



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



November 2018

Basin Scholarship

Dependents of members of RVEC are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to be provided by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, power supplier of RVEC.

The scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of a student living on electric cooperative lines. The scholarship must be used for educational costs and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

This scholarship is awarded without regard to other awards, loans or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. Award of the scholarship is based on the following criteria: SAT/ACT scores, grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a statement by the student explaining his/her educational and career goals and a written recommendation by a third party.

Applicants may get an application form from RVEC. Application forms are due back to RVEC by **January 25, 2019**. For more information, contact Jill Hannasch at 712.659.3649 or 800.253.6211 or e-mail jillh@rvec.coop.

LED-strung Christmas trees: Going fast!

If you'd like to buy an artificial Christmas tree strung with ever-lasting LED bulbs, buy it now. If you wait until after Thanksgiving, you probably won't be able to find a nice one.

LED-strung trees sell out quickly--even though they cost more than artificial evergreens

with traditional lights--because the bulbs never burn out. They're expected to burn without trouble for 200,000 hours, so they ought to last for at least 20 Christmases.

LED means light-emitting diode. The light is built into the light fixture, so there's no bulb to change. By the time the light

burns out, you would need to replace the whole fixture – and tree – anyway. 18.18.03

Other benefits: LEDs are cool to the touch, so they're easier to handle and don't present a fire hazard when they come into contact with your tree's limbs. They use up to 90 percent less energy than traditional holiday lights. Their casings are shatterproof.

Take some of the hassle out of the holidays by switching to LEDs. Even if you don't want a fake tree, you can replace your tree and outdoor lights with removable strings of LEDs.

But do it soon, or you might wind up waiting until next year to make the switch.

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
will be



CLOSED



for
&

Thanksgiving

Veterans Day
November 12th (observed)

November 22nd & 23rd

— **Board President Comments** —



By Dave Onken, RVEC Board President

On October 6, 2018, RVEC lost a member of our Cooperative family. Tim Reever passed away peacefully at his home near Glidden, Iowa.

Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies go out to his wife Lora and children William and fiancé Leah, Wesley and Whitney. Tim was a farmer, Agri business man and community leader in the Glidden area. He was well respected and a friend to many from not only Glidden, but all over the state of Iowa.

Tim was recently elected to the Board of Directors during the September 5, 2018, Annual Meeting, but had previously served on the board for 11 years from 2001 to 2012.

Tim's love for his family was always his first priority, and his service and commitment to the community is what he will always be known for. This includes the member-owners of RVEC. Tim always had a common sense approach in his decision making and knew the issues that affected the member-owners at the end of the line.

RVEC By-Laws now direct the Board to name a successor to fill the unexpired term on the Board. We will have an announcement in a few weeks.

Please join the Board and Employees of RVEC in keeping the Reever family in your thoughts and prayers.

We will remember Tim for his service to the Cooperative, but most of all for being our friend.



Tim Reever

RECare

RVEC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income members. 08.11.02

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be added to your monthly electric bill. You may also make a contribution part of a matching fund, if there is a matching fund available. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

Yes, I want to be part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$ _____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is to be matched by:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Account No. _____



**Look Up,
Look Down,
Look Out!**

- For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.

Iowa's electric cooperatives want you to have a safe and productive harvest!

**RVEC Puts
Safety First!**



Don't Shoot!

Safety and power reliability are top priorities at RVEC. Each year, many power providers experience outages caused by people, either intentionally or inadvertently, shooting at important power equipment such as utility poles, line insulators, transformers and transmission towers. Even worse than the outages, is the potential for bodily injury caused by shooting at live electrical

equipment. Not only could the shooting result in injury or even death, it also presents a risk to RVEC's line crews who must repair the damages and to member-owners who rely on the delivery of safe power for health care needs.

Shooting at power equipment is also vandalism and could result in fines and/or jail sentences.

If you are hunting or target shooting, we ask that you please take caution not to shoot at any utility facilities. Further, if you notice this type of vandalism on Cooperative lines, please contact the office.



**VIEW YOUR KWH
USAGE AND
PAY YOUR BILL**

Save yourself some time.
Go to www.rvec.coop
and pay your bill online.

This Thanksgiving, Thank a Farmer

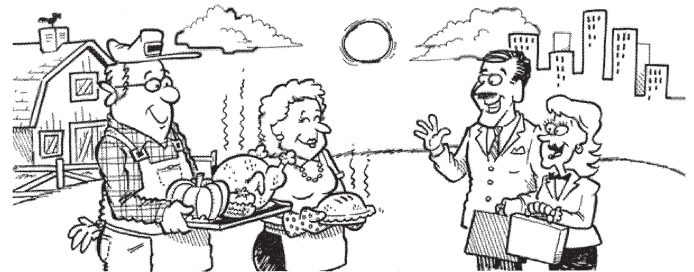
It's easy to take electricity for granted when all we have to do is flip a light switch or plug a computer in to use it.

And it's common to forget about the farmers who spend their days and their lives making sure we have a safe and plentiful supply of food to eat, when all we have to do is drive to the grocery store and pick up whatever we want.

Here's a friendly reminder to thank a farmer as you slice into your golden, juicy turkey this Thanksgiving.

Here are 10 reasons why, courtesy of the nonprofit Farm Policy Facts:

1. America's food supply is among the world's safest. Plus, we have plenty to eat and generally pay affordable prices for it.
2. Farmers work really hard to get that food on our table. They don't get to take a day off when it's 100 degrees outside or snowing like crazy.
3. Agriculture creates loads of jobs: more than 24 million and counting in the U.S.
4. Our country's farmers produce about 40 percent of all the corn in the world.
5. Each farmer feeds an average of 155 people.
6. For every dollar you spend on food, guess how much farmers get? Twelve cents.
7. Some farms are big, corporate enterprises. But most are family-owned.
8. Eighty percent of our food and fiber is produced by just 210,000 full-time American farmers.
9. As the world's population grows from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2050, farmers will need to double the amount of food they produce to feed us all. 23.15.02
10. Our grocery bill is about 10 percent of our income — the lowest percentage of any other country.



WATTS CURRENT

Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

-- Directors --

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

-CEO-

Jim Gossett

-Office Address-

Headquarters
PO Box 486, 28725 Hwy 30
Glidden, IA. 51443
Phone: 712.659.3649
800.253.6211
Fax: 712.659.3716
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.rvec.coop
e-mail: info@rvec.coop

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



Follow us on facebook

Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Use Your Space Heater Safely

Many people turn to space heaters—both electric models and those powered by kerosene or even wood— as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with space heaters. More than 300 people die in these fires. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people annually receive hospital emergency care for burn injuries connected with space heaters.

Space heater hazards stem not just from fires caused by contact with or close proximity to heating elements. They also include fires started by flammable fuels used in the heaters; defective wiring in the appliance; and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting or an incomplete combustion of fuels.

Here are some tips for using your electric space heater safely:

- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture, or bedspreads. 34.10.03
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- When buying a heater, choose one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Buy a heater that can handle the area that you want to heat.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Never go to sleep with a space heater on.
- Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.
- Do not use a heater in a bathroom—it's a high-moisture area that could cause damage.
- Keep heaters away from water to prevent electrocution.
- Do not use an extension cord with a space heater.
- Do not use the heater to dry clothes.
- Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.
- Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.

For additional safety tips on using space heaters that use wood or kerosene, visit the CPSC's Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUBS/PUBS/463.html>

Source: *The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)*

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.