



TIPS From T.I.P.

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

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

October 2020

Brooklyn, Iowa

Your 82nd Drive-Thru Annual Meeting



T.I.P.'s 82nd Drive-Thru Annual Meeting



Member-Consumers are pictured above registering and stopping to vote in the parking lot



Pictured above is the business meeting which was held in the cafeteria following the Drive-Thru



Tents were set up for the General Manager, Board of Directors and their spouses



Member-consumers were greeted as they drove past the tents



Pictured above from left to right: Ronald Hoffman, Secretary-Treasurer and David Lee King, Board President, during the business meeting

Thank You for Attending the Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

The employees and directors of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative appreciate our member-consumers who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the Drive-Thru Annual Meeting. We would also like to thank everyone for supporting your local cooperative throughout the year.

See page two for the Annual Meeting highlights.

See inside and on the back page for the Derecho storm article and pictures.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

October TIPS from T.I.P.

Drive-Thru Annual Meeting Highlights

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative held its drive-thru annual meeting on Saturday, August 29th at the BGM Schools campus parking lot. We were pleased to have 224 voting member-consumers and 314 Drive-Thru attendees.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were unable to have our normal annual meeting. Following the drive-thru portion of the annual meeting a video was recorded of the business meeting which featured the highlights below.

The annual meeting was called to order by Board President, David Lee King. The Certification of a Quorum and the reading of the Notice of Meeting was given by Ronald Hoffman, Secretary-Treasurer. There were motions to waive the reading of last year's Annual Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report.

Mark Adams, Cooperative Attorney, conducted the election of directors and the election results were given by Nominating Committee Chairperson, Ronald A. Waechter. The following were elected for three-year terms: two incumbents, Craig Stallman, representing Iowa County and Ronald Hoffman, representing Keokuk County. Newly elected was Jerry Henning, representing Poweshiek County.

Mark Adams gave the results of the Proposed Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation which were approved.

The meeting was then adjourned by David Lee King.

Following the business meeting the Board re-organizational meeting was held where Gene Von Ahsen was elected the Board President, Anne Axmear was elected the Vice President and Ronald Hoffman was re-elected the Secretary-Treasurer.

You can find the following videos on Facebook or on the annual meeting page of our website at tiprec.com: business meeting; Board President and General Manager's Report given by Dean A. Huls, General Manager; supervisor reports with Dean A. Huls, Nate Hopwood, IT Manager, and Scott Long, Operations Manager. We also have a special video with Dean A. Huls featuring Jack Wilkinson who retired from your Board of Directors on August 29, 2020, after 33 years of dedicated service.



Annual Meeting Prize Winners

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate everyone who received a bill credit and won a prize. Because of the length of the \$50.00 bill credit list we were unable to put it in this newsletter. You can find the complete list of winners on our website under Annual Meeting. These bill credits were applied to the September bills.

4 - \$500 ELECTRIC BILL CREDITS

Harlan W. Burke

Shane DeGeeter

Steve Heflin

Gary W. Little

KITCHENAID MIXER WINNER

Robert Schmitz

INSTANT POT WINNER

Kelyn Schnebbe

In Memoriam of Gary McClenathan



Our T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative family is deeply saddened by the passing of Journeyman Lineman, Gary McClenathan. Gary was a beloved member of our T.I.P. team and a valued employee who will be missed by all.

Gary began working at T.I.P. on January 18, 1993 as a Groundman and worked diligently to learn the electric lineman trade and earned his Journeyman Lineman title on June 1, 1997. Gary's 27 years of dedicated service at T.I.P. will not be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the McClenathan family as they mourn the loss of a wonderful son, brother, father and grandfather.

Welcome Jerry Henning



Pictured above is Jerry Henning who was newly elected to represent Poweshiek County on the Board of Directors at the August annual meeting.

Jerry and his wife, Patti, have two children: Paige Crow, of Altoona, and Ross, of Pleasant Hill.

Jerry farms with his nephew and dad. Together they raise 2,600 acres of corn and soybeans in the Hartwick area.

Jerry's hobbies include drone photography and we would like to thank him for the video and pictures he took at the annual meeting. He also enjoys riding motorcycles, traveling with his wife and spending time riding bicycles with his family.

His goals as a director are to be a good representative for the members of his district. He's willing to learn what it takes to fill the role of those before him so the rich history of the cooperative can continue into the distant future.

We would like to welcome Jerry to T.I.P. and look forward to having him serve on the board.

Derecho Causes Devastating Damage to our Service Territory

Many of our employees hadn't ever heard of a derecho let alone experienced one first-hand but on Monday, August 10th, Mother Nature dealt us a devastating blow called a derecho.

We had never seen such extensive, widespread damage to our service territory. The derecho left 6,288 of our 6,438 meters which is 97.7% of our total meters without power. We had approximately 160 broken poles and over 30,000 ft of damaged wire.

Immediately after the storm passed, our employees rallied and jumped into action and began following our storm protocol.

1. First we did a system assessment of substations offline using our Outage Management System and member-consumer calls.
2. We gathered any information from DDC or ITC for clarity of their own assessment of transmission outages.

3. We had all crews on hand to drive substation distribution feeders and check for energized substations.
4. With the majority of our substations off and distribution feeders damaged between substations, we began opening low side switches at the substations to prevent power transformers from being energized and causing safety issues for our member-consumers on the distribution lines.
5. We began organizing mutual aid with Scott Meinecke, director of safety and loss control at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.
6. We focused on repairing and restoring substation distribution feeders to get our large C & I member-consumers online.
7. Next we focused on repairing and restoring power to the single phase taps with the most member-consumers on them.
8. We worked on repairing and restoring the smaller taps and line sections down to individual meter outages and coordinated with member-consumers and electricians on meter pole service work.

Each day we posted detailed updates on Facebook to inform our member-consumers of our progress and what substations we were working on.

On Sunday, August 16th we had 95% of our outages restored.

One of our cooperative principles is "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" and this was a true example of that principle. It took a brotherhood of linemen uniting together to accomplish the enormous task of repairing our system and restoring power to our service territory. Words cannot express the gratitude our management, employees and board of directors have for the linemen that came to our aid and the sacrifices that they and their families endured so that they could help us restore power to our member-consumers. The following linemen came to our aid:

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., Albia, Iowa - Kyle Kirchner, Kile Overmyer and Ryan Romanco.

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., Greenfield, Iowa - David Hennigar, Nathan Hubenka, Nick Kintigh, Trey Eddy, Paul Weber and Joe Blankenship

Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson, MN - Levi Ekstrom, Mike Kleinschmidt, Ben Marthaler, Jake Soderholm, Brandon Clarke and Casey Schoellerman

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., Osceola, Iowa - Adam McCuddin and Robert McCoy

Pella Cooperative Electric Association, Pella, Iowa - Matt Ainsworth and Shawn Williams

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

Prairie Energy Cooperative, Clarion, Iowa - Jared Hannasch and Andrew Stupka

Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, Allison, Iowa - Clint Deutsch, Joel Noelting, Tyler Retterath, Tanner Wangsness, Craig Ohloff, Tyler Aukes and Mike Hall

Access Energy Cooperative, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa - Bob Rudy, Zach Green, Bill Simon and Levon Mullen

We would like to thank our office staff for preparing and packing meals and snacks for the linemen and **our** T.I.P. linemen for their hard work and sacrifices they and their families endured working the long hours to repair the damage and restore power to our member-consumers.

We also appreciate the help we received patrolling the lines from retirees Wayne Ross and former employee, Lee Frimml.

Many of you brought food and drinks to the office and provided the linemen with food and drinks while they were working in the country. We really appreciate everything everyone has done and for your support.

We would like to thank all our member-consumers for their patience and understanding as our T.I.P. linemen and mutual aid linemen worked to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.



NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Monday, October 12th from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to 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.