



HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

!! Take Action !!

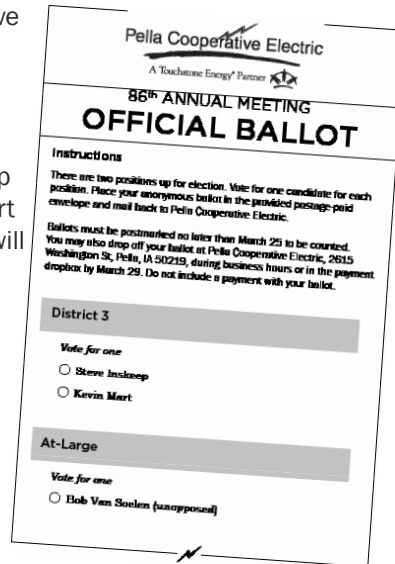
Election Ballots Coming in March

Shortly following members' March bill, you'll receive another mailing from PCEA with a ballot enclosed to vote for the Board of Directors who are up for election.

District 3 and an At-Large position are the seats up for election this year. Steve Inskeep and Kevin Mart will be running for District 3 and Bob Van Soelen will be running unopposed for the At-Large position.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ▶ Voting in person at the April 5th Annual Meeting will not be available.
- ▶ Ballots must be postmarked no later than March 26th to be counted.
- ▶ You may also drop off your ballot at the Pella Cooperative Electric office by March 29.
- ▶ Do not include a payment with your ballot.



We hope our members can take the time to join us at the 86th Annual Meeting at Pella Christian High School on April 5.

A dinner will be served at 5:30pm followed by the business meeting at 7:00pm. During the meeting, a prize drawing will take place for some awesome prizes including a \$1,000 appliance package to Bruxvoort's Decorating Center! Stay tuned for your ballot mailing to find out more!



Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2615 Washington St.
PO Box 106
Pella, IA 50219

1-800-619-1040
www.pella-cea.org
service@pella-cea.org



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



Board of Directors

President
Duane Ver Ploeg

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Darrell Boot

Vice President
Steve Inskeep

Director
Carroll Hoksbergen

Secretary
Bryce Arkema

Director
Jon Van Woerkom

Treasurer
Bob Van Soelen

CEO
Doug Stewart

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 > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

These Members Missed Their Refunds

Pella dished out capital credit retirements (refunds) to members as a line item credit on December 2021 bills. Former members of the cooperative who were active in 2003 and 2020 should have received a check by mail for their capital credits. The list below are members whose checks were returned to the cooperative due to outdated mailing information. If you know the correct billing address for anyone listed below, please contact the cooperative with that information or have the former member contact us at (800) 619-1040. Learn more about capital credits at www.pella-cea.org/capital-credits.

- Shirley Atkins
- Dean & Judith Baarda
- Jan Bailey
- Mildred Boyd
- Carol Breckenridge
- Jason Brown
- Eric Budding
- Cordell & Karen Burton
- Carl Carleton
- CKS Farms
- Clarion Technologies Inc.
- Randall & Rhonda Cochran
- D & G Property Corp
- Randy & Jenise Dahlin
- Digital Solutions
- DSI Land Development
- Phil & Lisa Dumont
- Ellinwood Studios
- Linda Erickson
- Marvin & Cathi Estness
- Gino & Linda Fontanini
- Matt Frazen
- Ken Frederick
- Howie Garrison
- Michael & Judy Garvey
- Gordon Gritters
- Doug Groenenboom
- Harvey Products Inc
- Norm Huyser
- IES Commercial
- Iowa Telecom
- Marion James
- Jeremy Jin
- Dan Klassen
- Thomas Kuiper
- Trent & Heather Lahue
- Billy Langham
- Charles Lemons
- Hugh & Vicki Lynas
- Troy Maticc
- Mark Mayer
- Scott Meyer
- Joseph & Debbie Michaels
- David & Ginny Moore
- Sergio Navarro
- Thing & Nhuong Nguyen
- Jonathan & Jill Noble
- Parker Hannifin Corp
- Steve & Lori Parisee
- Pella Health & Fitness/Dennis Vogel
- Harold Pinkston
- Mike & Lorna Pollock
- Precision Industries Inc.
- Larry & Jean Rigger
- Timothy Riley
- Don & Maureen Rittenhouse
- Andy & Angela Rodgers
- Daniel Savage
- Allen & Carol Schipull
- Rose Schmidt
- Monty Schwartz
- Chris Shepperd
- Thomas Shinn
- Tim Simonsen
- Darryl Six
- Marinus & Ruth Spierenburg
- Kathy Stevens
- Blaine & Billie Stout
- Stephen & Cindy Sullivan
- Chad & Amy Svendson
- Dorothy Templer
- Blanche Templeton
- Total Choice Shipping
- Tressie & Arie Van Weelden
- Duane Van Wyk
- Henry Veldhuizen
- Ron Wallace
- Brian & Dawn Watson
- Mike & Angie Widmer
- Dan Winegar
- Steven Winter
- Matt & Sue Young
- Wayne & Ileen Zegers

Board Briefs

- Board members approved the 2021 Reliability Plan and Report to be filed with the Iowa Utilities Board.
- The board reviewed year-end financials.
- Board members who attended the 2022 Legislative Welcome Back Reception in Des Moines gave an update on the evening.
- The board received a report on the 2022 Nominating Committee Meeting held on January 18th.

Students can apply now for a trip to our nation's capital from June 18-24!



Area high school students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com

Member Spotlight

Wanders Farms LLC

By: Emma Henning
PCEA Communications Coordinator



Tucked off a gravel road from Highway 163 near Otley, sits Wanders Farms Meat Locker. A perfect country escape to pick up farm fresh beef, Wanders Farms Locker is owned and operated by 22-year-old Julie Wanders.

Steve and Annette Wanders, now alongside Julie, own and operate an angus cow-calf operation outside of Oskaloosa. Prior to purchasing the locker, the Wanders raised the cattle until they were sold to a larger feedlot to finish them out.



When Julie decided she wanted to stay on the farm long term, she wanted to create her own path and income flow to maintain her stay. She started selling hamburger at \$4 per pound with the few cows they finished out. Soon, customers were requesting steaks or higher quality cuts, so she started selling quarters and halves of beef processed at another locker location.

To ensure premium quality, Julie decided she needed to put the workmanship into each cut of meat herself. "I figured if I'm going to run a direct-to-consumer beef business, I need to do it from start to finish to moderate the price and quality."

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Julie purchased the Otley Meat Locker to take her family farm to the next level.

"It took me some time, but I finally convinced my dad to start feeding out all our cattle rather than just a few. It worked out well for us as just around that time, the prices of cattle tanked. So, we marketed every single head through our locker rather than taking a huge price hit at the packers."

Julie put two ads in the local newspapers, started a website and Facebook page but says the majority of her sales come from word of mouth.

"I make nearly \$300 more a head than if I sold the cattle to the packer," says Julie. "Which can make a huge difference if you have 100 cattle and at the end of the day, consumers pay less for more meat and get a higher quality as well."

Julie says most of her customers come from the Des Moines metro. She believes her location in the country 40 minutes outside of the city, is a perfect place for customers to experience the countryside where they pick up their products.

"About 99% of customers who purchase farm fresh beef for the first time will never go back to a grocery store," explains Julie. "They say it ruined their taste!"

The Wanders Farms Locker primarily focuses on beef; however, they do process hogs, sheep, goats, and deer certain times of the year.

Since 2020, Wanders farms has supplied the meat for the Pella Cooperative Electric Annual Member Appreciation Day Drive-Thru BBQ. She has even bigger dreams and plans ahead!

"I've applied for a grant through the State of Iowa, so I'm hoping to add on to the locker in the spring," she says. "Eventually, I'd love to build a new locker. It's been a lot of hard work as most days are 16 plus hour days, but it's been quite a journey and I'm incredibly thankful for my customers."



To learn more about Wanders Farms or to place an order, visit wandersfarms.com or visit their Facebook page.

PCEA Directors Working with Local Legislators

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Pella Cooperative Electric, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

Pella Cooperative Electric is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

Providing industry guidance and expertise

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists,” yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why Pella Cooperative Electric provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who’ve been in the energy industry for many years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees and staff, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

Representing your best interests

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our consumer-members. This means we are able to cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we’re advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We’re proud to power your life and bring good things to the community. We hope you’ll continue to advise Pella Cooperative Electric on matters of importance so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.



From left to right: PCEA Directors Carroll Hoksbergen, Bob Van Soelen, Representative Holly Brink, Senator Ken Rozenboom, Senator Amy Sinclair, PCEA CEO Doug Stewart, and PCEA Director Duane Ver Ploeg gather at the Welcome Back Reception on January 11 to advocate and discuss legislative priorities for rural lowans who live on co-op lines.



PCEA Scholarship Applications Open

\$1,000 available for each school district

Grinnell | Knoxville | Lynnville-Sully | Newton | North Mahaska | PCM | Pella Christian High
Pella High | Pleasantville | Twin Cedars | Home School Student

Deadline to Apply : April 29 | Pella Dollars for Scholars Deadline: February 28
www.pella-cea.org/scholarships