

# HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

## Scholarship Applications Due April 29

One of Pella Cooperative Electric's principles is a concern for community. Through this principle, we believe in empowering our youth through scholarship opportunities to students looking to pursue a higher education.

PCEA awards \$1,000 scholarships in our service territory annually - one per school district - to encourage and recognize the achievements of area students.

These districts include:

- Grinnell
- Knoxville
- Lynnville-Sully
- Newton
- North Mahaska
- PCM
- Pella Christian
- Pella High
- Pleasantville
- Twin Cedars
- Home school student in any of the above districts



To apply, visit [pella-cea.org/scholarships](http://pella-cea.org/scholarships) and download the application to complete. Return all application materials by either mail or email to:

**MAIL**

Pella Cooperative Electric  
Attn: Emma Henning  
PO Box 106  
Pella, IA 50219

**EMAIL**

[ehenning@pella-cea.org](mailto:ehenning@pella-cea.org)

For students not in either of the Pella districts, applications are due to the PCEA office by **April 29, 2022 by 4:30 p.m.** Pella students should have applied through Dollars for Scholars by February 28.

## Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

2615 Washington St.  
PO Box 106  
Pella, IA 50219

1-800-619-1040  
[www.pella-cea.org](http://www.pella-cea.org)  
[service@pella-cea.org](mailto:service@pella-cea.org)



Open weekdays: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm;  
excluding holidays

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*Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See [pella-cea.org](http://pella-cea.org) > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.*

# PCEA Directors Advocate to End Rural Energy Tax at 2022 REC Day on the Hill

Nearly 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives (RECs) came to the Iowa State Capitol on March 22 to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. "Our advocacy day on the hill is an important opportunity to personally touch base with our elected officials and share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowa and rural economic development," remarked Roger Solomonson, board president of IAEC.

Representatives from Pella Cooperative Electric joined the statewide advocacy effort.

Specifically, advocates talked to legislators about a digital sales tax inequity that Iowa's electric cooperatives hope to resolve before the 2022 Legislative Session ends. The inequity stems from an unintentional error made in 2018 legislation that requires Iowa electric co-ops to pay a new 6% sales and use tax on digital goods and services, even though investor-owned utilities are exempt. Since the law went into effect in 2019, the IAEC estimates that Iowa electric co-ops have collectively paid \$300,000 or more annually in taxes, resulting in roughly \$1 million of unintentional taxes paid by rural Iowans through their energy bills.

We thanked House members for supporting legislation to fix this error through HF 2520 and encouraged senators to take up the issue. Following our advocacy event, the Senate passed SF 2372 which is a larger legislative package that addresses various policy issues, including language similar to the House File that would bring an end to this rural energy tax. Iowa's electric co-ops deeply appreciate the work of the House and the Senate on this issue and urge them to come to an agreement about which bill to send to the Governor for her consideration to restore tax equity for co-op member-consumers throughout rural Iowa. Learn more about this issue at [www.iaruralpower.org/advocacy](http://www.iaruralpower.org/advocacy).

Advocates also educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Additionally, several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, electric vehicles, digital metering advancements, investments in technology, lineman safety innovations and vegetation management work.



From left to right: Steve Inskeep, Carroll Hoksbergen, Jon Van Woerkom, Bryce Arkema, Senator Ken Rozenboom, Duane Ver Ploeg, and CEO Doug Stewart.



- The Board of Directors approved the allocation of 2021 margins totaling approximately \$180,000.
- Board members approved a resolution to support a new USDA Rural Economic Development Loan application from LDJ Manufacturing, Inc.
- The operations department reported on the progress of the 3-phase loop around Pleasantville.

# Happy Easter!

Our office will be closed April 15 in Observance of Good Friday



# Member Spotlight

## Smash Park

By: Emma Henning

PCEA Communications Coordinator

If you haven't heard yet, Pella is getting a Smash Park! Haven't experienced the thrill at the original West Des Moines Smash Park? The eatertainment venue has endless fun available for the whole family. Known for pickleball, scratch-made craft food, shuffleboard, cocktails and craft beer, Smash Park has something for everyone.

We sat down with Luke Ballenger and Brian Seidl, owners of Pella Entertainment Group LLC, an independent franchisee of Smash Park, for what to expect at the newest location in west Pella opening early May. (So soon!)

### Of all business ventures, why bring Smash Park to Pella?

**Luke:** I grew up in Pella and went to Central College. Now I live and work in West Des Moines, but I've always dreamed of somehow getting involved back in Pella. The longer I've been away from home, the more I realize how special of a place it truly is. The thing we recognized with Pella in particular is the need for companies to keep their young talent. Smash Park not only gives these professionals a social outlet, but also the families that live, play, and work here as well. It really is a place for all ages to enjoy. We approached the owners at the original West Des Moines location and pitched the idea to them. After they saw the support the Pella community had and the demographics here, they were quickly on board with the idea.

**Brian:** The whole goal has really been giving Pella a local place that families can gather. It's a unique place that families of all ages can just hang out. We're obviously family guys as well and being able to bring your kids, your parents, grandparents, and friends all to one place is truly special.

### What games will Pella's Smash Park feature?

**Luke:** This location will have four indoor pickleball courts, bocce ball, shuffleboard, ping pong, foosball, and other games. There will also be over 80 TVs throughout the venue so plenty of entertainment. We're of course planning on having sports viewing parties but also The Bachelor viewing parties as well.

**Brian:** The outdoor patio is going to be a really fun place. There will be a stage for outdoor music where we'll bring in singers and bands. We're planning on firepits and canopies to rent out along with karaoke and trivia nights and fun event nights like that.



### Are you hiring?

**Brian:** Yes! Visit [smashpark.com/locations/pella](https://smashpark.com/locations/pella) for open positions.

**Luke:** I think it's going to be a pretty fun place to work and a lot different than a full-service restaurant. There will be a family sports bar area, a 21 and over Paddle Club area, and the large outdoor patio.

### What's the future look like for Pella's Smash Park?

**Luke:** It's in the plans to install a mini golf course within a year or two after opening. We're excited about that. We are really looking forward to just giving the community and the surrounding communities a fun place to hang out with their kids, friends, and coworkers.

### When can everyone come and enjoy it?!

**Luke:** We'd love to be open and ready around Tulip Time!

*Brian and Luke both live in West Des Moines. Luke owns and operates Ballenger Chiropractic and Acupuncture in West Des Moines alongside his wife Alex and their four children. Brian also lives in West Des Moines with his wife Lindsay and their three children. Brian is the Director of Commercial Lines Underwriting for Food and Beverage at Nationwide Insurance. The two met coaching basketball at Des Moines Christian School where their children attend.*



# Making Plans for a New Grain Bin?

## Make Sure You're Compliant

Thinking about building a new grain bin? Before you start planning, contact Pella Cooperative Electric and we'll help you with your plans to ensure compliance with Iowa State Code.

PCEA will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators, as well as permanent equipment.

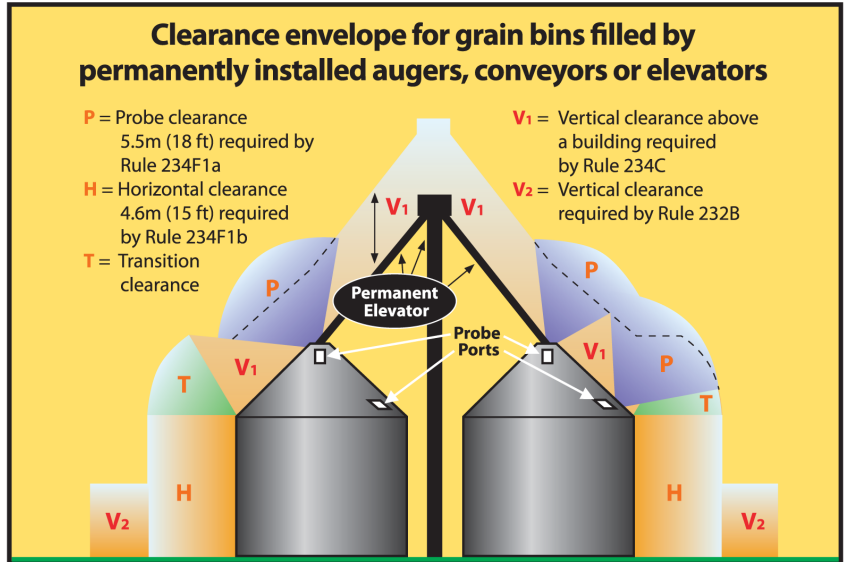
Electric wires should be at least 15 feet from the non-loading side of the grain bin; at least 18 feet from the highest filling or probing port on the bin; and a clearance of at least the bin height plus 18 feet from the loading side of the grain bin. Electric service cannot be provided to a grain bin installation that does not meet these clearances.

The drawing at right shows the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact PCEA.

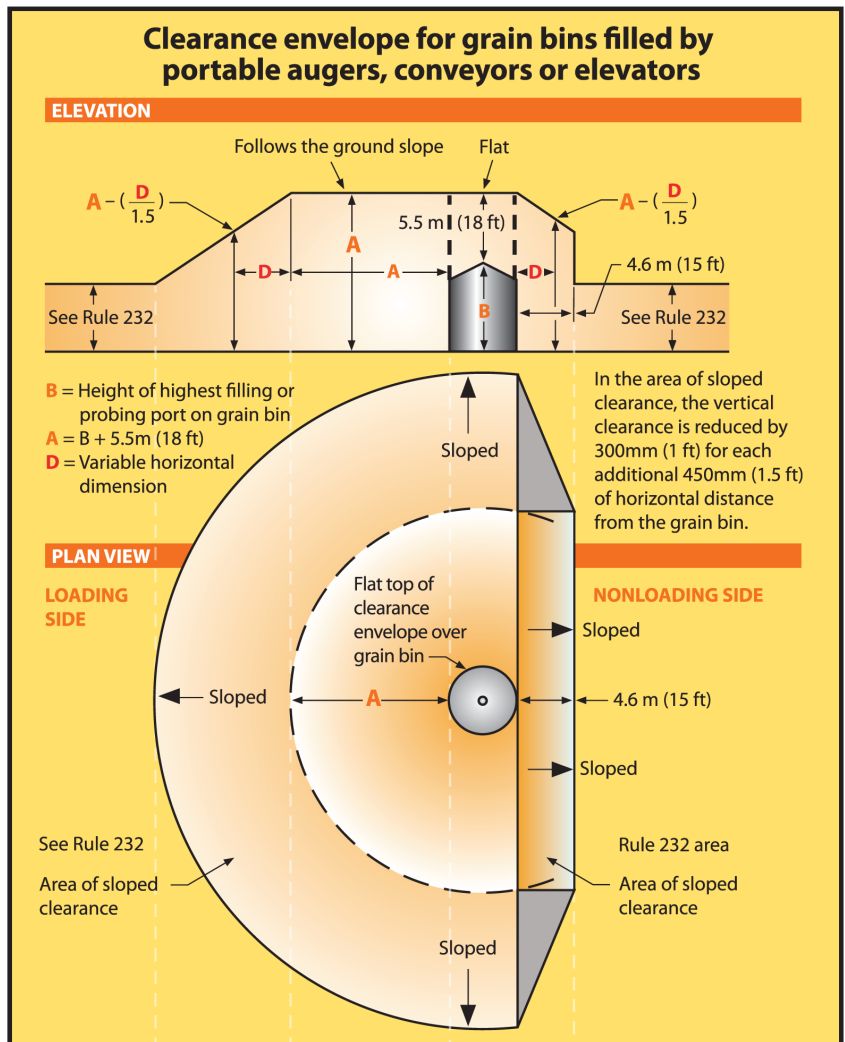
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board).*

If the electric wires around your existing or proposed grain bin do not meet the requirements shown in the diagrams, or if you have any questions, please contact our office at (800) 619-1040.

*Disclaimer for Artwork: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.*



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