



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable.Affordable.Responsible



October 2021

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting of RVEC was held September 8th. The in-person meeting was canceled due to recent concerns of a rise in Covid cases in our service area. The Board felt meeting in a large group could have potential health risks to our member-owners, guests and employees.



Adam Handlos, Mark Ludwig and Steve Schable were elected for a three-year term.

Quorum for the meeting was established by those member-owners who returned their ballot. From the returned ballots, RVEC awarded eight electric bill credits and the winners were notified. 29.11.04

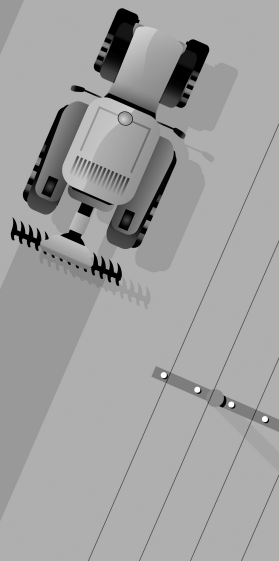
Attorney Denny Puckett with Sullivan & Ward, P.C. gave the election results. Directors elected for a three-year term include: District 2 – Steve Schable of Carroll, incumbent; District 3 – Adam Handlos of Glidden; District 5 – Mark Ludwig of Breda, incumbent.

The Board of Directors held an organizational meeting following the Annual Meeting. The following officers were elected: David Onken, President; Jeff Cranston, Vice-President; Mark Ludwig, Secretary-Treasurer; and Karen Werner, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

Harvest Safety Tips

- Keep all equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Never try to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Power line sagging?
Don't move it. Call us immediately.

For more information on harvest safety, visit SafeElectricity.org



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!

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

Solar Is Not a Scam...**But You Need to Ask the Right Questions**

"If your electricity bill is more than \$50 per month, you can get free solar panels, your energy bill will be zero and your utility will pay you to generate power from the sun."

I came across another ad this morning with similar claims. Member-owners of RVEC are calling in saying a salesperson told them nearly the same thing. No. There is no free lunch. Solar is NOT a scam – but it is not for every location. If your energy use and potential generation falls within a reasonable range for the resource, installing solar may be right for your location. Local reputable companies are not hard to find. They work with RVEC to follow Iowa's laws for interconnection and install safe, reliable systems that offer a reasonable estimate for payback of your investment when solar is right for your location. 34.25.04

If you are considering renewable energy generation, I encourage you to do what you would do with any major purchase. Ask a lot of questions. Do your own research. Call us to learn about the requirements we must follow so you can safely interconnect to the grid.

RVEC owns and operates 750 kW of Community Solar that our member-owners can subscribe to, saving money each month on their power bill. It's not a big payback, but it works. In addition, there are dozens of member-owners who have their own generation, enjoying varying degrees of success. RVEC is a member of Iowa Choice Renewables, a company formed by rural electric cooperatives in Iowa dedicated to offering safe, reliable solar generation equipment that fits the needs of the utility customer. We work with the vendor you select and offer accurate feedback on your generation needs. We should know, we have been supplying electricity to our service territory for more than 80 years.

Don't be persuaded by marketing messages promising low-or-no-cost installation, and free electricity. Call our office with questions about renewable energy for your location.

Did you know October is Co-op Month?

- ✓ Cooperatives are owned and controlled by the people who buy their goods and use their services – their members – and any surplus revenues are returned to those member-owners. No other business form has this characteristic.
- ✓ Co-op members directly and democratically elect their board of directors from within the membership.
- ✓ Cooperatives are businesses that, by their very nature, are directly accountable to their member-owners. They are structured to ensure that the business serves only the best interests of its members.
- ✓ A cooperative returns any margins, after bills are paid and money is set aside for operations and improvements, to the co-op members in the form of patronage dividends.
- ✓ Co-op members benefit from better service, high quality products, cost savings on products and services and from their direct control of the co-op business.
- ✓ According to a recent survey by the National Cooperative Business Association, more than two-thirds of Americans surveyed believe that the democratic business structure of cooperatives is more trustworthy and ethical than other types of business.

**Source: National Cooperative Business Association.*

THE 2021-2022 LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LIHEAP INFORMATION

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist low-income families meet the cost of home heating. Applications are accepted on a first come/first served basis from November 1, 2021 (October 1 for elderly/disabled) through April 30, 2022, Monday through Friday, or as posted at the local office.

ELIGIBILITY

AA household may qualify for assistance in this program if the household's income falls within the income range listed below. This program is not designed to pay a household's total energy costs, but to provide assistance in the payment of residential heating costs for eligible households.

At the time you apply, providing you have brought all necessary documentation with you (proof of income for the last 13 weeks and a copy of your heating and electric bills), you will be told whether you are eligible and if so, for what amount you might qualify. This initial determination is subject to review and totally dependent on the availability of federal funds. In most cases, benefits will be in the form of a credit applied to your heating bill by your utility company. Households who reside in subsidized housing that are individually metered and responsible for paying their primary heating costs are eligible. Subsidized households that are master metered are usually not eligible to receive assistance benefits.

Residents of any licensed medical facility (hospital, skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility) publicly operated community residence or emergency shelter is ineligible unless they are paying a vendor directly for their primary heating source.

HOW TO APPLY

You may apply at your local community action agency from November 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022. Disabled and elderly lowans may apply beginning October 1st. Applications are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

Please furnish your Social Security number, a copy of your most recent electric bill and proof of your households' gross income from all sources. If you receive interest or dividend income, alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

PROOF OF INCOME:

Attach documents that offer proof of total household gross income from all sources. HACAP or T.R.A.I.N. offices must have complete proof of income to process your application.

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three-month period preceding the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Family Investment Program, Veterans Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions. Please bring a copy of your most recent check. 12.01.02

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return. If you received interest or dividend income, alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

TANF (FIP) AND SSI RECIPIENTS:

Please bring in a copy of your Medicaid card

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHERE TO APPLY, WRITE:

LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights

Capitol Complex

Des Moines, IA 50319

INCOME MAXIMUMS

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Gross Income</u>
1	\$25,760
2	\$34,840
3	\$43,920
4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080

For family units with more than five members, add \$9,080 for each additional member.

Contact your local community action agency in your county for more information.

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Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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



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Electric Cooperative**

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Reliable • Affordable • Responsible



Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

Don't Sacrifice Safety for Speed During Harvest



For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible — in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines — can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy.

Farmers and agricultural workers have dangerous occupations. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution.

If you are a farm operator or worker, be aware of the location of power lines and keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- 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, call RVEC immediately.
- If your equipment does hit 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.

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. 08.25.03

To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first.

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 \$25.00.