



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



April 2017

The Iowa Capitol Was Full Of Activity During REC Day On The Hill

More than 200 cooperative supporters, including representatives from RVEC, traveled to Des Moines on Wednesday, March 22 to advocate on behalf of Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives. It was a day full of government activity, starting with the reading and passage of House Resolution 14 on the house floor, which commemorated the important role of Iowa's electric cooperatives as it pertains to economic development and improving the quality of life for rural Iowans. Later that morning, cooperative representatives were present as Governor Branstad signed SF 331 into law, which will streamline energy efficiency reporting for electric co-op staff, allowing them more time to serve member-owners. The bill passed unanimously in the Iowa House and Senate.

The co-op representatives then convened for a briefing where they received updates on state and federal legislative issues. In the afternoon, co-op representatives met with their local elected officials during a dessert social held at the Capitol rotunda. The advocates educated legislators on several issues important to Iowa's electric cooperatives, including the safety of line personnel as they work on the side of roadways in accordance with the state's "Move Over or Slow Down" law, and expanding property tax exemptions for geothermal heating and cooling systems. Co-op advocates also expressed their thanks for legislator support of SF 331, which Governor Branstad had signed into law earlier that morning; the new law streamlines energy efficiency reporting for utilities.

"This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally meet with our elected officials and provide them with a local co-op perspective on issues that are important to our business," says Roxanne Carisch, CEO.

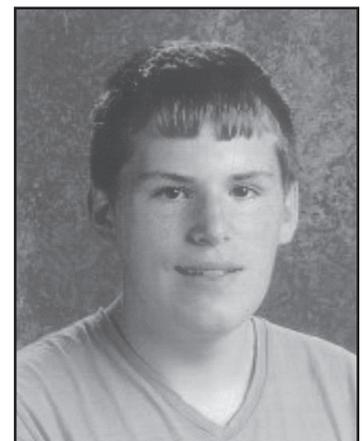


Brady Boell, Dave Onken, Dennis Kennebeck, Jim Gossett and Mark Ludwig attend REC Day on the Hill.

Youth Tour Winner Announced

Grant Meiners, son of Alan & Tami Meiners of Dedham, has been selected to represent RVEC as the 2017 Youth Tour delegate to Washington, D.C. He is a junior at Carroll High School. Not only is he representing RVEC in Washington, D.C., Grant will receive a \$500 scholarship to be used during his first year of college or trade school.

Grant will join other students from across Iowa in visiting our nation's capital June 9-15, 2017. The Youth Tour gives our young people the opportunity to see our government in action and to learn more about rural electric cooperatives. 08.30.02



Grant Meiners

Create 'Keep-Cool Strategy' to Save

Like most things in life, saving money on air-conditioning bills is most likely if you have a plan.

Plan a strategy for keeping your home cool this summer without breaking the bank. Here are six tips:

1. Get a qualified service technician to your house to give a once-over to your central air-conditioning system and any window units you might have. Like any appliance, a well-tuned air conditioner will operate in the most energy-efficient way.
2. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees while you're home, and higher before you leave the house for the day. If you have a programmable thermostat, it will set itself.
3. Turn ceiling fans on when you enter a room and off when you leave. A ceiling fan doesn't cool a room; it moves the air around so anyone in the room will feel cooler. So there's no benefit to running a fan when nobody is around.
4. Notice the outdoor temperature every evening. If it's cool enough, turn the a/c off and open the windows before bedtime. 28.04.05
5. Close your drapes or blinds when it's sunny outside to block the heat, but leave them open on cloudy days to get some natural daylight into your rooms.
6. Avoid cooking in your kitchen on hot, summer days. Instead, grill outdoors, serve cold dishes, order take-out or heat food up in the microwave oven.

Property Taxes Paid

Property taxes are used to help fund such important things as education and city and county government. You might not be aware of it, but your Cooperative pays property taxes. RVEC receives a tax bill for the poles, wires, transformers, etc. out on the line and another tax bill for the office and warehouse. RVEC pays taxes in nine counties that we serve. 13.30.03

The following is a breakdown of the property taxes paid in 2016/2017.

County	Taxes Paid
Audubon County	\$3,345
Buena Vista County	\$129
Calhoun County	\$587
Carroll County	\$42,823
Crawford County	\$50
Greene County	\$2,780
Guthrie County	\$354
Ida County	\$64
Sac County	\$19,866

- Outage Information -

If you don't have power or have an emergency call 712.659.3649.

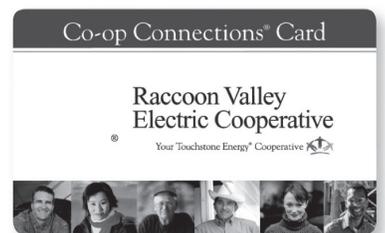
RVEC phones are answered
24 hours a day 7 days a week.

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\$39,393
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**Raccoon Valley
Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

28725 Hwy 30
Glidden, IA 51443
712.659.3649
www.rvec.coop

Notice of Membership Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of members, September 6, 2017, the following information is provided.

Any person, firm, corporation, or body politic may become a member in the Cooperative by:

- Applying for a membership certificate in the Association.
- Agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified.
- Agreeing to comply with and be bound by the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative and the By-Laws and any amendment thereto and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Board of Directors, provided, however, that no person, firm, corporation or body politic shall become a Member unless and until he/she or it has been accepted for membership by the Board of Directors or Members. 14.25.03

No person, firm, corporation or body politic may have more than ONE membership in the Cooperative.

A husband and wife may jointly become a Member and their application for a joint membership may be accepted in accordance with the foregoing provisions of the above provisions.

No member of this Association may own more than one membership and each Member shall be entitled to one vote and not more at all corporate meetings. Votes shall be cast by member-owner and not by proxy.

DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- provide strategic direction for the Cooperative
- oversee financial integrity of the Cooperative
- attend educational training workshops
- actively represent the Cooperative and its members
- attend monthly board meetings and annual industry meetings (directors are reimbursed for expenses and mileage for each meeting they attend)

REPRESENTATION

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of seven (7) Directors who must be Members of this Cooperative. The number of Directors whose terms expire at the time of such meeting shall be elected to hold office for the term of three (3) years, or until their respective successors shall have been elected and qualify. The election of the directors shall be by ballot and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each director to be elected.

MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting as specified in the Articles of Incorporation, shall be held on the Wednesday after the first Monday in September of each year. Special meetings of the Members of the Cooperative may be called and held as provided for in the Articles of Incorporation. All Annual Meetings shall be held at locations specified in the Notice of the meeting determined by the Board of Directors.

NOMINATIONS

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of five (5) Members of the Cooperative who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or Member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for Directors, but any fifteen (15) or more Members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than twenty-five (25) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and nominations made by petition.

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Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

-- Directors --

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Dennis Kennebeck Carroll
Mark Ludwig Breda
Steve Seidl Coon Rapids
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Karen Werner Schaller

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Roxanne Carisch

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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Touchstone Energy®
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Don't Put Safety on Autopilot

GPS systems with auto-guidance allow drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the tractor maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low light conditions, which enhances productivity. While a GPS system can help with driver error, it does not mean that safety can be put on autopilot. 33.05.02

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health still consistently lists farming among the most dangerous industries and tractor incidents as the leading source of death and injury on farms. Between 2003 and 2011, farm tractors accounted for the deaths of 1,533 people.

Making safety a priority requires alertness, focus, and knowledge of potential hazards and appropriate safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels (sub-meter, decimeter, or centimeter) and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action themselves if necessary.

Keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of their large size, height, and extensions. Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver's vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when raising any equipment such as ladders, front-end loaders, or augers.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power. 35.05.02

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org or www.rvec.coop.



Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$10.00.