



TIPS From T.I.P.

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

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

February 2020

Brooklyn, Iowa

Attention High School Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors - Win a Trip to Washington, D.C.

COURTESY OF YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

WIN A WEEK-LONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

IOWA YOUTH TOUR WASHINGTON D.C. 2020

- Join 1,800 other students from across the country
- Meet Iowa's members of Congress
- Tour historic sights
- Take a boat cruise on the Potomac River
- Visit Smithsonian museums
- Make new friends
- Learn more about electric cooperatives
- Sharpen your leadership skills

NEXT YOUTH TOUR · June 18-25, 2020



More than 1,800 students from all across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year, and so can you! The Iowa Youth Tour is an all-expense paid trip that takes high school students to Washington, D.C. every June.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative will select one student in his/her sophomore, junior or senior year whose parents or guardians are members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative and would like a chance to win the trip which takes place June 18 through June 25, 2020. Go to our website at www.tiprec.com and on the homepage will be links to a Youth Tour article, a Youth Tour video, an online application and a short questionnaire to fill out and send to our office, or call our office and request an application. **The deadline to apply is March 20, 2020.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Beware of Scammers

Your cooperative has become aware that neighboring cooperatives are having issues with scammers contacting members. The scammers called the members with the message that their power will be shut off if immediate payment is not paid and another message claimed a new meter was going to be installed but a \$300 payment was required.

T.I.P. will never call and ask to process a payment over the phone, phone payments must be initiated by the member by calling 888-999-0275. If you think a call might be a scammer, hang up and call our office at 800-934-7976 immediately to verify the identity of the caller.

Contact Information Drawing Winners



Eva Ditzler, daughter of Sallie Ditzler, Customer Service Representative, drew four names from the members who submitted their contact information in December. The following members received a \$25 bill credit on their January bill: Tedd Burr III, Keith Gingerich, Robert S. Smith and Heather Weeks.

Thanks to everyone for submitting your updated contact information.

T.I.P. Rural Electric
 Regular Hours 7:30 to 4:00 Weekdays.....641-522-9221
 or Toll Free..... 800-934-7976
 After Hours (Outages & Emergencies Only) ..641-522-9223
 or Toll Free 800-934-7976
 website: www.tiprec.com

Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel Receives Rebate Check



Pictured above left is Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, and Merle Bear, Facilities Maintenance Manager at Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel.

Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel representative Merle Bear received a rebate check in the amount of \$8,500 for updating the lights in their facility to energy efficient LED lighting.

Four Tips for Winter Safety

It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because during the coldest months, members are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

- 1. Don't overload outlets.** Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections - they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.
- 2. Never leave space heaters unattended.** If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed **at least three feet** away from flammable items.

- 3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets.** These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads - look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.
- 4. Use portable generators safely.** Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, **before** you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area **outside** your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

State Law Requires Notification of Alternate Energy Production

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy generator. The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology including:

- solar
- wind turbine
- waste management
- resource recovery
- refuse-derived fuel
- agricultural crops and residue
- wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric transmission or distribution line

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide **written** notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the generator.

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system - please contact T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative at 800-934-7976. Let us provide information and assistance **BEFORE** making the decision to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid.



Meeting with Iowa Interstate Railroad



Pictured back row left to right: William Mc Donald, Iowa Interstate Railroad General Foreman, Bruce Hansen, Vice President of Business Development Iowa Area Development Group, Paul Erickson, CIPCO Manager of Commercial Energy Solutions, Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service. Front row left to right: Scott Long, Operations Manager and Dean Huls, General Manager.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative’s management and staff along with CIPCO and Iowa Area Development Group representatives met with William McDonald, Iowa Interstate Railroad General Foreman, to discuss LED energy efficient lighting cost savings and rebate, reliability, backup generation and future load growth at their facility.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative appreciates the opportunity to serve the Iowa Interstate Railroad facility.



Pictured above is one of Iowa Interstate Railroad’s locomotives.

Living with Energy in Iowa Magazine Youth Tour Contest Available

In addition to having a chance to win a Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. from T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, the *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine is also sponsoring an all-expenses paid Youth Tour trip. Any high school sophomore, junior or senior whose families are members of any electric co-op affiliated with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives is eligible.

The contest runs from **February 5 through April 5**. Entrants will need to go to the magazine’s website www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com to fill out the Official Entry Form and submit a short essay in response to this question: **Pick one of the seven cooperative principles and share how your local electric cooperative embodies it?** You may also enter the contest at www.iarec.org/youth-tour.

Don’t miss another opportunity to win this exciting and educational trip.

Legacy Power Line Inc. Update

With the start of the new year our construction plan is moving forward. Legacy Power Line has been in contact with some of you on the new line construction through Holbrook. They have been setting poles and now have part of the new wire up east of Holbrook.

They have also been setting poles in the North English area north of Kinross getting ready for stringing that line.

Thank you for your patience during this construction process.

Your T.I.P. Board of Directors:

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

We Love Our Communities

“To move forward, you have to give back.”

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative to the communities we serve. With Valentine’s Day approaching, we can’t think of a better time to express how much we love the communities and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural Iowa many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our communities to ensure they continue to thrive - because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that’s you!) that we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. T.I.P. REC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make communities.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our communities, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for Iowa’s youth, such as the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long trip to experience democracy in action and visiting the elementary schools to spread the word about electrical safety. It means organizing food drives and packing food for “Meals for the Heartland” and contributing to RECare and Operation Round-up which your cooperative will soon be offering to our consumer-members. It means partnering with organizations for worthy programs.

Our community-focused programs and other giving projects have helped build the Brooklyn Industrial Park, an Emergency Room and Urgent Care for the Grinnell Regional Medical Center and an upgrade and expansion project for the Deep River Fire Department. We have fed hungry families, enabled those in need to keep the lights on and so much more - and we couldn’t do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our communities. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we

operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, we are certain that we can continue to do good things for our communities.

BGM Students and Teachers Sing Christmas Carols



BGM Elementary students and teachers came to the cooperative on December 17th and sang several Christmas carols for the employees to enjoy.

T.I.P. would like to thank them for spreading Christmas cheer!

NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Wednesday, February 19th from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is online at www.tiprec.com and check out the cooperative’s Facebook page



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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.