

# living with energy

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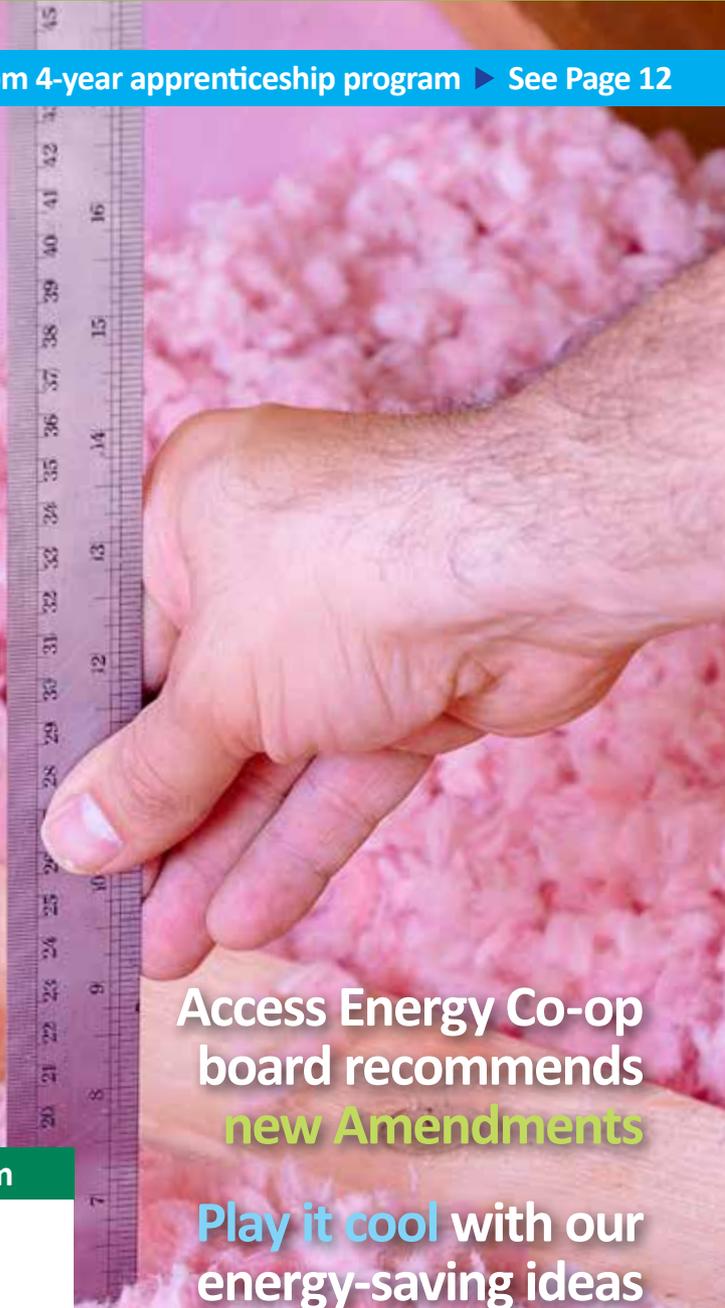


MAY 2018

Access Energy Cooperative linemen are 1<sup>st</sup> to graduate from 4-year apprenticeship program ▶ See Page 12

## Insulation:

Now's the perfect time to add more



Access Energy Co-op board recommends new Amendments

Play it cool with our energy-saving ideas

Take a look at the evolution of lineworker safety gear

Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**May 1-31 National Electrical Safety Month**

**May 28 Office closed for Memorial Day**

**Aug. 7 Annual Meeting**

For more information on the programs and deadlines listed here, please visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), or call our office at 866-242-4232 from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Monday-Thursday or 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Friday.



*Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service, while being a good citizen in our communities.*

**Office:** Access Energy Cooperative  
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440  
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

**Phone:** 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232

**Fax:** 319-385-6873

**Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call):** 800-292-8989

**Website:** [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop](https://facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/AccessEnergyC](https://twitter.com/AccessEnergyC)

**E-mail:** [contactus@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:contactus@accessenergycoop.com)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Call our office 24/7: 319-385-1577.

Payments can be placed in dropbox under flag pole.  
Visa and MasterCard accepted.

**General Manager/CEO:** Kevin Wheeler

**Editor:** Kimberly Davis

**Assistant Editor:** Cherity Wibben

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Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Vice President
Robert Smith	District 2	Secretary
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Treasurer
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Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Marvin Newton	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

# What's important? Safety, above all else

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Access Energy Cooperative joins the nation in recognizing May as National Electrical Safety Month. But for Access Energy Cooperative, safety is the No. 1 priority every day of the year.

Access Energy Cooperative has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety, and that of the community, above all else. At its core, Access Energy Cooperative's mission is to provide *safe, reliable and efficient service* to its member-owners. We want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones, and we want the citizens of our communities to learn how to respect electricity and to know how to be safe around it.

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Our cooperative has a safety team that focuses strictly on safety concerns. We establish and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require lineworkers to wear specialized equipment and follow specific protocols when working next to or with power lines. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss projects from a safety perspective.

Access Energy Cooperative also encourages all of our employees to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, and they share "lessons learned" in an effort to do better in the future. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and then use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short.

As appropriate, we also brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their

engagement. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and killed as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their homes. Many of these

accidents are preventable. Because we live and work in the communities we serve, we care about our neighbors. It's our goal to share as much electrical safety information as possible with our communities. Part of this program involves electrical safety demonstrations we provide for schools and community events.

There's much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity, and our website is full of valuable safety tips and information on how to do that. Visit [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), look us up on Facebook or call us at 866-242-4232 for additional safety tips.

Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety. ⚡

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.



## Summer help wanted!

### Operations Department Access Energy Cooperative

Seasonal help is needed this summer in the Access Energy Cooperative operations department. Applicant must have graduated high school by summer 2018 and must enroll in post-secondary education in the fall. Contact Diane Magnani at [dmagnani@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:dmagnani@accessenergycoop.com).

# Happy Mother's Day to all moms!

Access Energy Cooperative wishes all of the moms everywhere a very happy Mother's Day, with a very special tribute to the moms at Access Energy Cooperative. These moms work hard every day to keep your power on – and to keep your electric cooperative running as safely, efficiently and reliably as possible. When you switch on your next light, remember all the hard work of the women at Access Energy Cooperative that helped that light come on for you.

Happy Mother's Day! ⚡



Meet the hardworking mothers at Access Energy Cooperative: (front row, from left): Cherity Wibben, Beth Calhoun and Jennifer Helling; (back row, from left): Tammy Davis, Kim Davis, Carol Baylor, Diane Magnani, Marva Crowl, Tammy Snavelly, Courtney Williamson and Sheryl Dorn.



TIP #3

## You have 24/7 access to your account with SmartHub

**With SmartHub, members can:**

- Pay their bills immediately with secure online payments.
- View monthly electricity usage and history, including daily kWh for all meters with AMI technology.
- Manage account information directly and track payment history from mobile devices and home or business computers.



Information on your account is available through both the SmartHub link on the Access Energy Cooperative website ([www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)) and the SmartHub app for your smartphone and other mobile devices. You also can download the SmartHub app by scanning the appropriate QR code below – or by going to the Apple or Android app stores.



iOS



Android



EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

## Win a kit to automate your lights at home!

Control the lights in your home with the Philips Hue personal wireless lighting system. This



Energy Star® rated bulb starter kit includes four soft-white, 60-watt equivalent LEDs, and you can program them with your smartphone to match your schedule whether you're home or away. For details, visit [www2.meethue.com/en-us](http://www2.meethue.com/en-us).

To enter this month's contest for the \$150 Philips Hue automated lighting kit, visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than May 31, 2018. ⚡

SAFETY MATTERS



**MOVE OVER  
SLOW DOWN**



May is National Electrical Safety Month. Our linemen would like your help in keeping them safe while they work on your electric lines. If you see them, move over to the other lane and slow down. Tony Adams and his family thank you!

CO-OP VIPS

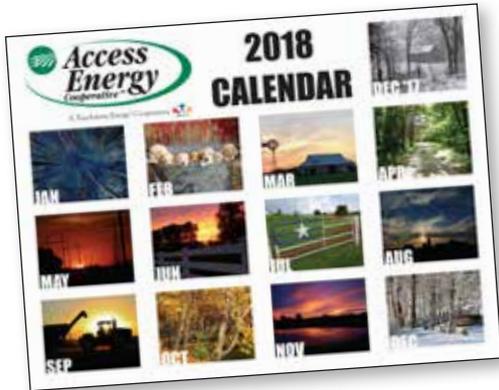
# Co-op's linemen are first to graduate from apprenticeship program

Two linemen from Access Energy Cooperative are the first graduates of Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) Department of Labor-sanctioned apprenticeship program. The 4-year program is a collaborative effort with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities and Northwest Iowa Community College and requires 7,000 hours of study, online testing, skill evaluations and additional testing that IAEC safety staff administer onsite. The purpose of the program is to train apprentice linemen in the routine and non-routine tasks required for their jobs.

Congratulations to Mitchell Banes and Cole Hetzler for successfully completing the apprenticeship program! ⚡



# Watt's coming up?



The photo contest entries are in and have been sent to the judges who have chosen which photos will appear in the 2019 Access Energy Cooperative Calendar. The next step is filling the calendar pages with events going on in southeast Iowa. If you know of a community event in southeast Iowa that's set for 2019 and would like to see it added to the calendar, please let us know by May 25. Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) to enter events for the calendar and to view events throughout the year. ⚡

## Board of Directors proposes changes to Articles of Incorporation

The Board of Directors has the responsibility of periodically reviewing the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative to determine if any modifications are in order. We have previously notified you of a proposal to amend the Articles of Incorporation to add a dispute resolution provision. In addition to that proposal, the Board has suggested amending the Articles to clarify who is eligible for joint memberships and open the door for the potential use of alternative voting methods.

Cooperative members will be asked to cast a ballot, either by mail or at the annual meeting scheduled for Aug. 7, 2018, for the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. Ballots will be mailed to all members with the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting; the text of the amendments will be included as well.

The amendments related to joint membership clarify that spouses are eligible to hold a joint membership. The amendment related to the voting methods allows the Board the ability to utilize electronic voting as an option. Today, members may vote in person at the member meeting or by mail. It is contemplated that those methods will remain; but the Board would also like to add an electronic voting method once the technology and security issues associated with electronic voting can be addressed. The use of electronic voting will not be required if the amendment is adopted, but it would be an option available for the Board to explore. As technology advances, we are seeing other cooperatives utilize this form of voting in order to increase member participation and ensure the Cooperative continues to be democratically controlled.

You are encouraged to vote in favor of the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. Should you have any questions regarding the proposed Amendments, please do not hesitate to call or stop by the office. The full text of the proposed Amendments can be obtained now from the office. ⚡

ANNUAL MEETING



# Save the Date!

**Aug. 7, 2018,  
at 5 p.m.**

**Access Energy Cooperative  
Annual Meeting of  
Members**

**Everything is FREE!**

**All members attending  
will receive a free  
multipurpose battery  
charger!**



## MAY ENERGY SAVER

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop. ⚡

