

living with energy

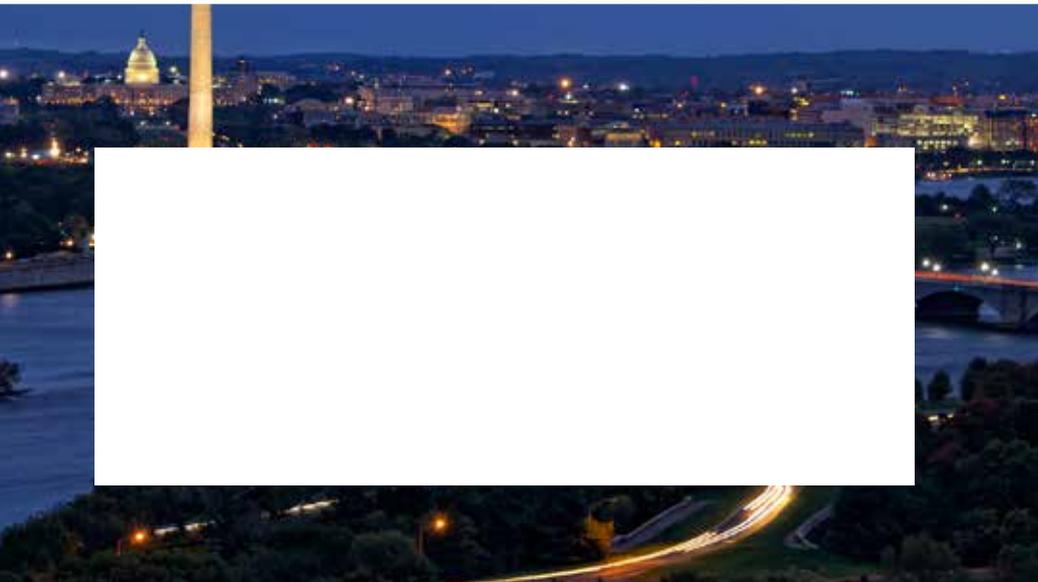
IN IOWA



FEBRUARY 2016



High school students:
Win
our contest and
a trip
to Washington, D.C.!



Check these pages every month for the latest news from



Watt's Going On?

Congratulations on your retirement, Bob!

Robert Swindell, general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative for more than 20 years, retired in January 2016. Bob was honored at his last Board of Directors meeting in December with a cake designed as his favorite electrical character, Willie Wiredhand. ⚡



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

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Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

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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

Officers and Directors:

Jerry Barker	District 2	President
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Ronald Campbell	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

Local Perspective

Call us for an energy audit to help lower your energy use

BY KEVIN WHEELER

As Mother Nature begins to loosen her hold from winter and we start to see the cold fade, I want to remind everyone that our rate increase will take effect April 1, 2016. No one likes an increase, but it's necessary to maintain a safe, reliable electrical system and keep your cooperative financially stable.

As you may recall, the December newsletter discussed that the rate increase will range from 10.48 percent for single-phase members to 7.3 percent for large power members requiring power from 200 to 500 kilowatts. Including industrial members whose loads exceed 5,000 kilowatts, the overall increase drops to 7.9 percent with industrials receiving a 4.5 percent increase. The December newsletter article is available on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com.

Now is a good time to start thinking about how you can make energy efficient home improvements for this summer and next year's heating season. If you're looking to make improvements, be sure to contact our Member Services Department. They'll be happy to conduct an energy audit



and show you the test details on what improvements would be the most beneficial ones to save energy.

We also offer rebate programs to assist you, ranging from sharing costs on energy efficiency improvements to upgrading your heating and cooling system. This is just one example how the cooperative is here to serve you.

During my first month at Access Energy Cooperative, it's been very exciting to have been received with so much gracious enthusiasm and support from all the employees. It's also been a pleasure to meet members of our service area, and I look forward in the coming months to meeting more of you in our community. ⚡

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

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form.

You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax 202-690-7442; or by e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.



Mark Your Calendar!

Open House

March 22, 2016

3-7 p.m.

Meet Kevin Wheeler, the new general manager of Access Energy Cooperative!

Access Energy Cooperative office
1800 West Washington Street
Mt. Pleasant

Send us your photos and win \$50!

Access Energy Cooperative is once again holding the annual photo contest for our 2017 calendar. We're looking for more of those fantastic photos of rural settings in southeastern Iowa we've received in previous contests. We'll choose 12 winning photos that will appear in the **large** photo areas above the calendars; their photographers will receive \$50. The photo for the August calendar page will be chosen from entries of our annual meeting.

We would be happy to return your photos upon request, but we'll retain full permission to use them in any format for the cooperative.

Entry deadline is March 31, 2016. For complete information and contest **rules**, please go to our website at www.accessenergycoop.com. ⚡



FEBRUARY ENERGY SAVER

Lowering your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit is a **key** to saving energy and money. This also will slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Source: energy.gov

Win our contest and teach your smoke alarm new tricks!

Smart phones just keep getting smarter – and so does the **gear** that connects with them. This month's prize is a Kidde RemoteLync that



plugs into a wall **outlet**, listens for your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and sends an alert to your smart phone when you're not home and there's a problem. To enter the contest, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com by Feb. 29, 2016. ⚡

Crossword Puzzle: Win a \$25 Bill Credit!

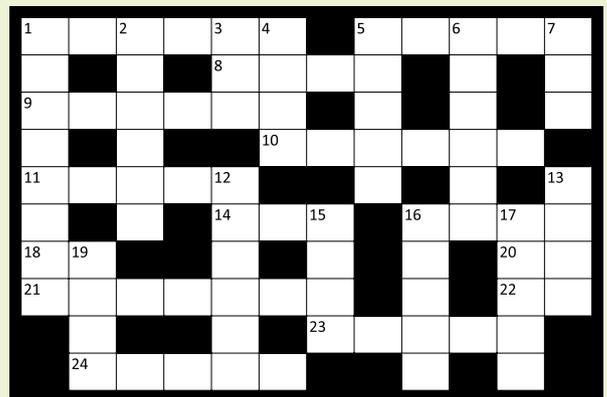
Win a \$25 bill credit by completing our crossword puzzle and sending your answers by Feb. 29, 2016, to: Access Energy Cooperative, Attn: Crossword Puzzle, P.O. Box 440, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641. Most of the answers are bold and highlighted somewhere on pages 4, 5, 12 and 13 of this issue. If more than one person answers all of the questions correctly, we'll hold a drawing to determine the winner.

ACROSS

1. Many new devices that work with your smart phone plug into this
5. Do this to our website to find youth tour or scholarship information
8. We have this to teach kids about electric safety
9. Making improvements to your home can help you save this
10. These demonstrations teach kids the dangers of electricity
11. Winners of the photo contest will appear in this photo area of each page of the Access Energy calendar
14. Something squirrels hide
16. To serve on Access Energy Cooperative's Board of Directors, you must live here
18. Agriculture
20. Abbr. for road
21. Our energy auditors share this with you on how to save energy in your home

DOWN

1. Don't do this to outlets
2. A contemplative and rational type of abstract or generalizing thinking
3. Breakfast food
4. Things children play with
5. A high steep face of a rock
6. Kimberly Davis serves as this for your newsletter
7. Lowering your water heater temp is this to saving energy
12. This much of the membership can vote for Board directors.
13. As we start to see spring do this, it is a great time to think about an energy audit to find ways to save energy
15. Use this to find energy leaks in your home



16. We will do this for scholarship money at the beginning of 2nd semester
17. To eliminate completely
19. A lot of this for your smart phone can make your home safer

Name _____

Account # _____

Phone # _____

Check these pages every month for the latest news from



In the Community

Students: Want to win a trip to Washington, D.C.?



Each year, Access Energy Cooperative sends two students on the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., at the cooperative's expense. This is a chance to join hundreds of other students across the country for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model, experience a full week of sightseeing and meet with elected officials to discuss important issues back home.



If you're a high school sophomore or junior interested in traveling to our nation's capital, **check** our website at www.accessenergycoop.com to download or submit an online application. You also can get an application at your guidance counselor's office or by calling our office at 866-242-4232. Applications are due in our office Feb. 26, 2016, and personal interviews will be held at our office March 10, 2016. You must be able to participate in an interview on this date to qualify for the trip. ⚡

Just for Kids

Home schoolers: Save this date to learn about electric safety

It's an important **goal** for Access Energy Cooperative and all of our employees to help elementary kids learn how dangerous electricity can be if it's not respected. So, we offer **safety** demonstrations to all area schools on an annual basis. And, April 5, we're extending this educational opportunity to our area's home-schooled students.

Our program is real hands-on learning and will help students understand why it's important to take precautions around electricity. Presenters and kids have a lot of fun interacting and exchanging questions and answers. A highlight of the presentation is the dressing up of a volunteer student in the safety equipment that allows line workers to safely work on energized power lines.

Students will learn:

- Historical electricity facts
- Safety precautions around electricity
- Safe use of electricity

- Safety around electrical poles, downed power lines and utility substations
- Why it's important to stay away from power lines during outdoor activities such as kite flying or climbing trees. ⚡

Mark Your Calendar!

Home School Safety Demo

Date: April 5, 2016

Where: Access Energy Cooperative Office
1800 West Washington St.
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

When and Who:

9-9:45 a.m. Kindergarten through 3rd Grade
10-10:45 a.m. 4th Grade and up

2016 Scholarship Program

\$1,500 in Scholarships is available to high school seniors

- Three \$500 awards, one in each of the cooperative's 3 Districts
- Must be a high school senior receiving post-secondary education
- Parents or legal guardians must be members of the cooperative

Here's where to obtain an application

- At all area high school guidance counselor offices
- By contacting the Access Energy Cooperative headquarters office in Mt. Pleasant
- By visiting our website at www.accessenergycoop.com, downloading the application and either faxing, mailing or bringing it to our office; you also may submit the form online
- 2016 applications will be due in our office March 15, 2016. Winners will be chosen and announced at their senior awards ceremonies.

When are the scholarships given?

Access Energy Cooperative will **award** scholarship money to recipients at the beginning of their second semester (or trimester) – or the third quarter of post-secondary education.

Who's up for election?

Your Board of Directors is elected by and from the **entire** membership of Access Energy Cooperative. Three seats are up for election, one in each of the three districts. Each board member is elected to a term of 3 years. Directors' **terms** expiring at this year's annual meeting to be held Tuesday, August 2, 2016, are shown here.

The Board will be appointing a Nominating Committee who will select candidates to run for the expiring terms. Anyone interested in running for a seat on the board may contact a member of the Nominating Com-



Fred Hickenbottom
District 1



Ronald Campbell
District 2



Marvin Newton
District 3

mittee. Contact information will be posted in our office, on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com and in this magazine; you also can call our office at 866-242-4232. In order to serve on the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, you must be a member of the cooperative and a bona fide resident of a premise served in the cooperative's **area.** ⚡



August 2, 2016 @ 5 p.m.

2016 Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members Everything is FREE!!



How do you qualify to run for the Board?

Pertaining to provisions set forth in RUS Bulletin 1790-1, we are providing this to you prior to the meeting of the 2016 Nominating Committee.

2014 Access Energy Cooperative Bylaws – Article III

Section 2(b). District Boundaries

Directors shall be elected from districts beginning with the election held at the 1990 Annual Meeting and as scheduled in the Articles of Incorporation. The three (3) districts will be comprised of the following territories:

District I: DAVIS: Salt Creek Twsp; JEFFERSON COUNTY: Blackhawk, Buchanan, Cedar, Center, Des Moines, Liberty, Locust Grove, Penn, Polk and Walnut Twsp; KEOKUK COUNTY: Steady Run Twsp; VAN BUREN COUNTY: Bonaparte, Cedar, Farmington, Harrisburg, Henry, Lick Creek, Union, Village and Washington Twsp; WAPELLO COUNTY: Compentine, Pleasant and Washington Twsp; WASHINGTON COUNTY: Brighton and Franklin Twsp.

District II: HENRY COUNTY: Center, Jackson, Jefferson, Marion, Salem, Scott, Tippecanoe, Trenton and Wayne Twsp; JEFFERSON COUNTY: Lockridge and Round Prairie Twsp; LEE COUNTY: Cedar, Marion and Pleasant Ridge Twsp; LOUISA COUNTY: Elm Grove Twsp; WASHINGTON COUNTY: Marion and Washington Twsp.

District III: DES MOINES COUNTY: Burlington, Concordia, Danville, Pleasant Grove, Union and Washington Twsp; HENRY COUNTY: Baltimore, Canaan and New London Twsp; LEE COUNTY: Charleston, Denmark, Franklin, Green Bay, Harrison, Jefferson, Van Buren, Washington and West Point Twsp.

Section 3. Qualifications

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident of premises served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members, or who

within two (2) years preceding a director candidate nomination was an employee of the Cooperative, or who within seven (7) years preceding a director candidate nomination has received benefit from any collective bargaining agreement with the Cooperative, or is a close relative of a director or employee of the Cooperative, with close relative being defined as: spouse, cohabitant, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, brother, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and natural, step, and adopted children, or within fifteen (15) years preceding a director candidate nomination been convicted of a felony whether by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, plea of guilt, or plea of nolo contendere, or who is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of another director or employee, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of another director, and no person shall take or hold office as a Director who is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office other than on a school board, board of supervisors, township trustee, township clerk, or member of the State legislature; provided, however, that nothing in this Section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors. When a membership is held jointly, either one, but not both, may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications herein above set forth. Before the meeting of the committee on nominations for directors each year, the Board of Directors shall determine whether any director has ceased to be a bona fide resident of premises served by the Cooperative, and any director found by a two-thirds vote of all directors not to meet the residence requirement or any other qualifications of this Section, may continue to hold office only until the next annual meeting at which time the vacancy shall be filled by the members.

Section 4. Nominations

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than one hundred sixty (160) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Directors are to be elected, a committee on

nominations consisting of three members from each District from which a Director is to be elected. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post, at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, a list of these candidates nominated for Director from each District from which a Director is to be elected, and the list shall include at least two candidates for each Director to be elected. Any fifteen or more members from a District from which a director is to be elected, acting together, may make other nominations for Director from their District by petition not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected from each District, and the names and addresses of the candidates from each district, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee and the nominations made by petition, if any. The ballots to be used for the election of Directors shall list the names of the candidates from each District nominated by the committee and the names of the candidates from each District nominated by petition, if any. The names of nominees shall be posted and listed on the ballots by District in alphabetical order.

The statement mailed by the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail as provided in this Section. Any member may cast their vote by mail for directors by marking on the ballot an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected from that member's district and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing the member's name, addressed to the Secretary of this Cooperative. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any member in advance of the meeting, it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such member at such meeting. The provisions of this Section shall not be mandatory in the case of a recall of one or more directors as provided in Section 6 of Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation.