



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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

**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**April 2020**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## T.I.P. REC Employees are Making a Difference in our Communities



Pictured above from left to right: Nate Hopwood, IT Manager, and Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, holding the gift certificates they received in recognition for having the most volunteer hours in 2019. Nate was the first place winner with 311.5 volunteer hours and Cole was second place winner with 136.25 volunteer hours.

Your cooperative employees have been busy demonstrating what the Touchstone Energy® brand means by showing members that co-ops bring more to them than just electricity; they bring the “power of human connections.”

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative’s 25 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 approximately **1,018** volunteer hours and are continuing to volunteer today to keep our communities thriving. Through this program a donation of \$300.75 was given to both the BGM Bear Bags and Sigourney Elementary School to be used for their student lunch funds.

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Nominating Committee Members for August Annual Meeting

At your August 2020 annual meeting, directors will be elected from the following counties:

**Iowa      Keokuk      Poweshiek**

If you are a co-op member and you know of a member from any of these counties that would be willing to serve on the nominating committee which will select director candidates, contact any present director or the cooperative office and give us that member’s name before **May 1, 2020**.

## Your T.I.P. Board of Directors:

David Lee King, Guernsey ..... President  
Gene Von Ahsen, Homestead. .... Vice-President  
Ronald Hoffman, Sigourney ..... Sec’y-Treasurer  
H. Jack Wilkinson, Chelsea. .... Ass’t Secretary  
Anne Axmear, North English ..... Director  
James Hines, Montour..... Director  
James De Smet, Victor..... Director  
Randy Upah, Chelsea..... Director  
Craig Stallman, Williamsburg ..... Director

## NOTICE:

**The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, April 23rd from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.**

## 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](http://www.tiprec.com)

## Remember to Thank a Lineworker on April 13th

Thank  
You!

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our cooperative.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is proud to honor the 13 lineworkers that maintain 1,764 miles of power lines in our service territory.

We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.

## Retired Director, Joe Black, Passes Away

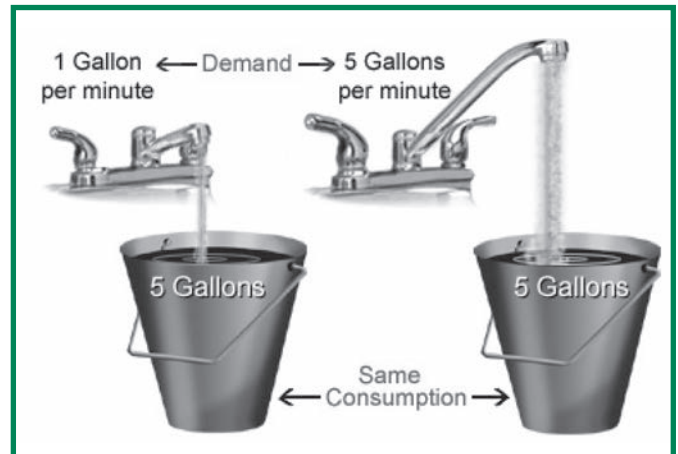


On Sunday, February 16, 2020, Joe Black, one of your dedicated directors who represented Iowa County from 1968 to 2001, passed away.

Joe served on the board for 33 years guiding T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative through a lot of changes while offering his knowledge of the cooperative business principles. His many years of dedicated service on the board will not be forgotten.

Our condolences to his wife, Madonna, and family.

## Demand and Consumption



Understanding demand and consumption can be confusing. An easier way to understand demand and consumption is with a "filling the bucket" analogy. Suppose you want to fill a 5 gallon bucket with water. You can use an inexpensive hose connection to your sink providing 1 gallon per minute to do it, and it will take 5 minutes. Or you can get to a more expensive large faucet that provides 5 gallons per minute, it will fill in just one minute. The flow rate is the equivalent to demand, and the 5 gallons of water are equivalent to consumption. In this example, filling both buckets has the same "consumption" but very different "demands."

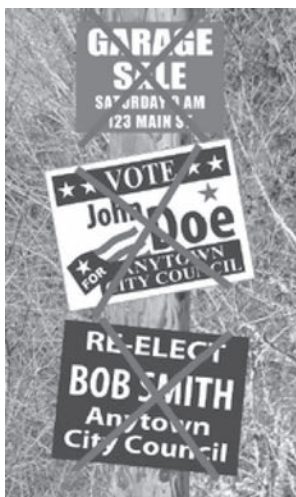
The same is true for electricity. While you may be able to accomplish the same thing by operating a small wattage appliance for many hours as operating something of higher wattage for just a few minutes, the higher wattage piece of equipment will create a higher demand on the utility. Using our analogy, you are asking for a larger pipe, and that costs more. If time is of the essence, it might be worth having the more expensive high flow rate or wattage.

This is why utilities often charge some customers for both demand and consumption. A customer that sets a high demand requires more services from the utility - additional generating plant capacity, and more expense in lines, transformers and substation equipment.



**It's not just a courtesy-  
it's the Law - Move Over  
or Slow Down to keep  
everyone safe!**

### Utility Poles are NOT Bulletin Boards



Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs-as well as the signs themselves-pose dangers to T.I.P. line crews who must climb poles.

The safety of our line crews is of utmost concern for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative. Your line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making line workers vulnerable to electrocution.

Line workers have reported poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts, and even support legs for deer stands, lights, and carports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk, anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure at least ten feet away from utility poles.

When we find a satellite dish, sign or other object attached to our poles, we will be notifying you to remove it in a timely manner.



### T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative to Pay \$345,319.00 in Property Taxes

The following is the breakdown, by county, of the property taxes to be paid by your REC for 2019-20:

Benton County	\$ 1,122.00
Iowa County	44,041.00
Jefferson County	102.00
Johnson County	361.00
Keokuk County	39,952.00
Mahaska County	814.00
Poweshiek County	32,787.00
Tama County	23,960.00
Wapello County	31.00
Washington County	42.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 143,212.00</b>

In addition to these property taxes, CIPCO, our power supplier, incurred property taxes which were passed on to your cooperative to pay amounting to \$202,107.00 in the ten counties we serve.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

### April is Safe Digging Month

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is reminding all members to call Iowa One Call by dialing 811 before you dig, whether your project is a deck addition, planting a tree, trenching in fields, or a landscaping masterpiece.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm the person digging, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.



## You Belong Here

Day by day, it can be easy to forget just how different T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative really is from other energy companies. It's probably true in any industry - over time, the exceptional starts to seem ordinary but we need to remember how remarkable our electric cooperative really is.



Let's make something clear:

What makes us remarkable is **you**. After all, as an electric cooperative, we are led by consumer-members like you who understand and listen to the communities. We *don't* answer to outside investors who are only interested in using us as a way to make a buck. And this key difference has been part of the plan from the beginning.

You see, we were built by the communities we serve from day one, which means that we have been shaped to respond to the specific needs of you and your neighbors. As an electric cooperative, we were created from the ground up by the people who live here and have a long-term interest in seeing the communities thrive. Furthermore, if you live on our lines today, you're playing an important role right now in shaping our future as an energy company.

Your choices help us in our mission to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable, and safe energy. Thanks to you, we've secured 24/7 energy sources and a balanced energy mix to make that possible. We're also investing in more efficient technology and cleaner sources of energy to ensure that tomorrow is even brighter for our consumer-members.

All these decisions and advances are thanks to people like you, because we belong to the communities we serve. So sure, you may be used to getting your energy from us, but we thrive on the energy we get from you.

### Legacy Power Line Inc. Update

As we continue to have nice weather this spring, the two Parnell projects are almost completed minus a few clean up areas.

The North English project has been moving rapidly with all the poles set and four of the six miles of new wire have been strung in.

Poles will be dropped off for the final Ollie project which they will be starting on soon.

**Moving? Don't forget to notify your Cooperative.**

## Watch Cooperative Property when Burning Ditches

It is that time of the year again when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.



This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems as "in" or "out" of control fire is sometimes allowed to burn around your cooperative poles, anchor guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.

Burning close to cooperative property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any person involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to cooperative property.

To avoid damage to cooperative property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.

### 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

There are three things we can all do to reduce our carbon footprint:

- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED light bulbs.
- Reduce energy used for water heating by lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads.



**T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is online at [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) and check out the cooperative's Facebook page**



**Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) and Click on Rapid Pay or log into SmartHub or Call 888-999-0275.**

### 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, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.**