

# living with energy

IN IOWA



FEBRUARY 2019

Nominating Committee for Access Energy Cooperative Board Elections ▶ See Page 12

High school students –  
**win a free trip to  
Washington, D.C.!**

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

Recipes for  
**chocolate lovers**

Access Energy  
Cooperative meets  
with lawmakers

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Feb. 19** Access Energy Cooperative State Capitol Visit

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- Feb. 25** Youth Tour Application Deadline

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- March 5** Youth Tour Interviews

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- March 13** Blood Drive 2-4:45 p.m.

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- March 15** Scholarship Deadline

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- March 20** REC Day on the Hill

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- March 31** Photo Contest Deadline

You can call us at 866-242-4232, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – or use our SmartHub App – for answers to billing and account questions, paying your bill and service interruptions.



*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):** 8-1-1  
**Website:** www.accessenergycoop.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/AccessEnergyC  
**E-mail:** 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  
**Officers and Directors:**

David Hollingsworth	District 1	President
Marvin Newton	District 3	Vice President
Robert P. Smith	District 2	Secretary
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Treasurer
Marvin Larson	District 1	Director
Jerry Barker	District 2	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Robert Chesnut III	District 3	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

# Why do we advertise?

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Proactive communication is essential in any industry or business, and it's especially important for Access Energy Cooperative to communicate with our members who own the co-op. In addition, some of the key principles of our cooperative business model include concern for community and keeping our members informed and educated.



We use a variety of communication methods to make sure we reach our members with relevant information. Our monthly newsletter and magazine, *Living with Energy in Iowa*, radio announcements, social media posts, bill stuffers, emails and our website at www.accessenergycoop.com, serve as effective ways for us to communicate timely information with you regarding safety, energy efficiency, cooperative business and regulatory notices.

- 1. Safety Awareness** - As your electric cooperative, we have a duty to inform you about safety issues concerning the dangers of electricity. Preventative safety messages are a top priority in our public communications efforts. For example, we remind farmers to watch out for electric lines and poles during planting and harvest seasons. We encourage members to call 8-1-1 before digging so underground utilities can be properly located.
- 2. Energy Efficiency** - At Access Energy Cooperative, we're committed to helping our members use energy wisely. We provide multiple resources to help you find ways to reduce that electricity bill and become more energy efficient, but we need to promote these resources, so you know about them. For example, we often post energy efficiency tips on our Facebook page and

website, and within the pages of our member newsletter.

**3. Cooperative Business** - As an owner of the electric cooperative, you need to know information about the financial condition of the business and when to elect directors of the board. We publish information to make sure you're aware of upcoming events.

**4. Regulatory Notices** - We are required to communicate with our co-op members regarding specific state and federal regulations. For example, you may see the grain bin clearance notice we publish every year in the member newsletter and articles informing members about financial aid available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Communicating frequently with our members is a vital business function that helps Access Energy Cooperative achieve our mission of providing safe, reliable, efficient service. ⚡

## Stay connected!

At Access Energy Cooperative, we're committed to keeping our members informed and educated, which is why we communicate through a variety of platforms. Here are a few ways you can stay connected to your co-op:

- Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)
- Find us on Facebook by searching for AccessEnergyCoop
- Register for a SmartHub account on our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), or download the SmartHub app on your mobile device so you can track your energy use
- Check your recent statement to make sure we have an accurate phone number and email on file for your account ⚡



**MOVE OVER  
SLOW DOWN**

Access Energy Cooperative line workers work on dangerous equipment to keep your power on. The last thing they need to worry about is being hit by an oncoming vehicle. If you see them working on the side of the road, move over to the other lane and slow down. Their families thank you! ⚡



**TIP #8**

## Save on your bill with SmartHub

You may have heard about SmartHub, Access Energy Cooperative's innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your electricity and your account like never before.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you can pay your bill, view your electricity use, contact customer service and much more.

When you log in, you can view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks ... or taps, if you're using the app! Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual electricity use. You'll see how your use is trending over time, which allows you to take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your bill. ⚡



**EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST**

## Win four Wi-Fi enabled smart plugs!

Are you forever leaving the living room light on? Or maybe it's the



computer. If you forget to turn off these items before you leave for work, they suck up energy the whole time you're gone. With a smart plug like Apple's iDevices Switch, you can remotely cut power to these devices and save energy. The iDevices Switch works with Siri, Alexa and the Google Assistant, allowing you to control your home with the power of your voice.

Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) to enter the contest no later than Feb. 28, 2019. ⚡

## HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

# Board appoints nominating committee for election of directors

Your board of directors is elected by and from the membership of Access Energy Cooperative, and a nominating committee has been appointed to begin the process of selecting nominees to run for the three seats that will be up for election at the 2019 Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 6.

Each of our three districts will elect a director to fill a position for a

term of three years. Terms expiring with this year's annual meeting are:

- **District 1** – Fred Hickenbottom
- **District 2** – Robert P. Smith
- **District 3** – Marvin Newton

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 by the cooperative.

Members of the appointed 2019 Nominating Committee include:

#### District 1

- Brandon Ledger – Stockport
- Kenneth Whitham – Fairfield
- Jerry Leazer – Batavia

#### District 2

- Bob Wilson – Mt. Pleasant
- Amy Pullis – Salem
- Bob Scarff – Mt. Pleasant

#### District 3

- Tim Myers – New London
- Dean Mabeus – Wever
- Myrna Folker – Donnellson

Anyone interested in running for a seat on the board may contact a member of the Nominating Committee. More information on the board election process can be found on our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com). ⚡



Fred Hickenbottom



Robert P. Smith



Marvin Newton

## DEADLINES APPROACHING

## Upcoming deadlines for Access Energy Cooperative programs

Please check out our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) for complete details on the following programs:

### Scholarships

- \$9,000 in scholarships is available to high school seniors.
- Six \$1,500 awards, two in each of the cooperative's three districts. Must be a high school senior receiving post-secondary education. Parents or legal guardians must be members of the cooperative. Application deadline is March 15, 2019.



### Youth Tour

Access Energy Cooperative sends two students each year. If you're a high school sophomore or junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience a once-in-a-lifetime trip, apply by Feb. 25, 2019. Personal interviews to choose our two student representatives will be held at our office March 5, 2019. You must be able to participate in an interview on that date to participate.

Here's where to obtain an application for scholarships and youth tour programs:

- At all area high school guidance counselor offices
- By contacting the Access Energy Cooperative headquarters office in Mt. Pleasant at 866-242-4232
- By visiting our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), and downloading the application and

either faxing, mailing or bringing it to our office; or you also may submit forms online.



### Photo contest

Win \$50 in the Access Energy Cooperative photo contest. We will award \$50 to each photographer whose entry is selected as one of the 13 featured photos. Submit all entries by March 31, 2019 to:

#### Photo Contest

C/O Access Energy Cooperative  
PO Box 440,  
Mt. Pleasant IA 52641 ⚡

# Electric cooperatives discuss important issues at legislative reception

Access Energy Cooperative's board, general manager/CEO and staff, along with other Iowa electric cooperatives, discussed priorities with state legislators and policymakers on Jan. 15 during the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives Annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception at the State Historical Building in downtown Des Moines.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including items central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, the directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues allowing Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives to continue providing safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans.

Electric cooperative representatives from all parts of the state will go to the State Capitol in the next couple of months to visit with their legislators once again. Access Energy Cooperative's official visit to the Capitol will be Feb. 19, and the annual REC Day on the Hill will be March 20. ⚡



Pictured from left to right: Directors Fred Hickenbottom, Marvin Holtkamp, Marvin Larson, Jerry Barker and Robert Chesnut III; Kim Davis, director of member services and public relations; Rep. David Kerr; Kevin Wheeler, general manager/CEO; and Director Marvin Newton.



(Left to right) Directors Marvin Holtkamp, Marvin Newton, Marvin Larson, Robert Chesnut III and Fred Hickenbottom, along with General Manager/CEO Kevin Wheeler (center) talk with Rep. Joe Mitchell.



General Manager/CEO Kevin Wheeler visits with Sen. Rich Taylor.

**WIN A WEEK-LONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.**

**IOWA YOUTH TOUR WASHINGTON D.C. 2019**

**NEXT YOUTH TOUR · June 14-20, 2019**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

# Save the Date!

**Aug. 6, 2019 at 5 p.m.**

**Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members**

**Everything is FREE!**