

● JUNE 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



**Your blueprint for an
energy-efficient new home**

**Become a director
for your cooperative**

Camping recipes

Win a Blackstone camping griddle ► See Page 3

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Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine (ISSN: 2770-8683) is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, a not-for-profit organization representing Iowa's member-owned local electric cooperatives. Association address: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. The phrase ***Iowa Electric Cooperative Living*** is a mark registered within the state of Iowa to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine does not accept advertising.

Editorial Office
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Telephone: 515-276-5350.

Email Address
editor@ieclmagazine.com. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

Website
www.ieclmagazine.com

Postmaster
Send address changes to *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine, 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Periodicals Postage Paid at Des Moines, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

Change of Address
Every local electric cooperative maintains an independent mailing list of its members, so please send your change of address directly to your local electric cooperative's office. *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Nate Fluit, a Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

TAKING OUR MESSAGE OF POWER RELIABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

BY ETHAN HOHENADEL



Electric cooperatives exist to improve quality of life for our member-consumers, plain and simple. A big part of our success over

the decades has been our ability to advocate for rural Iowa priorities on state and federal levels.

At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), we organize legislative fly-ins to Washington, D.C., each year so electric cooperative leaders can talk face-to-face with our elected legislators about timely issues and concerns. We have built a strong reputation for effective grassroots advocacy, and these fly-ins help ensure that Iowa electric co-op employees and directors can speak directly to policymakers about how federal legislation impacts our member-consumers and communities on the local level.

In late April, IAEC coordinated a group of nearly 30 advocates who were able to meet with all six members of the Iowa congressional delegation, including Sen. Chuck Grassley, Sen. Joni Ernst, Rep. Randy Feenstra, Rep. Ashley Hinson, Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Rep. Zach Nunn. Our discussions during the individual meetings centered on these issues:

- Requesting continued funding of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loan program. Electric co-ops repay these loans with interest as they build a more resilient grid.
- Asking our legislators to oppose cuts to USDA and U.S. Department of Energy infrastructure grant programs as electric co-ops work to deploy new energy technologies, build a more resilient grid and defend against cyber threats.
- Imploring legislators to support Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery programs and mitigation programs that are essential for electric co-ops as they restore power and rebuild the electric system following major storm events in Iowa.
- Asking legislators to support and pass additional permitting reform legislation, so we can keep electricity reliable and affordable for the member-consumers we serve.
- Asking our legislators to optimally fund the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. Over the decades, Iowa's electric cooperatives have served as resourceful intermediaries for these grants and loans, which boost rural economies and create or retain local jobs.

We are grateful to all members of the Iowa congressional delegation and their staff for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with us in their D.C. offices. We were able to share local stories of how federal programs help keep power affordable and reliable for the members we serve, and our group also provided specific examples of rural development success.

It takes a lot of effort to organize these meetings each year, but IAEC's policy and advocacy team believes in the adage that if you're not at the table, you could find yourself on the menu. We are proud to carry on our statewide legacy of advocating for Iowa's member-consumers at the legislative table.

Ethan Hohenadel is the director of policy and advocacy for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN A BLACKSTONE CAMPING GRIDDLE!

Satisfy your hunger for amazing food with this Blackstone 22-inch Adventure Ready propane griddle. This Blackstone also comes with a matching hard cover to help keep your griddle clean between uses.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than June 30. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified.

The winner of the Cuisinart® electric skillet from the April issue was **Abby Schulz**, a **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY JUNE 30!

EMBRACING COOPERATION FOR A STRONGER FUTURE

BY KEATON HILDRETH



As we move into June, I want to take this opportunity to update you on our current management arrangement and the positive things

happening at Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC). The decision to share management with Calhoun County Electric Cooperative has proven successful thanks to our entire team's hard work and dedication.

RVEC employees' commitment has been crucial in maintaining our operations and delivering the quality service you expect and deserve. Their professionalism and dedication ensure that we continue to effectively meet the needs of our members, and I am incredibly grateful for their efforts.

At RVEC, our priority remains to serve you, our valued members. We continuously strive to safely provide reliable, affordable and responsible service while being a leader in our community's prosperity and growth.

Looking ahead, the board of directors of both RVEC and Calhoun County Electric Cooperative are actively discussing the possibility of establishing a long-term management sharing arrangement. This potential agreement aims to build on the success of our current collaboration and ensure we remain responsive to your needs.

We will share more details about this discussion later this summer, and we appreciate your ongoing support as we explore this opportunity.

We are guided by the seven cooperative principles, particularly the principle of "cooperation among cooperatives." This principle emphasizes that by working together, cooperatives can serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement as a whole. Our partnership with Calhoun County Electric Cooperative exemplifies this approach, demonstrating that collaboration leads to better outcomes for our cooperatives.

Thank you for your trust and support of RVEC. Together, we are building a brighter future for our cooperative and the members we serve.

Keaton Hildreth is the interim CEO of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative.

Happy
4TH OF JULY

The Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative office will be closed July 4 for Independence Day.



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Steve Schable Carroll
Adam Handlos Glidden
Dave Schroeder Coon Rapids

Keaton Hildreth, interim CEO

RVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS — SAVE THE DATES

Please mark your calendars as we plan to celebrate you, our valued member-owners! Join Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) for an evening of fun, gratitude and connections at our Member Appreciation events.

MEMBER APPRECIATION | Thursday, Sept. 4 – Sac City

5-6:30 p.m. 601 E Main St in Sac City

MEMBER APPRECIATION | Wednesday, Sept. 17 – Glidden

5-6:30 p.m. 28745 Hwy 30 in Glidden

Here's what you can look forward to:

- **Member connections:** Meet and mingle with RVEC employees, directors and fellow cooperative members.
- **Exclusive giveaways:** Enjoy special giveaways and surprises throughout the evening as a token of our appreciation.
- **Scholarship drawing:** Two \$500 scholarships are available for high school seniors and any RVEC member continuing their education full-time.
- **Electrical bill credits:** Each event will have electrical bill credit drawings (one \$250, one \$100, and three \$50 credits).

We can't wait to celebrate with you and express our gratitude for being part of the RVEC family!

STEP UP AND LEAD: BECOME A DIRECTOR FOR YOUR COOPERATIVE

Have you ever considered shaping the future of your electric cooperative? Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) is looking for engaged, forward-thinking members to run for a seat on the board of directors. As a member-owned organization, our strength lies in the leadership within our community, and that could be you.

Why serve on the board?

Being a director is more than a title. It's an opportunity to represent your fellow members, influence key decisions, and contribute to RVEC's success and sustainability. Board members play a crucial role in setting policies, determining rates and guiding the services we all rely on. Serving on the board also offers valuable leadership experience and a front-row seat to the evolving energy industry.

What does a director do?

RVEC board members attend monthly meetings, review financials and work closely with cooperative management to ensure reliable, affordable and responsible electric service. Directors should be prepared to devote approximately 25-30 days per year to cooperative-related business, including training and industry events, to stay current with regulatory and technological changes.

Who can run?

To be eligible, candidates must:

- ✓ Be an active RVEC member in good standing
- ✓ Reside in the district they wish to represent

- ✓ Meet the qualifications outlined in the cooperative's bylaws
- ✓ Not be employed by or financially involved with a competing business
- ✓ Not have close relatives employed by the cooperative, as defined by board policy

We welcome members from all backgrounds – whether you're a business owner, farmer, teacher or community volunteer – your perspective matters.

Election details

Director elections will be held at RVEC's business annual meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17. This year, two board seats are up for election, one each from the following districts:

District 1: Dave Schroeder

District 6: Jeff Cranston

Ready to make a difference? If you want to run for a seat, now is the time to act. Contact Jill Hannasch at 712-659-3649 or jillh@rvec.coop to learn more about the nomination process and connect with your district's nominating committee representative.

**Your cooperative. Your voice.
Your opportunity to lead.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED

The Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) board of directors appointed the following member-owners to the nominating committee during the regular April 23 board meeting. The committee nominates members to serve on RVEC's board of directors.

District 1	Kyler Oswald
District 2	Dennis McCartan
District 3	Jeremiah Johnson
District 4	Louis C Tigges Jr
District 5	Dale Wernimont
District 6	Raasch Farms / Carol Raasch
District 7	Keith Kenny

The nominating committee will meet in June to nominate members of the cooperative for the office of director. Directors whose three-year terms will expire are:

District 1	Dave Schroeder
District 6	Jeff Cranston

The cooperative's annual meeting will be a business meeting only on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

It will be held in the boardroom. No dinner will be served, and no program will be provided.





YOUR BLUEPRINT FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT NEW HOME

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Prioritizing energy efficiency when building a new home can create future savings and make living more comfortable. It might cost a little more upfront, but it will pay off in the long run.

Let's explore two approaches: Following an energy efficiency certification plan or adding energy-efficient designs and equipment to your construction project.

There are several efficiency certifications available for new-construction homes that may qualify for discounted homeowner's insurance, tax credits and other incentives.

Boosting savings of efficiency certifications

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification ensures the home uses less energy while prioritizing sustainable resources and healthy indoor air quality. LEED-certified homes use 20% to 30% less energy than the average home – with some homes saving up to 60% – and can cost the same as non-LEED homes with proper planning, according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

Passive House Certification requires the home to be so efficient it needs little to no heating and

cooling equipment while remaining comfortable for its occupants. To achieve up to 90% less energy use than the average home, the certification focuses on maximizing the efficiency of the building envelope – all components that separate the indoors from the outdoors – including proper insulation levels, air sealing and high-efficiency windows.

ENERGY STAR® NextGen Certification for New Homes recognizes houses that are 20% more efficient than the average home and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% to 80%.

Although various certifications are available, you don't have to follow a set guide.

Incorporating efficiency principles

In addition to integrating a certification into your home, consider adding these energy efficiency principles to your new home build.

- **Advanced framing.** Advanced framing techniques maximize the amount of insulated area and save on material costs in wood-framed homes. This technique can save up to \$500 for a 1,200-square-foot home and \$1,000 for a 2,400-square-foot home on material costs, between 3% to 5% on labor costs and up to 5% on annual heating and cooling costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Choose a contractor who is familiar with these techniques, and check with your local building officials to ensure compliance with local codes.

- **Orientation to the sun.** The importance of a home's orientation is often overlooked. According to the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors, homes oriented to the sun's path use less energy for heating and cooling to reduce energy bills and improve comfort.

- **Attic insulation.** If you are building or buying a new home that doesn't allow options for orientation or framing, you might be able to request higher insulation levels in the attic. Increasing the insulation levels likely won't cost much more for materials and labor, but it can help you use less energy and save money in the long run.

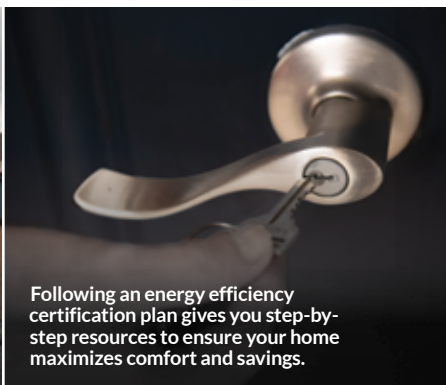
- **Heating and cooling equipment.** By using energy modeling tools that calculate the home's heating and cooling needs, equipment can be purchased in the correct size. Investing in a more efficient building envelope that is well-insulated and air-sealed can reduce the home's heating and cooling load, making it possible to have a smaller, less expensive heating and cooling system. This saves money on equipment costs and lowers energy use.

Optimizing the efficiency of a new home requires a whole-house approach. Analyze all systems and how they work together to ensure maximum efficiency for a safe and comfortable home.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Properly insulating while building a home can reduce the expense of your heating and cooling equipment and lead to long-term energy savings.



Following an energy efficiency certification plan gives you step-by-step resources to ensure your home maximizes comfort and savings.



Consider framing techniques, insulation levels, and heating and cooling equipment to maximize your new home's energy efficiency.

EFFICIENCY ESSENTIALS FOR YOUR NEW HOME PLAN

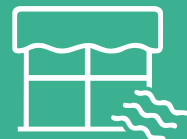
A few thoughtful additions to your building plans can make a big difference in how efficiently – and comfortably – you'll live for years to come.



Seal it tight.

Thorough air sealing around doors, windows and ductwork prevents drafts

and reduces energy loss. Proper air sealing can lead to savings on heating and cooling costs and improve indoor air quality.



Choose the right windows.

Select ENERGY STAR®-certified windows with a low U-factor

and the appropriate solar heat gain coefficient for Iowa. This helps enhance insulation and can lower energy bills.



Plan smart lighting.

Use LED lighting throughout the home, and install fixtures with occupancy sensors or smart switches. These strategies

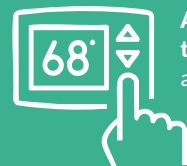
can reduce lighting energy consumption by 10% to 90%.



Select efficient appliances.

Choose ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers

and washing machines, to decrease energy use by 10% to 50% and reduce utility costs.



Add a programmable thermostat.

Installing a programmable or smart thermostat can save up to 10% annually

on heating and cooling expenses by adjusting temperatures when you're asleep or away.



BREAKFAST HASH

- 1 16-ounce package bacon, chopped
- 1 20-ounce package hash browns
- 16 ounces shredded cheddar cheese
- 2-3 red and green peppers, chopped
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 3-4 eggs

Cook chopped bacon in cast iron skillet over campfire or stove on high heat. When cooked, drain some grease, if desired, then add hash browns. Continue cooking, adding cheese and peppers. Stir occasionally until hash browns are almost ready and cheese is melted. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add eggs and stir, cooking eggs until set. Serves 3-4

Ben Sinclair • Brooklyn
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

HAMBURGER MEAL IN A PACKET

- 1 large ground beef patty
- 1 slice onion
- ¼ cup carrots, cut small
- ½ cup potatoes, cut small
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 teaspoon margarine
- 1 teaspoon water

Put beef patty on a large sheet of aluminum foil. Top with onion, carrots and potatoes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add margarine and water. Close packet and grill or bake at 350 degrees F for 50 minutes. Serves 1

Pat Lynch • New Hampton
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

HICKORY SMOKED BAKED BEANS

- 1 pound hamburger
- 1 pound bacon
- 1 32-ounce can pork and beans
- 1 15-ounce can kidney beans, drained
- 1 cup ketchup
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 3 tablespoons liquid smoke

Brown hamburger and fry bacon separately. In a large bowl, combine both beans, hamburger and bacon and mix well. Add remaining ingredients and cook 6-8 hours in slow cooker.

Anna Domnick • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

SAUSAGE AND PEPPERS FOIL PACKS

- 8 Italian sausage links
- 4 bell peppers, thinly sliced
- 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- fresh parsley, chopped

Heat grill to high. Grill sausages 3 minutes per side, until charred. Divide sausage between four sheets of foil. Top with peppers and onions. Drizzle each with olive oil, then season with salt and pepper. Fold foil to close into packets and grill for 13-15 minutes, until peppers and onions are tender and sausage is cooked. Garnish with parsley. Serves 4

Marta Smigowska • Marshalltown
Consumers Energy

CAMPERS' DELIGHT

- 2 envelopes instant chicken and noodles soup mix
- 5 cups water or chicken broth
- 1 can chicken
- 2 cups Bisquick mix
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Mix the chicken and noodle soup mix with water or broth until dissolved. Add the canned chicken and bring soup mixture to a rolling boil in a large camping pan, 6 quarts or larger. Meanwhile, mix the Bisquick with milk and vegetable oil following the biscuit recipe. Drop the dough on top of the soup by spoonful. Lower the temperature, cover and simmer for 15 minutes.

Mark Smith • Osceola
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CRESCENT ROLL CAMPFIRE TREATS

- 1 package crescent rolls
- butter
- filling options: pudding, pie filling, whipped topping, chocolate, peanut butter, etc.

Butter the end of a dowel rod. Press a crescent roll around the buttered end, sealing any holes by pressing the dough together. Roast over the campfire until golden brown and the dough slides off the dowel rod easily. Fill with your choice of filling. Be creative!

Hana Hartter • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

BASQUE REGION POTATOES

- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound bacon, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces
- 1 12-ounce package Little Sizzlers link sausages, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 8-10 medium size potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 2 12-ounce cans/bottles beer
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

Heat a cast iron Dutch oven over campfire. Add bacon, sausages and onion. Fry until cooked through. Stir in the potatoes and peppers. Add one can of beer and cover. Stir often and add additional beer as needed. Serve when potatoes are tender. Salt and pepper as desired. Serves 6-8

Deb Foster • Greene
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

BEST BURGERS

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- 1 pound ground beef
- condiments
- buns

Mix all ingredients together and form into four patties. Cook on grill or stove top. Serve with condiments and buns. Serves 4

Debra Bartholomew • Ollie
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

Visit www.ieclmagazine.com and search our online archive of hundreds of recipes in various categories.



CAMPFIRE DUTCH OVEN SCRAMBLE

- 1 pound ground breakfast sausage
- 1 dozen eggs
- 3-4 potatoes, cubed
- 1 8-ounce package shredded cheddar cheese
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

Cook sausage in the bottom of an open Dutch oven over a fire. No need to drain the grease. Meanwhile, beat eggs in a bowl. Add potatoes on top of sausage and pour eggs on top. Cover with cheese. Place lid on Dutch oven, cover with coals and bake for 25-45 minutes, depending on the heat. Check the doneness of the eggs after 25 minutes and cook longer if needed. Potatoes can be substituted with sweet potatoes or one bag of shredded hash browns. Serves 8

Tefna Greiner • Packwood
Access Energy Cooperative

CAMPING BISCUITS AND GRAVY

- 1 pound bulk breakfast sausage
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tablespoon butter
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 8 premade biscuits

Crumble sausage and cook in frying pan on stove or campfire. Add flour, stir and cook for 2 minutes. Add milk, stirring constantly. Bring just to a boil, then lower to medium heat and continue to stir until desired thickness. When ready to serve, add butter and thoroughly stir into gravy. Season with salt and pepper if needed. Split biscuits and spoon hot gravy on top. Serves 8

Richard Foreman • Birmingham
Access Energy Cooperative

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POWERING ON: BEHIND THE SCENES OF A MAJOR RESTORATION EFFORT

BY ANGELA CATTON

When Winter Storm Nyla's ice, snow and gusty winds toppled 11 miles of transmission lines and rendered 20 substations inoperable on March 19, the staff at Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) knew they were facing one of their most significant challenges in recent history.

NIPCO – a generation and transmission cooperative – supplies wholesale electric power to seven distribution cooperatives covering 6,500 square miles in western Iowa. These distribution cooperatives supply retail power to more than 30,000 member-consumers.

“We started getting reports of damage Wednesday morning,” explains Matt Washburn, NIPCO executive vice president and general manager. “By noon, we realized this wouldn't be a typical outage response.”

The storm wreaked havoc across Crawford, Harrison, Monona, Shelby and Woodbury counties, with Harrison and western Monona counties bearing the brunt of the damage. Thousands of member-consumers served by NIPCO member cooperatives faced outages lasting up to 84 hours, including those in Onawa and surrounding areas.

The restoration effort would require strategic and well-timed behind-the-

scenes coordination across multiple departments at NIPCO and tapping external partners. While NIPCO routinely updates and practices its documented emergency response plan for widespread damage and prolonged outages, carrying it out in a real-world situation felt both familiar and unnervingly unpredictable.

Glimmers of hope in the darkness

As soon as the weather cleared, NIPCO crews began assessing the damage. The cooperative contracted with a local pilot to get aerial views of damaged lines in harder-to-access areas. Washburn immediately recognized the co-op would need extensive support.

“In a situation like this, you quickly realize the value of the cooperative model,” Washburn explains. “A few phone calls set in motion a cascade of support that would have been impossible to coordinate without our existing relationships.”

Support arrived from East River Electric Power Cooperative (Madison, South Dakota) with eight crew members and Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Humboldt) with 15 crew members. Contractors from Watts Electric were redirected from routine upgrade work to restoration efforts, bringing the total to 43 transmission lineworkers. Each team provided specialized equipment to

navigate difficult conditions like thick mud from melting snow and ice.

Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), based in Cedar Rapids, and L&O Power Cooperative, based in Rock Rapids, offered access to their surplus replacement poles, conductors and specialized equipment inventories, helping NIPCO overcome supply challenges.

Spotlighting communications efforts

NIPCO's communications team informed member cooperatives and the public through news releases, social media and a storm update page on their website.

At the end of the first day, there were a lot of end-users still in the dark, both literally and figuratively. The communications team asked Washburn if he would livestream a message via NIPCO's Facebook page. It was raw, unedited and authentic.

Within hours, Washburn's video update was viewed nearly 3,000 times; by the next morning, that number had more than doubled.

Washburn became the face of the restoration effort, recording twice-daily video updates from the field shared across social media, with some updates garnering almost 25,000 views.

Seeing the work being done and showing that getting the power back on was personal to the entire team working on the restoration built a strong coalition of support from those without power. The team's commitment to keeping crews safe was on display, and the videos gave member-consumers information, hope and heroes to root for throughout the storm's aftermath.

Support from state partners

By the second day, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) contacted state emergency management officials to request a disaster declaration.

"The response from the state was immediate," notes Scott Meinecke, IAEC director of safety and loss control. "Gov. Reynolds issued a disaster proclamation on March 20 for five of the heaviest-hit Iowa counties that gave us access to additional resources and established a clear channel for ongoing state support."

The proclamation temporarily suspended regulatory provisions related to hours of service for disaster repair crews and transportation requirements for disaster repairs.

Let there be light

NIPCO's transmission network was designed with multiple pathways to

deliver power, allowing operators to reroute electricity around damaged sections. However, NIPCO's Vice President of Engineering and Operations Jayme Huber explains, "Winter Storm Nyla brought down three transmission lines that support the looped system, rendering the system serving western Monona County and Harrison County inoperable."

By Saturday evening, crews had repaired the transmission mainlines, restoring power to several substations by redirecting electricity through intact portions of the system while repairs continued. This redundant design feature allowed NIPCO to announce system functionality at 9:10 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, less than four days after the monumental storm.

Power and gratitude

At its April 29 meeting, NIPCO's board of directors unanimously passed a resolution of appreciation for all who contributed to the restoration.

"These aren't just workers; they're neighbors helping neighbors," says NIPCO Board President Louis Reed, who also serves on Western Iowa Power Cooperative's board. "Some of these folks put cooperative members before their own families. That deserves more than just a thank you."

As NIPCO completed final repairs in early April, staff began documenting lessons learned to improve future emergency response.

"Every crisis teaches you something," reflects Washburn. "This experience truly reinforced that the cooperative difference isn't just marketing language – it's a tangible advantage when facing challenges of this magnitude."

For the communities served by NIPCO and their member distribution cooperatives, that advantage meant the difference between days and potentially weeks without power. As one Onawa resident commented on social media: "There are not enough THANK YOUS to say for all you are doing ... After seeing the downed lines between Turin and Onawa today, it could have been so much worse. Situations like these only make us stronger. Go Team Power!"

That spirit – embodied in NIPCO's "Power On" message throughout the crisis – represents both the literal restoration of electricity and the enduring resilience of rural Iowa communities coming together to support the cooperative model that serves them.

Angela Catton is the vice president of communications and development for Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative.



Heavy coatings of ice on transmission lines paired with high winds produced galloping lines that brought down scores of transmission structures in the NIPCO system.



Melting snow and ice created muddy conditions that trapped trucks and slowed restoration efforts.

Line crews took a quick break for lunch, served buffet-style off a truck bed.



Transmission structures were snapped in half and lying on the ground in west Monona County.



HELP US FIND THESE FORMER MEMBERS

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, located at 28725 Highway 30, PO Box 486, Glidden, IA 51443, is holding unclaimed property resulting from patronage dividends, which are due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address listed above or by phone at 712-659-3649 during regular office hours.

A Adams, Verl V. Akervik, Tobin E. American Concrete North Aquila INC Arrowsmith, Rex	Corey, Lou Corsaut, Charles F. Croghan, William JR. Cuddy, Mark F.	H Haberl, Billie J. Halbur, Doug J. Hall, Terry Hammen, Carol Hammond, Cecil A. Hanlon, Michael P. Hare, John J. Hatch, Steve Heath, Duane F. Hechtner, R.W. Hedberg, Henry A. Heires, Sandy L. (Renze) Heun, Nancy Hofbauer, Matt (Tammy Crawford) Hofbauer, SW or Joe Hoffmann, Marilyn	L Lambertz, C.E. Lang, Earl Lappe, Jeff Lappe, Reynold J. Larkins, Marjorie Larson, Craig Laxson, Michelle or Tony Lewis, Lila M. Lockhart, Thomas L. Ludwig, Lonnie	Nichols, Royce D. Notley, Mervin E. (Skip) Norwood, Bob or Violet Novartis (Allen Brush) Nye, William P.	Schroeder, V. L. Siebrecht, Jamie Sigmon, Terrie Smith, John W. Smith, Thomas Q. Sondgeroth, S.H. Sprint Cellular Spontanski, Jason Stork, Dean Straight, Lewis J.
B Baas, Roger Bailey, Kirby Baker, Mrs. Helen Barrett, Kristyn S. Bellcock, Chris & Kyle Bell, Robert Bennett, Jerry Beyerink, Tim Blessington, Arnold Bohnenkamp, Krysti M. Boswell Const. Corp. Brady, Craig A. Brechtwald, Jim Brenner, Julie Brincks, Matt Brown, Miriam Building & Trade Home (Sac Resources Inc)	D Daniel, Brad Daniels, Larry K. Demaray, Jay Dieckman, Rick L. Dinges, Steven Drees, Mary J. Duff, Paul	I Iowa Telecom	M Maack, Dean Mahler, Leroy H. Martin, Bruce Mason, David D. McAninch Corporation (John McMullen) McBride, Earl McCollough, Stacie McCoy, Judy A. Mehrhoff, Mark Mettler, Gene E. Meyer, Harlan Meyer, Herbert or Charlotte Meyer, Robert Mickelson, Kenneth R. Mid-America Pipeline LLC Miller, Harvey Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Victori J. Mohr, Michael J. Mooney, Gordon Muilenburg, Rachel Myers, W.	O Olson, Beth G. Olson, Mark	T Thorpe, Dennis Tom & Schmit Tyson Fresh Meats
C Carpenter, Loretta Carruthers, Joseph or Leeann Casperson, Gary Centel Cellular Company Chartier, Larry & Judy CIBA-GEIGY Corp. (Allen Brush) Clausen, Joyce Commnet Cellular Inc. Cooper-Mitchell Farms (Tim Smith) Corderman, Larry	E Edwards, Dale Elkin, Scott Esdohr, S.P. or Michael	J Jackson, Jason Janus, Kevin Jennett, Mary W. Jensen, Twila Johnson, Marjorie Johnson, Rita	N Neil, Dave or Sabrina Nelsen, Michael J.	P Pena, Rudy Peterson, Tom Petschauer, Clifford Pithan, Brad Post, John Pryor, Cindy R. or Lowell	U Ulven, Alan Uren & Schulte Urszan, Chris
G Gallagher, Eugene Gerdes, Donna R. Girardin, Mrs. Gladys E. Graff, Peg Graff, Steven M. Greving, Pam Grieme, Richard Gries, Gregg Grimm, Thomas Grubb, Lyle GTE Telephone Operations	F Ferdig, R.L. Flink, Terry Fogleman, Steve Fort, Duane Fox, Jason S. Franken, Dean Frohlich, Lynn or Tiffany Funck, Neal	K KCP & L/Aquila INC. Kelley, Dwight J. or Carolyn Kenzy, Roger King, Twyla Kluver, Leroy Kolbe, Merlin Koth, Marlin Krog, Davyd G. Kruckenberg, Keith Kruse, Tami	R Rasmussen, Gary or Terry Rasmussen, Jane Reedy, Charles or Sharon Reiling, Lyn S. or John Reineke, Peggy Rice, Gary Robertson, Rick Rohlin Construction Romey Electric Inc. Ross, Michael Ruden, Francis	S Sanchez, Vanessa Sanderman, Kenneth G. Sanders, Boyd L. Sansone, Lonelle J. Schleisman, Brian or Chris Schmitz, Polly Schrader, D.T. or Steve Schramm, Albert W.	V Van Eck, Eric Van Meter, Sherri Venteicher, Randy Vernice Juergens Trust Voss, Jack
					W Wallace, Joleen Wayt, David Willenborg, Chris Wilson, John Woebke, Nancy Wood, Pat Wooden, Michael or Sandra
					Z Zahren, Terry

RVEC YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE



Joseph Thielen, a junior at Glidden-Ralston Community School, has been selected to represent

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) as the 2025 Youth Tour delegate to Washington, D.C. Joseph will also receive a \$500 scholarship to use in his first year of college or trade school.

Joseph will travel to Washington, D.C., from June 15-21 to join other high school students across Iowa and the nation. During the trip, participants will explore the inner workings of our nation's capital, visit historic monuments and museums, meet with elected officials, and learn more about electric cooperatives' vital role in powering rural America.

The electric cooperative Youth Tour is a powerful leadership opportunity that

immerses students in U.S. history, government and the cooperative business model. RVEC supports this initiative, recognizing it as an investment in the next generation of co-op members and leaders who will help shape the future of rural communities.

Joseph is the son of Andy and Dawn Thielen from rural Scranton.

Congratulations, Joseph!

GOING ON VACATION? GIVE YOUR ENERGY BILL A BREAK TOO!

A vacation is a great way to get away from it all. Did you know your appliances and electronic devices could also take some time off? If you make a few simple adjustments before you leave, you'll come home to a lower energy bill.



Water heater

If you have a tank unit, your water heater will continue heating water

while you are away. Adjust the temperature setting as low as possible to reduce standby heat loss.



Refrigerator

Your refrigerator is one of the biggest energy users in your home. If you are

leaving for a short period, conserve energy by adjusting the thermostats on your refrigerator and freezer to a higher setting. Consider emptying and unplugging your refrigerator for trips lasting four weeks or more.



Air conditioner

Why cool an empty house? Turn off your air conditioner or set the

thermostat to 85 degrees F or higher. If you have a programmable thermostat, set it to vacation mode. It will conserve energy while you are away and cool your house shortly before you return.



Lights

Install timers on indoor and outdoor lights and set them to turn on for

a few hours each night. This will conserve energy and provide added security by creating the illusion that someone is home.



Electronics

While turning off electronic devices saves energy, digital displays

and instant-on features continue to use energy whether you are at home or not. Unplug all electronic devices before you leave or use advanced power strips, which automatically shut off power to plugged-in devices whenever they are not in use.



At your destination

Conserving energy is essential, no matter where you are. If you

are staying in a hotel, turn off the lights and adjust the thermostat when you leave your room. To conserve energy and water, reuse bath towels whenever possible and consider walking or taking public transportation instead of a rental vehicle.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

MEMBERSHIP - SINGLE OR JOINT

Joint memberships are allowed for Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) member-owners according to provisions in the cooperative's Articles of Incorporation. Please read the following questions and answers to consider if you and your spouse should consider a joint membership.

Q: What are the advantages of a joint membership?

A: With a joint membership, either spouse is eligible to serve on the RVEC board of directors or the nominating committee. Either one may vote at a cooperative Annual Meeting.

Q: Does a joint membership entitle both the spouses to a vote at a cooperative Annual Meeting?

A: No. A membership, whether single or joint, has one vote. Either spouse may cast the vote, but the joint membership has only one vote.

Q: What happens to the patronage dividends if either spouse dies with a joint membership?

A: If spouses hold a joint membership and one of the two dies, the membership is considered to be held by the survivor. Ownership assignment of the patronage is transferred to the surviving spouse. In the case of a single membership, if the member dies, the surviving spouse must take out a new membership in their own name. The patronage is paid out to the deceased spouse's estate and is not assigned to the surviving spouse's new membership.

Forms to change your membership are available at the RVEC office. Look at the name on your electric bill to see if you have a single or joint membership. Please call if you would like more information about RVEC membership.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The cooperative's annual meeting will be a business meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17. It will be held in the boardroom in Glidden. No dinner will be served, and no program will be provided.

**Annual Meeting Business Meeting
Sept. 17 – Glidden**

NOMINATE A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER BY JUNE 30

Your nominee could win \$3,000 for their local charity

Iowa's electric cooperatives are excited to announce the return of a statewide contest, which celebrates our cooperative commitment to community. Called "Shine the Light," the contest will accept nominations in June and award three winners with a \$3,000 check to their local charity or community organization.

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first five years," says Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "So many people throughout the areas served by Iowa's electric cooperatives deserve to be recognized for making a positive impact."

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the Shine the Light contest will accept contest entries online during the month of June. In addition to receiving a \$3,000 donation for their charity or nonprofit of choice, the winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.

How to nominate

Member-consumers, employees and retirees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from an electric cooperative in Iowa, you're a co-op member-consumer and invited to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. Nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.



Step 1:

Go to www.iowaShineTheLight.com from June 1-30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. You can also learn about past winners of the contest.

Step 2:

As a nominator, provide your contact information and answer the following question in 500 words or less.

How has your nominee made a difference in the community, and how might their local charity use the \$3,000 donation?

THANKS, DAD

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

There's a saying that almost any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad. I've been thinking a lot about my dad lately as I take a more active role in the management of my family's Century Farm in Calhoun County.

Growing up on the farm, my dad was always teaching me. Sometimes this involved rural culture appreciation – also known as tagging along to the farmers' co-op in Lake City or Snyder Implement.

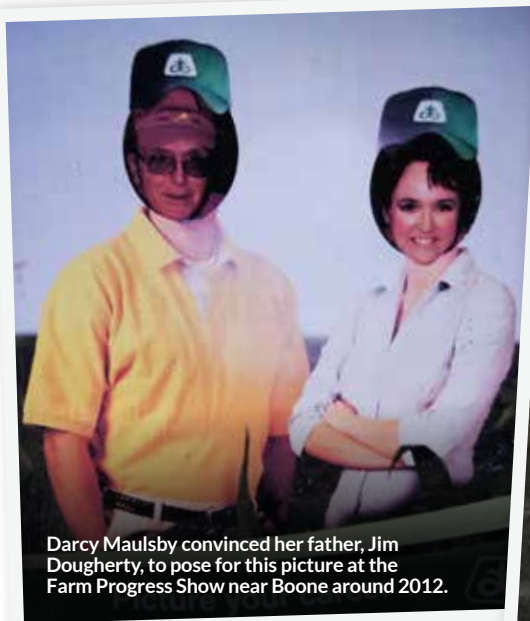
Often, his lessons revolved around tough love. I'll never forget one muddy, cold afternoon at chore time. It was my job to feed the hogs that lived in a dirt lot southeast of the barn. I put on my muck boots, filled two 5-gallon buckets with corn, and prepared to run the gauntlet. Hungry hogs show no mercy.

I was nimble – until I heard that dreaded sucking sound. When I lifted my foot up to take the next step, my boot stayed behind. I plunged face-first into an ooze of mud and manure. Those hogs trampled me in their delight to devour the spilled corn. Shocked, stunned and scared, I could think of nothing better than yelling and crying.

"Be a man!"

My dad came running from the barnyard to see what was wrong. After sizing up the situation, this flustered, annoyed farmer did the only thing he knew to do. "Be a man!" he shouted. In some circles, this unconventional advice is better known as "cowboy up." No matter what you call it, this taught me the power of grit, instead of crumbling when life gets tough.

You'd think I'd have taken this to heart, but you'd be wrong. Part two of my dad's lessons in tough love



Darcy Maulsby convinced her father, Jim Dougherty, to pose for this picture at the Farm Progress Show near Boone around 2012.

occurred following an incident at Mark's Super Valu in Lake City when I was in high school. I was shopping by the milk cooler when a crazed customer crashed a shopping cart into my back and my ankles. Ouch is an understatement, although I was more surprised than hurt.

I told my dad about it when I got home. In my naivety, I assumed he'd show exceptional concern and compassion. Instead, he said, "Didn't you hear it coming?" Yeah, I admitted, I had heard a strange ruckus. "Well then, pay more attention to your surroundings." Message sent; message received. Situational awareness is a skill that still serves me well.

Leaving a legacy

Through the years, I learned it was probably smart to listen to my dad. When I went to college, I didn't know what I wanted to study, although I showed some ability with writing and communication. My dad (an Iowa State University alum) suggested I enroll at Iowa State and study ag journalism. He figured my experience as a farm kid would help me carve a niche.



Jim Dougherty (1937-2019) and his dog, Libby, took a break on the front steps of his farmhouse in 2014.

He was right. That education helped prepare me for a career that has allowed me to generate an income, launch a side gig as a book author, enjoy lifelong learning, take advantage of opportunities for travel (across Iowa and around the world) and build friendships I treasure.

Lest you think my dad knew everything, not all his advice was solid. "Stay off that damn internet," comes to mind.

I can still hear my dad's voice in so many ways. Although he died at age 82 in October 2019, I'm grateful a part of him lives on through me. That's how it should be. Good fathers provide and guide. The best leave a legacy of wisdom and love that endures.

Do you have stories of your father? Share them with me at yettergirl@yahoo.com.

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

June 2025

Visit our website at www.rvec.coop

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

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