



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable.Affordable.Responsible



December 2018

Win a trip to Washington, D.C. - Rural Electric Youth Tour 2019

An all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 14-20, 2019 along with a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to one young person from this area.

Contest applicants must currently be a high school junior residing in RVEC service area, either town or country. However, the parents do not have to be Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative members.

Based on an open book exam and essay we will be adding in face-to-face interviews for the top three applicants. RVEC will award one contest winner a five day all-expense paid trip to the U.S. Capitol. The winner will also receive a \$500 scholarship to use during their first year of college or secondary school. Applications must be received in the office of RVEC by December 28, 2018. The open book exam, together with study materials needed, will be mailed to you after December 28, 2018. 12.14.01

Further information and applications may be obtained by contacting RVEC at 712.659.3649 or <http://youthtour.iowarec.org/> or <http://youthtour.coop/>.



YOUTH TOUR CONTEST APPLICATION

Student _____

Address _____ Telephone # _____

School _____

(Must currently be a high school junior to enter)

We certify that we are the parents or legal guardians of the above youth and give our permission for the youth to participate in the trip to Washington, D.C. should he or she be declared the winner; and further agrees that his or her entry will become the property of the Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Mail to: Youth Tour Contest, RVEC, PO Box 486 Glidden, IA 51443

— CEO Comments —



By Jim Gossett, CEO

The holiday season can be a special time of reflection. It can be as simple as taking a few moments to relax, to step out of the fast lane, and to consider what is important.

For many of us, we consider family, faith, and community. Family and faith tend to be more private considerations. But we can all recognize the importance of community. Community involvement is magnified during the holiday season. We are seemingly more aware of people in need of assistance.

This holiday season, please consider how we as individuals can help to improve the lives of someone, or a group of people, within our community. It may involve a simple smile or helping hand, donating to a charity of your choice, volunteering our time, or giving in our own unique way. We all possess the ability to make a positive impact in our communities.

From all of us at RVEC, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 different counties that we serve.

The following is a breakdown of the property taxes paid in 2018.

County	Taxes Paid
Audubon County	\$3,460
Buena Vista County	\$132
Calhoun County	\$636
Carroll County	\$37,847
Crawford County	\$50
Greene County	\$2,859
Guthrie County	\$339
Ida County	\$62
Sac County	\$19,940

*All of us at
RVEC
wish you and your
family a joyful
holiday season!*

RVEC
will be
CLOSED
for
Christmas Day
December 25th
&
New Year's Day
January 1st



Paulette Von Glan Retires

Paulette retired on November 30, 2018, after 32 years of service. "Paulette always put the member-owner in mind, taking the time necessary to be sure their needs were met and questions were answered," said CEO Jim Gossett. 14.35.04

In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her family, grandkids and friends while dedicating more time to her hobbies.

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

Use Emergency Generators with Care

Frequent, more severe fall and winter storms over the past few years have led more homeowners to invest in emergency backup generators that can run a couple of appliances or keep the lights on when wind, rain and falling tree branches knock the electricity out.

Like any electric appliances, it's important to follow the manufacturer's safety instructions that came with your generator so nobody in your family gets hurt while using it. But unlike other appliances, an improperly operated generator can harm or even kill a member of a line crew who's working on a downed wire in your neighborhood.



Here are some generator safety tips:

- Generators can produce carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless and deadly gas. Never power up a generator indoors. Place carbon-monoxide alarms in the rooms of your house that are near the location where you operate your generator.
- Never plug your generator into an electrical outlet. Instead, use extension cords to connect the appliance you want to run directly to the generator.
- Do not connect the generator to any of your home's electrical circuits. This requires a transfer switch and installing a transfer switch requires a licensed electrician.

Complaint Procedure

The Iowa Utility Board requires that all non-rate regulated utilities post the following notice to its membership:

If a member-consumer has a problem with his/her service, please write or call:

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 486 • Glidden, Iowa 51443 • 712.659.3649

If the member-consumer's complaint is related to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's (RVEC) service rather than its rates, and RVEC does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the:

Iowa Utilities Board

1375 E. Court Avenue • Room 69 • Des Moines, Iowa 50319
877.565.4450

Recycle - don't trash - old holiday light strands

If you're replacing those old energy-sapping Christmas tree lights for efficient, cool-to-the-touch LED strands this year, don't throw the old ones in the trash. Recycle them.

A few of the big box stores, Christmas specialty stores and others are collecting incandescent holiday lights and recycling the glass, plastic and copper wire. Some stores will trade your old strands for discounts on new, LED holiday lights, which can last for 12 Christmases and lower your holiday-season electric bill.

Most of these places accept used and even broken lights.

LED decorations cost a bit more than traditional incandescent bulbs, but they save you money in the long run because they burn less energy. You'll find LEDs rated both for indoor and outdoor use. Because they don't get hot, they pose less of a fire hazard than your old tree lights.

You can buy LED holiday lights at the same stores that sell incandescent lights.
24.32.02



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

Prepare for Storm Weather

Severe wind, heavy snow and long-lasting storms can leave your home temporarily without power or worse: You could be unable to stay in your home if it is damaged by fallen trees or lightning.



Be prepared to stay safe and comfortable if your family finds itself without electricity — or without access to your home — for a little while.

Some tips:

1. Create a weather emergency plan for your family. Jot down important phone numbers for your electric cooperative, the local pharmacy, your doctor, your closest neighbors and family members. Figure out how to get out of your house in case the front and back doors are blocked by snow or a fallen tree. Drive around the neighborhood during nice weather to familiarize yourself with multiple exit routes in case any roads are closed. And agree on a place where everyone in your household will meet if you can't stay at home. 25.35.01
2. Fill a backpack or a cooler with a couple of days' worth of food and water. Toss in a flashlight, a portable radio, a first-aid kit, some cash and your medicine. You can take that with you to a shelter, a hotel or a friend's house, depending where you plan to stay until your home is safe to live in again.
3. Before the bad weather starts, turn off your water heater, stove and air conditioning units. Unplug TVs, stereos, the microwave oven and computers. This will prevent damage to appliances during the storm and when the electricity suddenly comes back on.
4. Leave one light switch on so you will know when the power is back.
5. Keep extra batteries in multiple sizes on hand. Invest in a battery-operated radio, some reliable flashlights and battery-powered, flameless "candles."
6. Stay far away from fallen power lines. Assume any utility wire that you find is "live" and will harm you — or kill you — if you touch it. Call RVEC to report any damaged wires or utility poles.
7. Teach your children about the harm electric power lines can cause to someone who touches them.

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.