



TIPS From T.I.P.

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

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

May 2020

Brooklyn, Iowa

Youth Tour Winner Announced

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that Sidney Morse, daughter of Shane and Melinda Morse of Sigourney, was chosen to represent T.I.P. on the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour trip in June.



Sidney Morse

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Youth Tour trip has been cancelled for this year.

It was decided by your management and board to send Sidney on next year's trip if it worked in her schedule. We contacted her and was glad to hear that it would work for her to go next year.

Safety is a Top Priority

Although we were in the midst of dealing with Covid-19, safety is and always will be a top priority at T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative. With the help of technology to enable us to practice social distancing, we continued to conduct our monthly all-employee safety meetings where we reviewed important safety topics.

Annually we have training and review safety topics such as Pole Top Rescue - our linemen review the procedures to rescue a fellow linemen who may have had electrical contact, heat exhaustion, an allergic reaction to a bee sting or heart complications while working on the lines; Ladder Safety - inspection, when to dispose of a ladder and how to use it safely; Accident Review - we review our protocol to be prepared in case an employee has been in an accident or if our linemen come upon an accident; Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness, First Aid/CPR/AED refresher training - to teach our employees how to respond in a medical emergency; and having 20/20 Vision - zero accidents is our goal so our employees need to keep their eyes open to what's going on around them to help eliminate accidents, stay focused while on the job and communicate among each other to make sure their fellow employees understand the jobs they are performing.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative management and employees know how important it is to have high safety standards and will continue to annually review numerous safety procedures and topics unique to the electric industry.

Thank You!

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to thank all the dedicated medical professionals serving on the front lines taking care of the Covid-19 patients. Your tireless efforts will not be forgotten!

Important Notice

Please continue practicing social distancing around cooperative employees until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation.



Notice: Your REC office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

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

Why Do We Advertise?

At T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, we're often asked why we run radio ads or spend resources on mailing out a member newsletter each month. Great questions! Proactive communication is essential in any industry or business, and it's especially important for us to communicate often with our members who own the co-op. In fact, the core principles of our cooperative business model include concern for community and keeping our members informed and educated.

We use a variety of communications methods to "cut through the clutter" and make sure we reach our members with our messages. Our monthly newsletter, radio announcements, Facebook posts, bill stuffers and website serve as effective ways for us to quickly communicate important information with you regarding safety, energy efficiency, cooperative business and regulatory notices.

Let's break these categories down one by one:

- 1. Safety Awareness** - As your electric cooperative, we have a duty to keep you safe from the dangers of electricity. Preventative safety messages are a top priority in our public communications efforts. For example, we remind farmers to watch out for electric lines and poles during planting and harvest seasons. We encourage members to call 811 before digging so underground utilities can be properly located. During the holidays, we promote safety in the kitchen because the incidence of home fires increases dramatically during that time. Throughout the year, we tell members to "look up and live" as they use ladders and tall equipment around the house, garage or barn.
- 2. Energy Efficiency** - At T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative we are committed to helping our members use energy wisely. We provide multiple resources to help you find ways to reduce your electric bill and become more energy efficient, but we need to promote those resources so you know about them. For example, we post energy efficiency tips on our Facebook page and within the pages of our member newsletter. We communicate through various methods to let you know about rebates and incentives for purchasing energy efficient products.
- 3. Cooperative Business** - As an owner of the electric cooperative, you need to know important information about the financial condition of the business and when to elect directors of the board. We publish an annual report which includes important information about the co-op, the board candidates up for election,

employees of your cooperative and to ensure that members are aware of the annual meeting.

- 4. Regulatory Notices** - We are required to communicate with our co-op members regarding specific state and federal regulations. For example, you may notice the grain bin clearance notice we publish every year in our member newsletter. An article informing members about financial aid available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is also published in the *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine that has your cooperative newsletter inserted in it.

Communicating frequently with our members is an important business function that helps T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative achieve our mission of powering lives and empowering communities.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

PoweringYourSafety.com
KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

STAY PUT
If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside. **DO NOT EXIT.** Call 911.

JUMP CLEAR
If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 40 feet away.

STAY AWAY
When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.



Advance Notice of Member's Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the members, August 29, 2020, the following information is provided.

Membership

The Association shall have no capital stock, but membership in the Association shall be evidenced by a certificate of membership. The issuing price of membership in the Association shall be \$5, and no certificate of membership in the Association shall be issued until the issuing price for the membership shall have been paid in full.

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by and from the members to serve for a period of three years or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the Association who is not a member receiving electric service to his or her principle place of residence from the Association or is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Association, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances. Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member from office.

A member shall not become or remain eligible for the office of director if such person or his or her spouse has a relative as hereinafter defined working full time for the Cooperative. A relative for this purpose shall be defined as such members' parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, or first cousins and in addition any spouse of any of the foregoing persons.

Nominations

The nominees for the position of Director shall be named by a nominating committee, which nominating committee shall consist of two persons from each of three geographical areas. Said committee shall be named by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative. Said committee shall select two nominees from each geographical area and the persons thus selected shall be reported to the Annual Meeting. The names shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting so that printed ballots can be prepared.

Members of the Cooperative shall be reminded of

their opportunity to suggest persons to the Board for said nominating committee in the newsletter of the Cooperative in April prior to the Annual Meeting. In the June newsletter members shall be reminded of their opportunity to suggest nominees to said nominating committee as candidates for the position of director. No nominations shall be received from the floor at the time of the Annual Meeting.

Four Common Culprits of Electrical Fires

May is National Electrical Safety Month, which is the perfect time to evaluate the safety of your home's electrical system. Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your



home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.

- 1. Electrical outlets:** Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.
- 2. Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.
- 3. Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.
- 4. Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also, check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

Payment Options Available

In an effort to make paying your electric bill more convenient, the following are payment options:

- SmartHub: Access through our website at <https://tiprec.smarthub.coop/Login.html#> or download the application on a Smartphone or tablet.
- Onetime payment – phone: Call 1-888-999-0275 and use your T.I.P. REC account number
- Onetime payment – online: <https://tiprec.smarthub.coop/PayNow.html>
- By mail: Return payment in provided envelope to PO Box 534, Brooklyn, IA, 52211
- Drop Box available 24 hours a day: 612 W Des Moines St., Brooklyn; and 1295 200th Ave., Sigourney.

Please do not put cash in the drop box.

Summer is Coming Prepare Your Home Now

Don't let summer heat up your utility bill. The following are some tips for getting your home ready for the summer heat:

1. Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.
2. Change the air filter on your cooling unit.
3. Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected by a professional.
4. Clear leaves and other debris away from the air conditioner. Also, trim foliage and remove any nearby weeds or vines within two feet of the unit.
5. Clear the air vents throughout your house.
6. Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
7. Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.



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 insure that your monthly payments are keeping up with your actual usage. If you are interested, give our office a call.

NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Friday, May 15th from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

Reflect and Honor: May is Military Appreciation Month



We are thankful for the brave men and women who selflessly gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us. Please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans.

Legacy Power Line Inc. Update

Spring has granted us good weather and Legacy Power Line has been taking advantage of it. They have completed the major construction on the North English project and will be cleaning up the loose ends.

They have moved to the Martinsburg area where they are replacing six miles of single phase line with new 3 phase line and in the process they will be removing one mile of line on a dirt road. Thank you for your patience as we upgrade our line through this area.

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



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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.