

HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC



Tangen Attends 2023 National Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Thomas Tangen, a Pella High School Senior spent a whirlwind seven days in Washington, D.C. June 17-23 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour.

“The Iowa Youth Tour was an absolute blast,” said Tangen. “I met so many great students from across the state, met with some of our Iowa Senators and Representatives, toured monuments and historical sites, and learned about our nation’s electric cooperatives.”

“Investing in our next generation of leaders is a large part of our Cooperative’s mission. We’d like to congratulate Thomas and hope he had a memorable experience in our nation’s capitol,” remarked Doug Stewart, CEO of Pella Cooperative Electric.



Tangen in Washington, D.C.

Pella Cooperative Electric sponsors one sophomore or junior each year who resides within the Pella Cooperative Electric service territory and is a Cooperative member. This includes parts of Jasper, Mahaska, Marion, Poweshiek, and Warren counties.

Every June since the 1950s, as many as 1,800 rural high school students from across the country spend a week in the nation’s capitol. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives, like Pella Cooperative Electric, that are committed to educating America’s rural youth about America and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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 > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.

Follow These Tips for Generator Safety!

Before using a portable generator, it's essential to understand the potential dangers associated with using them, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless and tasteless poisonous gas that is called the "silent killer" because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips when using a generator.

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator.
- A generator is a temporary power source. It should never be used as a permanent solution.
- Maintain adequate ventilation because generators emit CO.
- Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.
- Turn off the generator and allow cooling before refueling.
- Remember maintenance between uses.
- Protect your appliances. Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator.
- Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- Use proper extension cords.
- Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.



Celebrating Ag in the City at Thursday's in Pella!

On Thursday, June 29, Communications Coordinator Emma Henning spent the evening at Thursday in Pella for Ag in the City! We educated youth on the importance of electrical safety and passed out kid hard hats. Henry Reineke (pictured below), son of Lead Lineman Randy Reineke, was a big help at the event as well!!



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY DRIVE-THRU BBQ

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

11AM - 1PM



WHERE

Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington Street, Pella



DRIVE-THRU

Drive thru the co-op's parking lot for a hamburger or hotdog on us, grilled by the Marion County Cattlemen. We'll hand you a member gift on your way through!

**Until the food lasts! Meals are provided for vehicle occupants only.*



GIVEAWAYS

During the week leading up to Member Appreciation Day, PCEA will randomly pick door prize winners to win \$25 off your electric bill! No entry needed. We'll let you know if you win! Watch our Facebook page for prize winner announcements.

2022 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report: Bridging the Gap

By: Duane Ver Ploeg
Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

In 2022, the American electric utility industry raised significant concerns about the stability of our electric grid amid rising calls for the early closure of dispatchable generation sources.

Dispatchable generation, namely from fossil fuel resources, can be fired up and dispatched to the grid on demand at the request of power grid operators, according to market needs. In 2022, our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), continued to study ways in which it could reduce the risk of purchasing energy in a volatile market and bridge the resource gap left by the early closure of Duane Arnold Energy Center in 2020. To do this, CIPCO won't be able to rely on the dwindling dispatchable generation supply across the industry in the next decade, but rather seek out new, intermittent renewable energy assets to meet this need.

The stability of the grid and the ability of regional grid operators to meet power demands were put to the test not once, but twice in 2022, when the Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO) forecasted potential capacity shortfalls during both the summer and winter months. MISO warned of a potential summer peak electricity demand of 124 GW, or 5 GW more than what was projected to be available, prompting CIPCO and its Member-owned cooperatives to stress the importance of energy efficient practices among its member-owners like you.

Later in the year as many of us were readying for the holidays, we faced Winter Storm Elliott, a “bomb cyclone” of intense wind, snow and frigid temperatures that settled in across Iowa over the course of several days. The skyrocketing demand during those times sent energy market prices soaring. The electric industry's reaction to two instances of extreme weather over the course of one year underscored the value of an “all-of-the-above” strategy that includes coal generation as one of many options during times of intense demand. Using all its available resources – including coal – CIPCO met all capacity requirements set forth by MISO.

CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.34 hours per consumer. For 2022, Pella Cooperative Electric Association's was 0.21 hours per member-owners.

Despite volatile energy costs in 2022, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength. CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. In 2022, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$168,363 to Pella Cooperative Electric Association.

As a CIPCO director, I'm committed to guiding the organization through the industry challenges we anticipate in the coming years. I'm confident CIPCO is well-positioned to navigate these challenges, allowing both CIPCO and Pella Cooperative Electric Association to thrive. As a member-owner, you can rest assured your electricity needs will be met now and in the years to come with safe, reliable and cost-effective power when you need it most.



Duane Ver Ploeg
PCEA Board President

Board Briefs

The PCEA Board of Directors met on July 27 and the following was discussed:

- The Board of Directors approved plans to further enhance cybersecurity readiness.
- The Board of Directors reviewed the IAEC Reliability Report. At 99.983% reliability over the last five years, PCEA is more reliable than both the Iowa investor-owned utilities and the REC average. Our members experienced an average of 90 minutes of outage time compared to the REC industry average of 289 minutes.