to use them going forward."

We hope Julianne has an amazing and educational trip!

Welcome Maria!



Your cooperative is pleased to introduce the newest addition to our co-op team, Maria Kriegel. Maria began working here in March as the new Accountant at our Brooklyn office.

In her spare time, Maria enjoys reading, golfing, riding her motorcycle, playing volleyball and spending time with friends and family. Maria looks forward to getting to know the people here and gaining more knowledge in accounting and a different industry.

We would like to welcome Maria and wish her a long and enjoyable career at T.I.P. REC.

Heat Meter Readings



The Heat rate season will end May 31, 2026. It is important that members do not turn off the power to those meters because we still need to be able to read them each month. The Heat rate will begin again on October 1, 2026.

T.I.P. REC May 2026 Work Anniversaries

Jason Jack - 16 years
Becca Stauffer - 7 years
Sean Stutzman - 18 years
Terry Kloppenburg - 43 years

Thank You!

BGM Students Job Shadow Lineworkers



BGM Freshman, Jayce Hassett



BGM Senior, Carter Tuttle

Jayce and Carter, BGM Jr Sr High School students, came to T.I.P. REC this spring to job shadow our lineworkers. Both were interested in finding out if a career as a lineworker would be something to pursue after high school. This was a great opportunity for them to ask questions and learn more about what a lineworker's job entails.

Both students spent the day observing our linemen changing out poles.

T.I.P. REC welcomes the opportunity to help students gain knowledge about their career options at an electric cooperative.



Even Things Out with Budget Billing



Did you know Budget Billing can help make your monthly electric bill more predictable?

*Payments are set using your 12-month average

*Reviewed twice a year based on your most recent electricity use

*Same payment each month, no matter the season

To be eligible for budget billing, your account must be current. You'll still receive a monthly bill showing your payment amount, and you can use any of our regular payment options.

Call our office to see if you qualify!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

SAFETY MEETING



NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, May 6 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm for an all-employee safety meeting.

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