

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC



!! Take Action !!

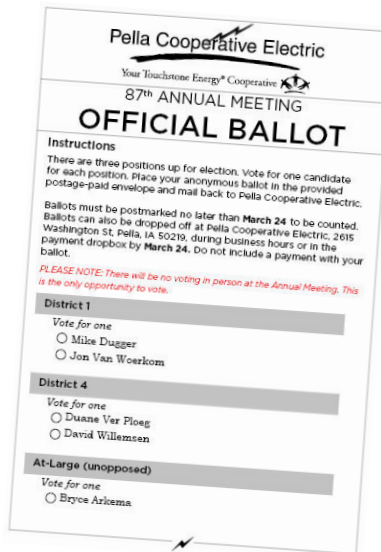
Election Ballots Coming in March

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

District 1, District 4, and an At-Large position are the seats up for election this year. Mike Dugger and Jon Van Woerkom will be running for District 1, Duane Ver Ploeg and David Willemsen will be running for District 4, and Bryce Arkema will be running unopposed for the At-Large position.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ▶ Voting in person at the April 4th Annual Meeting will not be available.
- ▶ Ballots must be postmarked no later than March 24th to be counted.
- ▶ You may also drop off your ballot at the Pella Cooperative Electric office by March 24th.
- ▶ Do not include a payment with your ballot.



We hope our members can take the time to join us at the 87th Annual Meeting at Pella Christian High School on April 4.

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 2022 bills. Former members of the cooperative who were active in 2004 and 2021 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.

- James Arnett
- Cary Bandstra
- Jim Birkel
- Dale Brush
- Mike Buchheit
- Eric Budding
- Andrea Burger
- Larry Burkin
- Fred Buser Sr.
- Michael Church
- Clarion Technologies Inc.
- Lewis Cooper
- Blythe Crook
- Randy & Jenise Dahlin
- Sharon Davis
- Harold De Penning/Jon Van Dalen
- Digital Solutions
- Judith Dingeman
- Tammy Dixon
- Rick or Marty Doty
- DSI Land Development
- Alberta Dunkin
- Ellinwood Studios
- Howie Garrison
- Mike Hamre/Kathy Jones
- Jennifer Hansen/Orville Moore
- Joshua Harrington
- Gerald Hock
- Arne or Cindy Hoikkala
- Richard Honomichl
- IES Commercial
- Iowa Wireless/IA 142
- Donald Kain
- Charles Kline/Kathy & Allan Robuck
- Gail Kuiper
- Gerald Kuiper
- Billy Langham
- Kurt Langel
- Robert Leydens
- Troy Matice
- Homer Max
- Floyd or Betty Montgomery
- Matthew Nichols
- Carolyn Orndorff
- Virginia Paulson
- Pella Health & Fitness/Dennis Vogel
- Precision Industries Inc.
- Leonard Pol
- Shanna Reed
- Earl or Barbara Reedy
- Doug Rietema
- Andy or Angela Rodgers
- Randy Schuttinga
- Monty Schwartz
- Joe Sedlock
- Darrell Slagle
- Marinus or Ruth Spierenburg
- Randy Stiles
- Beverly Stratford
- Stephen or Cindy Sullivan
- Robert Taylor
- Frieda Ten Hagen
- Laura Thomas
- Eugene Thorp
- Sebastian Tomczyk
- Tri State Outdoor Mediase/Magic Media
- Amy Van Gorp
- Greg Van Maanen
- Tom Van Syoc
- Michelle Van Wyk
- Felicia Vandusseldorp
- Kyle Van Zante
- Jeff Vander Beek
- Dave or Brenda Ver Steeg
- Dan Winegar
- Donald Wooldridge
- Ivan Wooster
- Carroll or Charlotte Worthington
- Marica Wouterse
- Matt or Sue Young

Board Briefs

The PCEA Board of Directors met on January 26 for the January board meeting and discussed the following:

- Darrin Lynch with NRUCFC presented an industry financial report to the Board of Directors.
- The Board approved the audit engagement letter for the Cooperative's upcoming annual financial audit.
- CIPCO reported the USDA Rural Utility Service has approved the new wholesale power contract between CIPCO and its member systems.

Students can apply now for a trip to our nation's capital from June 17-23!



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

Pella Cooperative Electric Presents \$1.5 Million USDA Loan to LDJ Manufacturing, Inc.

Earlier this year, Pella Cooperative Electric Association (PCEA) and LDJ Manufacturing, Inc. received a \$1.5 million loan through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) to assist with a \$2.5 million building expansion for LDJ Manufacturing. In December, PCEA presented the check to LDJ for the project.

USDA's REDLG program provides zero-interest loans to rural utility providers, such as Pella Cooperative Electric, that in turn re-lend the money at zero percent interest to businesses within their communities. Pella Cooperative Electric utilizes the USDA's REDLG program as one of the economic development tools to promote community development, economic growth, and help create and retain jobs in rural Iowa.

“As a member-owned electric Cooperative, we’re in a unique position to utilize borrowing power for our local businesses that we serve. Any efforts we can make to contribute to our local economy is a win for us, for our members, and for the community,” commented Pella Cooperative Electric Chief Executive Officer Doug Stewart. “We’re pleased to be able to partner with LDJ Manufacturing on their project.”



From left to right: Chad Van Wyk, Ben Cox, Doug Stewart, Greg Clark, and Loren Van Wyk.

As the home of Thunder Creek Equipment for over a decade, LDJ Manufacturing has built a reputation for uncompromising quality and service to their customers. Unprecedented demand for Thunder Creek products meant the company would need to expand their manufacturing footprint. In July of 2022, LDJ Manufacturing broke ground on a new 25,000sq ft addition to accommodate increased production and warehousing as well as additional workstations and a tornado shelter. The new building was officially completed in early December 2022.

“We’re happy to partner with Pella Cooperative Electric and the USDA in our expansion project,” said Ben Cox, President of LDJ Manufacturing. “It’s an exciting step forward for business growth and local economic opportunities with skilled job creation and higher wages in our community.”

This is Pella Cooperative Electric’s 15th USDA economic development loan project. In total, those loans have led to more than \$6 million of additional investment in the community and have helped retain or create more than 100 jobs in Pella and surrounding communities throughout the program.

Electric Co-ops Advocate for Rural Iowa Priorities as 2023 Legislative Session Begins

More than 150 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with over 100 state legislators on January 10 during our 2023 Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEllowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2023 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. For example, we're concerned about secretive industrial and commercial corporations that are seeking to circumvent Iowa's electric service territory laws; these protections exist to provide stability for Iowa homes, farms and businesses. Iowa's electric co-ops are also opposed to any legislation that would deny landowners the option to use their property for utility-scale solar generation if they so choose.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, electric co-op directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues. Collectively, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives provide affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties every day.



From left to right: PCEA Communications Coordinator Emma Henning, PCEA Director Carroll Hoksbergen, Representative Barb Kniff McCulla, PCEA Director Bob Van Soelen, and PCEA Director Duane Ver Ploeg.

Thank You to the 2023 Nominating Committee

On Thursday, January 19th, nine members of PCEA met to nominate members for the Board of Directors who are up for election this year.

Five members were nominated this year. For District 1, Mike Dugger and Jon Van Woerkom were nominated. For District 4, Duane Ver Ploeg and David Willemssen were nominated and for the At-Large seat, Bryce Arkema was nominated.

Thank you to the 2023 Nominating Committee for your service and time. The members who attended or listed on the right.



From left to right: Wade Puyear, Stuart De Haan, David Way, Ruth De Bruin, Vaughn Newendorp, Angie Arkema, Ryan Kelderman, Joel Braafhart, and Michael Montgomery.



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 : March 17 | Pella Dollars for Scholars Deadline: February 28

www.pella-cea.org/scholarships