



April 2019
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SUMMER HELP WANTED

Western Iowa Power Cooperative is looking for summer help to assist our line crews in Denison and Onawa. The applicant must be at least 18 years old. The job is only for the summer months of 2019. Call 800-253-5189 or e-mail michael.akers@wipco.com to request an application or for more information.

Putting Energy into Electricity Education



WIPCO's Jake Fox and Christie Richardson demonstrate the effect of electrical contact with a child's tricycle.

Educating children and adults about the importance of electrical safety is part of your Cooperative's ongoing commitment to our communities.

WIPCO would like to thank all area schools that participated in our electrical safety demonstrations during the week of March 5--St. Rose of Lima, Denison Community, Zion Lutheran, Charter Oak-Ute and Schleswig Community.

Through our power line safety presentation, WIPCO employees use a display and story telling to educate participants. Our message includes: keep kites and other objects away from power lines, don't climb trees near power lines, stay away from transformers, substations and other areas marked "high voltage," and what to do if they are in a vehicle accident involving power lines.

WIPCO offers demonstration programs on electrical safety, energy efficiency, and careers available in the rural electric cooperative industry. If you would like to schedule a demonstration for your school or organization, please contact Stephanie Wiese or Mari Miller at 1-800-253-5189.

Need Wood Chips? Trees are a common cause of power outages. As WIPCO's crews go about their duty to maintain distribution lines throughout our nine county service area, we accumulate lots of extra wood chips. Are you a WIPCO member in need of FREE wood chips? Let us add you to our list! Please call our Operations Department at 800-253-5189. You will be placed on a list that WIPCO trimming crews will refer to and if they are trimming in your area, the crew foreman will call and arrange a drop off. **IMPORTANT:** Please provide name, phone # and WIPCO Account #.

Western Iowa Power Cooperative's mission is to enhance our members' quality of life by providing safe and reliable electric services.



Manager's Message

Committed to You, Our Members

As April arrives, we are reminded of a time eight years ago when the heavy rains, winter snow pack and increase in the release of

excess water in the dams, brought flooding to our service territory. Sadly, we are again experiencing some of those same conditions.

Please remember to be aware of electrical dangers during flooding. If flood waters have made it into your home, be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, as it can create a serious danger of electrocution. If there is any question the water could be energized, do not enter the area.

Here are some additional suggestions to help keep safe during a flood:

- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call WIPCO to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches, or fuses when you are wet or when you are standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- If you see downed power lines or damaged equipment, stay away, warn others to stay away, and notify the authorities.
- Never drive into flood waters or enter flood water on foot or in a boat. Flood waters hold unknown dangers. It only takes 6 inches of water for your car to lose control and stall. The water could be energized or could sweep you into electrical equipment. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.

Visit <http://safeelectricity.org> for more info on avoiding flood-related electrical hazards.

**Committed to the job.
Committed to safety.
Committed to you,
our members.**

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 8, 2019



We depend on our entire staff to keep your Cooperative running smoothly, but on April 8, we honor all lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of weather conditions. No matter the time--day or night, weekday or weekend--if the lights go out, so do they. 44-02-10777

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training and apprenticeships, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

In WIPCO's service territory, our lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the Cooperative. They can be found on local volunteer fire departments, coaching youth sports teams, serving on local advisory boards, and volunteering at their local churches and charities.

Given the dedication of WIPCO's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local area.

☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

July 10-12 1st 2nd (please circle)
July 24-26 1st 2nd

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip coupon and return to REC office by May 10, 2019

Energy Trail Tour 2019

Western Iowa Power Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to view, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are, then, returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Western Iowa Power Co-op. Eight lucky couples from WIPCO will be selected at random from those who sign up.



Photo credit: Chelsy Ciavarella, Basin Electric Power Cooperative

A Powerful Experience!

ALONG THE LINES



Notice Irrigators

We have been notified of several irrigation tenant changes for the 2019 season.

If you know of or anticipate any changes for the billing of your irrigation(s), please notify the office immediately so we can have the accounts updated and billing sent to the proper person.

Please note that WIPCO is in the process of changing out metering and load control equipment to irrigation services. Our employees will be traveling around the western portion of the Monona County service territory in the next few months and our vehicles will be clearly marked. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Operations Department at 800-253-5189.

Josh Meseck Wins Sponsorship Prize in KDSN "Farm 40 Free"



Stephanie Wiese presents smoker to Josh Meseck

Denison Radio Station, KDSN, recently held their "Farm 40 Free" contest, where one lucky farmer wins all the inputs to farm 40 acres of corn free and another farmer wins all the inputs to farm 40 acres of beans free.

Farm 40 Free contestants signed up at sponsoring businesses. WIPCO was a sponsoring business and gave away an electric smoker as part of the contest promotion. Congratulations to Josh Meseck, our prize winner of an electric smoker.

LET'S GET READY TO GRILL!



WIPCO sells MECO® electric grills. We have two models for sale--a table top grill and a cart grill with stand. Both models come with thermostatic control and 1500-watt heating element and a rotisserie.

Call WIPCO at 800-253-5189 for more information and price of our grills!

Spring planting

Sow Seeds of Safety This Season

Farmers returning to the fields should stay particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Remember:

- Electricity can arc or “jump” from the line to equipment that’s too close. Keep equipment at least 10 feet from overhead lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- Designate preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.
- Lower extensions like planter arms or cultivators to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Even if using an auto-guidance system, stay focused on equipment location while in the field. Do not simply rely on the GPS system and be ready to take action if needed.
- Consider using a spotter to alert you if you come close to making contact. A spotter can see sagging wires that would not be visible on a GPS and provide additional verification that you can pass safely.
- Before getting out of the cab, look up and double check the area around your machinery to make sure it is not in contact with overhead lines.
- Know how to stay safe if equipment does make contact with power lines!

Managers should make sure full-time and seasonal workers are educated on these and other electric safety precautions. Learn more about farm safety at SafeElectricity.org.



Switch to ENERGY STAR Certified Light Bulbs

Earning the ENERGY STAR certification means the product meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Lighting products that have earned the ENERGY STAR label deliver exceptional features, while using less energy. ENERGY STAR certified light bulbs:

- Use about 70-90% less energy and produce less heat than traditional incandescent bulbs
- Last at least 15 times longer, saving about \$55 in electricity costs over its lifetime - visit www.energystar.gov for more details





With winter almost behind us and spring on tap, now is the perfect time to get your home ready for summer. Use this checklist to get ready:

- Clean your air conditioner - blocked or dirty air filters and outside condenser coils can reduce your system's ability to push and pull air through vents. Schedule an appointment with a professional for a service check for peak operating efficiency.
- Switch to LED bulbs. Not only do they save a lot of energy, but LED bulbs give off much less heat than regular incandescent bulbs, keeping your home cooler.
- Make sure air leaks are sealed. Inspect caulking around windows, doors, and any openings into the home. During the winter, windows and doors can slightly separate from the frame. This can be remedied with a bead of silicone caulk or sealant.
- Check insulation around windows and doors to make sure it's adequate to keep the hot air out.
- Consider having your ductwork sealed and insulated for optimum efficiency.

Consider planting a shade tree next to your outside air conditioning unit. Providing some shade over your air conditioner can help it run more efficiently. Make sure that air movement in and around the condensing unit is not blocked by shrubs causing premature fan and compressor failure. Visit the Energy Efficiency Resource Center www.EfficiencyResource.org for ideas on types of trees to plant. And, make sure to call Iowa One Call at 800-292-8989 before you dig.

Change your ceiling fan's direction of rotation. In summer, you want ceiling fans to blow air down to give the room a breeze and make it feel cooler while allowing you to leave your air conditioner set a little higher. Then reverse the fan direction in the winter.

Taking time to prepare your home and equipment can help keep you and your family safe and help you save money. Contact WIPCO's Member Service Department at 800-253-5189 for more information.



One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

**Visit call811.com
for more
information.**



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Stay Connected to Western Iowa Power Cooperative

**Have you seen our
Facebook page? Visit
www.wipco.com for links
to our Facebook site. It
is a great way to stay
informed
about what
is happening
at your
Cooperative!**



6 REC Day on the Hill...



WIPCO General Manager, Jeff Bean; Vice President, Dennis Backhaus; Director of Member Service/Economic Development, Stephanie Wiese; Senator Mark Segebart; Treasurer, Leroy Hight; and Director, Mike Blum visited during REC Day on the Hill.

Employees and directors, representing 36 of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on March 20 to advocate for important issues during our annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. The cooperative advocates were briefed on state and federal legislative issues by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) before meeting with local legislators during a dessert social in the Capitol. 08-26-1472

"This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally visit with our elected officials and provide them with a co-op perspective on issues that are important to rural Iowa and rural economic development," remarked Jeff Bean, WIPCO General Manager.

Advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Legislators also learned about three priorities important to Iowa's electric cooperatives:

- Ensuring safety and reliability of service through vegetation management
- Supporting cost-effective energy efficiency programs for homes and farms
- Responsible power generation and delivery through fair treatment of all members and utilization of advanced technology

Many electric cooperatives also displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including energy efficiency programs, rural broadband efforts, investments in technology and rural economic development.



WIPCO advocates talked with Senator Jason Schultz during REC Day on the Hill. Pictured are Senator Jason Schultz; Director of Member Service/Economic Development, Stephanie Wiese; Vice President, Dennis Backhaus; Treasurer, Leroy Hight; and Director, Mike Blum.



WIPCO General Manager, Jeff Bean; Representative Steven Holt; Director of Member Service/Economic Development, Stephanie Wiese; Treasurer, Leroy Hight; Vice President, Dennis Backhaus; and Director, Mike Blum discussed issues during REC Day on the Hill.





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Western Iowa Power Cooperative Prepares for Annual Meeting Director Elections

Western Iowa Power Cooperative will hold a District Meeting in Denison, Iowa on Tuesday, August 27 and the Annual Meeting in Onawa, Iowa on Thursday, August 29.

This year's Annual Meeting will be WIPCO's 21st meeting at which Directors will be elected. One Director will be elected from each of three districts, and the Directors must reside and receive service in the District they represent.

In compliance with the Cooperative By-Laws, the Board of Directors will appoint Members to act as the Nominating Committee for the selection of nominees for Directors of the Cooperative to be elected at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Membership

Any individual may become a member in this Cooperative by (a) requesting to become a Member, (b) agreeing to purchase all their electric energy from the Cooperative; and (c) agreeing to comply with and be bound by Western Iowa Power Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held on such date and time as set by the Board of Directors.

Board Representation and Nomination

This year, a postcard will be mailed to each Member with their May electric bill (mailed June 6) instructing them how to vote by mail-in-ballot for the election of Directors. If the Member wishes to vote by mail, the postcard needs to be returned to the Cooperative. A mail-in-ballot will then be mailed to the Member requesting one. Each voting Member is entitled to cast one (1) vote for each Director to be elected. Those Members choosing not to vote by mail will be able to vote at either the District Meeting or the Annual Meeting.

Directors must be Members of the Cooperative. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected as a Director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications for the office of Director.

Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee, which Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Said Nominating Committee members so appointed shall nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of Members. Any twenty (20) or more Members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which Directors are to be elected.

The Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations by the committee is posted; such nominations so made by such Members to be subject to the same District and residence requirements as nominations by the Nominating Committee heretofore prescribed.

Election Procedures

The election of the Directors shall be by ballot. Each voting Member shall be entitled to cast one ballot for each Director to be elected. A ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names of all nominees so posted, and stating the residence of each, shall be mailed to those Members requesting to vote by mail, and made available to all other Members at the District Meeting and Annual Meeting.

The Secretary shall also mail a Notice of the Meeting, including a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and nominations made by petition.

In June, the Nominating Committee will meet to name the nominees to WIPCO's Board of Directors. This year, three Directors are up for reelection.

The following is a list of those eligible incumbent Directors and the Districts they would represent if nominated and elected:

District 4:

Monona County Peter Alexander

District 9:

Crawford County Dennis Backhaus

District 10:

Crawford County Mike Blum

The Board of Directors will approve appointment of the Nominating Committee at their April Board Meeting.

Contact information for the Nominating Committee will be mailed out to each Member on May 7 with their electric bill. Or, call our office at 800-253-5189 after April 22, and we can provide you with the names and phone numbers of the Nominating Committee.

WIPCO Informer

from your member-owned Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

(USPS 9340)

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Office & Warehouse Hours

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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*"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer."*

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov



MANY WAYS TO SAVE, ALL IN ONE BASKET



Save \$25.00 on your REC bill

Read this newsletter carefully. Hidden somewhere within these pages are two Member location numbers. Find your location number in this newsletter, call the REC office by the 20th of the month, and you will receive a \$25.00 credit on your energy bill.

The location numbers in the March newsletter belonged to Joel Sailer and Michael Fender.

