



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



May 2018

Charley Freml and Myron Heithoff Retire

Charley Freml and Myron Heithoff retired on April 30th. Charley had 40 years and Myron served almost 39 years. "Both Charley and Myron were very dependable and hardworking employees. All their years of experience and knowledge will be greatly missed," said Jim Gossett, CEO.

In retirement, Charley plans to spend more time with his family, friends and take his grandkids camping. Myron plans to travel, visit family and friends, gardening and relax.

Thank you for your dedication, hard work and we wish you the very best. Enjoy your retirement!



Myron Heithoff and Charley Freml



Justin Mohr

Basin Scholarship Winner

Independent judges for RVEC selected Justin Mohr, son of Jon & Lisa Mohr, Carroll, as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. RVEC along with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D., awarded the scholarship to Mohr, whose parents are member-owners of RVEC. Justin will attend the Iowa State University, Ames, to receive his degree in Agricultural Engineering. 20.05.01

Youth Tour Winner Announced

Julia LaRue, daughter of Warren & Susan LaRue of Carroll, has been selected to represent



Julia LaRue

RVEC as the 2018 Youth Tour delegate to Washington, D.C. She is a junior at Carroll High School. Not only is she representing RVEC in Washington, D.C., Julia will receive a \$500 scholarship to be used during her first year of college or trade school.

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

- 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.**



— CEO Comments —

By Jim Gossett, CEO

In last month's edition of Watts Current, we introduced two new employees, Adam Wittrock is on the line crew and Alicia Lohr is in accounting to fill an open position created at the first of the year with the retirement of Pam Rix. Alicia and Adam have hit the ground running. We are fortunate to have them. 07.12.01

As RVEC continues to transition through the natural change of retirements of some long-term employees, the face of the co-op changes significantly. Here's an update:

- Myron Heithoff retired on April 30, having served 39 years. To say Myron is a "jack-of-all-trades" for RVEC is a massive understatement! In addition to his accounting expertise, Myron's best quality among many is his service to fellow employees. Myron is first in line to assist any of us and has the experience and knowledge to help solve to any situation that arises. This will be sorely missed by all of us here at RVEC. Best wishes from RVEC to Myron in retirement!
- Eugene Handlos became Chief Financial officer in 2017. Alicia Lohr is Accounting and Human Resource Specialist. They bring several years of accounting, finance and management experience. RVEC's finance and accounting department is in good hands.
- Charley Freml celebrated his 40th anniversary with RVEC in April, leaving a wealth of experience and knowledge. Charley also retired on April 30. Under Charley's leadership, RVEC's line crew has provided the reliability our member-owners have come to expect while achieving safety and budget goals. Charley reminds us to "get in the truck and go look at it", to identify issues and connect with the member-owners. RVEC wishes Charley all the best in retirement!
- Jack Scanlan was promoted from Line Foreman to Line Superintendent. Jack will be with RVEC 29 years in June. Charley and Jack have created a seamless transition at this position. Ryan Galloway has been promoted from First Class Lineman to Line Foreman. Adam Wittrock fills Ryan's place on the line crew.

I am proud to work with these and every employee at RVEC. You can know each and every one of us is dedicated to provide Reliable, Affordable and Responsible service in the safest manner. We always remember it is the member-owner that we serve.

Legislative Conference in D.C. a Success

More than 50 Iowa electric cooperative representatives flew to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2018 NRECA Legislative Conference. Together with more than 2,000 of their fellow cooperative representatives from across the nation, Iowa managers, directors, and employees spent three days sharing the electric cooperative story in Washington.

Advocates heard speeches from high-ranking policymakers including USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and four U.S. Senators. They were also able to participate in breakout sessions in which NRECA staff gave policy briefings and tips on how to effectively advocate on Capitol Hill.

In addition to NRECA-sponsored activities, advocates were able to lobby all six members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation, House Agriculture Committee staff, DOE Director of Public Affairs Bob Haus, and USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey. Issues discussed include rightsizing pension premiums, Farm Bill reauthorization, protecting Iowa's power supply, and improving rural infrastructure and broadband access.

The group was well received in every meeting, underscoring the continuing success of Iowa electric cooperatives' advocacy efforts. Not only were advocates successful in sharing the cooperative point of view on important federal issues, but were also effective at maintaining and building relationships with Washington policymakers.

Notice of Membership Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of members, September 5, 2018, 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.

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) 39.26.03

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.

WATTS CURRENT

Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

-- Directors --

David Onken, Pres. Glidden
Jeff Cranston Odebolt
Dennis Kennebeck Carroll
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Steve Seidl Coon Rapids
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Karen Werner Schaller

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



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Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

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.

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. 34.33.06

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 Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.