



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
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June 2021

Shine The Light – Nominate a Local Volunteer by June 30!

Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognized for making a difference? Nominate them for our Shine the Light contest by June 30 and they could win \$1,500 for their local charity or nonprofit.

“We’re really excited to participate in this statewide effort to celebrate our cooperative commitment to community,” remarked CEO Jim Gossett. “There are many volunteers throughout our service area who deserve to be recognized.”

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, this new contest celebrates the people who make our communities better. Three winners will be announced during the Iowa State Fair in August and each will receive a \$1,500 donation for their charity or nonprofit. The winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine.



How to Nominate

Member-owners and employees of Iowa’s electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from RVEC, you’re a co-op member-owner and we encourage you 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-owner. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Go to www.iowaShineTheLight.com by June 30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. Nominators will need to provide contact information and answer this question in 500 words or less: How has your nominee made a positive difference in the community and why do they deserve to be recognized? A panel of judges will review all contest entries and we’ll announce the three winners during the Iowa State Fair in August.



Help us shine the light on community volunteers; make a nomination by June 30! 15.20.03

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

On June 1, RVEC mailed checks to most member-owners who purchased electricity from the cooperative in 2020. It is highly unusual to receive a check this early in the year. I would like to explain the reason.

At the end of each year, after all of the cooperative's bills have been paid and all expenses considered, the amount of money that is left over is called margin. Margins provide equity for the cooperative. A non-cash amount is allocated to the member-owners in proportion to their purchases of electricity during the year. This is called patronage.

Allocation and retirement (return) of patronage to member-owners is an important difference between electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. RVEC does not have stockholders and does not pay dividends.

Each year the decision to return patronage is made based on the financial stability of the cooperative. The Board selects if, how and when patronage is returned to the membership. The cycle is generally 20-25 years to retire patronage. Last fall, the Directors voted to retire patronage to member-owners for the years 1995 and 1996.

Last year was like no other. While RVEC experienced a decline in sales due to the pandemic and other factors, we outperformed the budget targets for margins in 2020. In April of this year, the Directors elected to make a one-time early retirement of a portion of the 2020 patronage allocation to the member-owners. Like the allocation, your share of this special retirement is calculated from the amount of kilowatt hours you purchased in 2020.

The Directors wanted to make this one-time retirement to provide a small amount of relief related to economic challenges our member-owners could be facing. Funds to make this retirement possible came from a combination of RVEC cash reserve and patronage retired by our power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

If you have any questions call our office at 712.659.3649 or for more information, visit the 06.18.04 Patronage Capital section of our website: <https://www.rvec.coop/content/patronage-capital-credits>.

Nominating Committee Selected

Seven members were elected to serve on the 2021 nominating committee. The purpose of the committee is to nominate members to serve on RVEC's board of directors.

District 1	James Heithoff
District 2	Dennis Kennebeck
District 3	Brian Johnson
District 4	Louis Tigges Jr
District 5	Dale Wernimont
District 6	Carol Raasch
District 7	Carey Schmidt



**RVEC will be
CLOSED**

**Monday, July 5th
for
Independence Day.**

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Membership – Single or Joint

Joint memberships are allowed for RVEC member-owners according to provisions in the Articles of Incorporation. Please read the following questions and answers to consider whether or not you and your spouse should consider a joint membership.

1. What are the advantages of a joint membership?

- With a joint membership, either spouse is eligible to serve on the Board of Directors or the Nominating Committee.
- Either one or the other may vote at a Cooperative Annual Meeting. 22.36.05

2. Does a joint membership entitle both the husband and wife a vote at a Cooperative Annual Meeting?

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

3. What happens to the patronage dividends if either the husband or wife dies with a joint membership?

- If a husband and wife 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 his or her 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 memberships.

Keep Cool This Summer Without Blasting Your A/C

There's no need to lose your cool when you get your summer electric bill during the hottest days of the year. Instead, try some alternatives to cranking up the air conditioning when the sun is blazing and it hasn't rained in days.



1. Install a dehumidifier. If the indoors feels as humid as the outdoors, there's too much water in the inside air. If you see water dripping out of the air conditioner or if you have to set it so low that you're freezing just to feel comfortable humidity-wise, the dehumidifier will help.
2. Cook outdoors or eat cold food. Salads, raw veggies and fruit make great summer meals, and they don't require you to turn on the stove or oven, which can make the air in the kitchen too warm. Instead, gather the family for a barbecue and fire up the outdoor grill or serve a cold buffet on extra-hot evenings.
3. Hang bright curtains. Red, orange and yellow tend to deflect heat, so for curtains, those colors are energy efficient. Closing the curtains or blinds during the day will keep sunrays from heating up the home you're trying to keep cool. Or install solar screens or a window tint to let in the light but keep out the heat.
4. Run fans. Ceiling fans whose blades turn counterclockwise pull heat up out of the room and send a soft breeze down into it, so anybody nearby will feel cooler. Portable electric fans placed in windows facing outward can suck heat out of a room on days when you want to give your a/c a break.
5. Run your dishwasher and clothes washer and dryer after dark. Appliances that use heat to operate also throw some heat into the rooms where they are located. So run them during the coolest part of the day—after the sun goes down.

WATTS CURRENT

Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

-- Directors --

David Onken, Pres. Glidden
Mark Adams..... Glidden
Jeff Cranston Odebolt
Steve Schable..... 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 4:00 p.m.

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

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



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The power of human connections

Stay Safe Over Fourth of July

With the pandemic winding down in many areas, cooped-up social-distancers are likely to be out in droves to celebrate the Fourth of July this year. Make your holiday a safe one for your family by following some common-sense rules for celebrating with and near electricity.



1. Keep fireworks far away from overhead power lines. If fireworks are legal in your community and you choose to set them off yourself, keep them at least 10 feet away from power lines and 35 feet away from high-voltage wires.
2. Keep an eye on your grill. Whether it's electric, gas or charcoal, do not leave a hot grill unattended, even for a few minutes. Their intense heat can easily harm children or pets. Plus, if flames are involved, you need to be there if they get out of control. Cooking accidents are the leading cause of house fires.
3. If you need an extension cord to plug in your grill or another cooking appliance, do not use that cord on more than one device at a time. And do not plug extension cords into each other; they're not designed for that. They can overheat and cause a fire.
4. Keep the grill, blender, TV and other appliances away from the pool and from all water sources. Even if you're a safe distance away from the water, unplug the appliance as soon as you're finished using it.
5. Have a working fire extinguisher on hand.



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

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

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.