



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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

**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**September 2020**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## Jack Wilkinson Retires from your Board of Directors



Pictured above is Jack Wilkinson holding the Retirement plaque he received for 33 years of dedicated service on your Board of Directors.

Jack retired on August 29th and has been representing Poweshiek County on the board. He has experienced a lot of changes during the years and offered his guidance and knowledge to enable your cooperative to operate efficiently while following the cooperative business principles.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to thank Jack for his many years of dedicated service.

## New Bill Design

Your electric bill will feature an updated design beginning with the September 10th bill. The new bill layout will be easier to read, incorporate usage graphs with temperature data for your account, and include information on the back with answers to our most common questions.

**Notice: Your REC office will be closed Labor Day, Monday, September 7th. Have a safe holiday!**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Operation Round-Up®



“Commitment to Community” is one of our cooperative principles and T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that we are offering our member-consumers the opportunity to help give back to your communities through the Operation Round-Up® Program.

How does the Operation Round-Up® Program work? When you sign up, your **monthly** electric bill will be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. The funds collected will then be dispersed to various local organizations and individuals in need. (There is a place to sign up on the back of your bill starting with September's bill and on our website.)

The average contribution amount per member is 50 cents per month, or \$6 dollars per year. The least amount of money that could be donated after opting in is 12 cents per year, the maximum amount is \$11.88 per year.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is dedicated to making a meaningful difference in our communities and we hope you will help by signing up for Operation Round-Up®. The Power of Many, Working as One!

## Did You Miss the Annual Meeting?

Make sure and check out the annual meeting highlights in the October newsletter and on our website: [www.tiprec.com/content/annual-meeting](http://www.tiprec.com/content/annual-meeting) There will be pictures, reports, prize list, results from the election of your Board of Directors and videos for those of you who could not attend.

### 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)

## Linemen Review Safety Procedures



**T.I.P. linemen are pictured above reviewing basket truck rescue.**

As just one part of your cooperative's comprehensive safety program, all T.I.P. linemen review rescue procedures annually. For example, how to rescue a fellow lineman using a basket truck, who may have had electrical contact, heat exhaustion, an allergic reaction to a bee sting or heart complications while working on the lines.



**The linemen pictured above are watching Dana Kilmer practice his pole climbing competency.**

They also review and practice pole climbing competency as seen in the picture above. The linemen check their harnesses, climbing gear and lanyards to ensure they are in proper working condition. Each lineman then takes his turn climbing the pole to practice his pole climbing skills.



**Pictured above is Kendall Bunn, Apprentice Lineman on our Brooklyn crew, practicing his forklift skills.**

Along with the other safety procedures the linemen and a few staff members participated in a forklift training session.

They watched a video on forklift operation and safety and then reviewed the pre-inspection forklift procedures before operating the forklift on a driving course.

Safety is top priority for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative management and employees and we will continue to annually review numerous safety procedures unique to the electric industry.



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.

### Green Power is Available for Purchase

The term “green power” refers to electricity supplied from renewable energy sources. Quite often, electricity is produced using a combination of fossil fuels and renewable resources, which is called a green power blended product. When you choose to purchase green power, you support renewable energy resources.

A resource is called renewable if it can be naturally replenished. In general, renewables have lower environmental impacts than non-renewables. Some types of renewable energy sources for electricity are solar, wind, hydro, biomass and geothermal energy.

As a T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative member you have the opportunity to buy renewable or green power energy. Through green power pricing any participating member will pay a green power charge to cover the extra cost of the renewable energy. Green power is available in blocks of 100 kWh at a cost of \$2.00 per block per month. This charge is added on top of your normal monthly kWh charges as an extra charge. A contract of 12 months is required to participate. You, as a customer, can decide how much green power you want if you choose to enroll.

It is important to remember that the green power you purchase is not actually delivered to your home. Instead, it is generated and supplied to the power grid. From there it will be delivered into the T.I.P. system that serves all our customers.

We welcome your participation and are pleased to offer this option to you. Remember what you pay for when you buy green power is the benefit of displacing other non-renewable energy sources from the grid. If you are interested in purchasing green power or have any questions, you can go to our website [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com), click on the “Renewables” tab at the top and click on “Green Power” or call our office at 1-800-934-7976.

#### T.I.P. REC Green Power Enrollment

If you wish to participate in T.I.P.’s Green Power plan, please fill out this form and mail it to our office. Please specify the total number of 100 kilowatt hour blocks you wish to purchase each month. Each block will be an extra charge of \$2 per month on your bill, which is in addition to your monthly kWh billing. When you choose to purchase green power, you support renewable energy sources.

Number of blocks at \$2 per block per month \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand that by signing this form I have entered a one year contract to purchase green power.**

### Interior LED Lighting Rebates Will be Gone After 2020

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative’s rebate programs are one way we encourage our members to consider new energy efficient technologies that lower energy bills and help the environment - today and in years to come. However, it has become less feasible to offer rebate incentives on interior LED lamps and fixtures, as LED lighting becomes the industry standard and the cost to purchase these bulbs continues to decline.

Beginning January 1, 2021, these rebates will no longer be available so we urge you to take advantage of them this year. See our website: [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com) for the lighting rebates we are currently offering.

#### NOTICE:

**The Brooklyn office will be closed on Tuesday, September 22nd from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.**

### Protect Yourself from Utility Scams



With all of the confusion and uncertainty in our world today, scammers are taking advantage of these circumstances to target consumers by phone, email, and text.

If you receive a suspicious communication threatening immediate disconnection, please contact T.I.P. REC at 800-934-7976.



## Taking Care of Our Co-op and Community During COVID-19

By Dan Riedinger

In the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, it was clear that the pandemic would change our perception of normal. As concepts such as “social distancing” first circulated among health officials, electric cooperatives looked ahead to identify and confront the possible impacts of COVID-19.

As co-ops respond to local concerns and circumstances, we worked to present a unified front to our political leaders in Washington and urged them to address the specific needs of our community and their cooperative. Working alongside the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), electric co-ops’ national trade association, we informed policymakers about the challenges being faced on the ground in Iowa.

One of the first things we looked at was the projected economic impact of COVID-19 on co-ops and their consumer-members. NRECA projected that lost electricity load and unpaid bills would total a staggering \$10 billion through 2022.

In response, electric cooperatives have worked to help their local communities by working with co-op members on extended payment plans, accelerating cash-back programs and expanding broadband access. But the federal government has a role to play, as well.

Among the policy responses sought by co-ops is the ability to refinance loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Electric cooperatives deliver essential services in the most rural, and impoverished parts of the country. Many of them meet that challenge, in part, with low-cost financing from the RUS.

However, the RUS does not permit borrowers to adjust existing loans simply to take advantage of lower rates, and penalties are significant in the narrow circumstances that allow for refinancing.

NRECA and its members are pressing for legislation that would allow electric co-ops to adjust RUS debt to current market rates, providing greater cash-flow flexibility to meet the needs of rural consumers in these challenging economic times and allowing co-ops to be part of the long-term recovery.

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles - Concern for Community - is looming large right now in the minds of America’s electric co-ops. It has governed our response to the pandemic from the beginning, and will continue serving as our primary focus as we seek additional ways to help our co-op members.

\* Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for NRECA.

## Living with Energy in Iowa Magazine Editor’s Choice Contest Winner



Marna Montgomery of Brooklyn is pictured above holding the Cuisinart Digital Glass Steamer she won after entering the *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine Editor’s Choice Contest.

This steamer is a powerful system that delivers steam from the top down, surrounding food to cook quickly and evenly. The 5-liter glass cooking pot is large enough for family-size portions of vegetables, fish, chicken, rice and more.

Congratulations on being the lucky winner!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

### Moving? Don’t forget to notify your Cooperative.

**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.

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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.