

# HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

FEBRUARY 2026

## How We're Preparing for the Cooperative's Future

By Doug Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer of PCEA

I want to take a moment to share how our electric cooperative is thinking about the future and how we make decisions that affect the system you own. This is the start of an ongoing conversation about planning, responsibility, and why these things matter to every member.

The electric system you rely on every day has been built over time through long-term planning. Since our cooperative began in 1936, the poles, wires, substations, and equipment that deliver power across our service territory have been built, maintained, and improved to meet changing needs. At the same time, our line crews and staff have been trained and prepared to safely serve members wherever they live or work. Decisions made over many decades affect safety, service, and reliability today and into the future.

When conditions change, responsible cooperatives do not wait and react. Instead, we plan ahead, communicate early, and take our responsibility to members seriously. Thoughtful planning helps reduce uncertainty and allows the cooperative to remain strong and dependable over time.

Across the country, the electric industry has been changing, and the cost of providing electric service has been rising steadily for several years. These increases are driven by higher prices for the everyday materials, equipment, labor, and technology needed to operate and maintain the electric system. Inflation and trade policies have affected many of the items that we rely on.



Doug Stewart  
PCEA CEO

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

### Board of Directors

President Duane Ver Ploeg	Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Darrell Boot
Vice President Steve Inskeep	Director Jon Van Woerkom
Secretary Bryce Arkema	Director Roy Jahner
Treasurer Carroll Hoksbergen	CEO Doug Stewart

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# How We're Preparing for the Cooperative's Future

## (continued)

By Doug Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer of PCEA

These pressures are not temporary, and they influence how electric cooperatives everywhere plan for the future, including ours. Careful planning helps us manage these pressures, but it does not make them go away. As these pressures continue, planning leads to decisions, not avoidance.

As a member-owned cooperative, we pay close attention to these cost pressures because they matter to you. Our responsibility is to manage them carefully on your behalf. That means looking ahead instead of reacting late, making thoughtful decisions, and ensuring the cooperative remains financially stable and able to provide dependable service over the long term.

Safety matters. Service matters. Reliability matters. Being ready to respond when equipment fails or severe weather affects our system matters too. Providing this level of service requires ongoing planning and investment. Preparing for the future, rather than postponing decisions, is part of being a good steward of the cooperative.

One tool cooperatives use to guide responsible planning is a cost-of-service study. At a basic level, this study helps us understand what it costs to provide electric service and how those costs are shared across the system. It also looks at how electricity is used at different times and in different ways. This information helps guide decisions that are fair, balanced, and responsible.

Fairness in electric rates means sharing costs in a way that reflects how the electric system is used, while treating members openly and responsibly. It is about making sure the cooperative operates in a way that supports long-term service for all members and remains financially sound over time.

It is also important to know that a cost-of-service study does not set rates by itself. It provides information. Decisions about rates are made by the cooperative's board of directors and management working together. They use this information, along with judgment and an understanding of how changes affect members. These decisions are made carefully and always with the long-term health of the cooperative in mind.

We know many households and businesses are feeling financial pressure. Rising costs affect everyone. Cooperative employees and directors live and work throughout the communities we serve. We shop at the same stores, drive the same roads, and face the same challenges. We care deeply about how decisions affect our neighbors because this is where we live and work as well.

That is why responsibility is shown through action. Even when cost pressures come from outside the cooperative, it is still our job to respond in thoughtful and careful ways. This includes seeking competitive pricing for materials, looking for the best value from vendors, pursuing outside funding when available, using technology that helps crews restore power more efficiently, and planning system improvements to reduce the risk of costly emergency repairs. One recent example is our ongoing FEMA mitigation work, which helps strengthen parts of our system while limiting the financial impact on members.

Over the coming months, we will continue to share information as this planning work moves forward. Our goal is to communicate before decisions take effect, not after. We want members to understand how decisions are made and why they matter.

There will be more details to share later, including how rates are structured and what that means in practical terms. That information will come before any changes take place, and we will take care to explain it clearly. For now, what matters most is knowing that this cooperative exists to serve its members and that decisions are guided by fairness, responsibility, and long-term reliability. We take seriously the trust you place in us as stewards of the cooperative.

We promise to approach decisions carefully, openly, and with respect for the cooperative and the members it serves. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and will continue sharing information as important decisions take shape over the months ahead.

# Did You Miss Your Refund?

Pella dished out capital credit retirements (refunds) to members as a line item credit on December 2025 bills. Former members of the Cooperative who were active in 2007, 2008 and 2024 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 only have the former member contact us at (800) 619-1040.** Learn more about capital credits at [www.pella-cea.org/capital-credits](http://www.pella-cea.org/capital-credits).

- Abby Thompson
- AG Resource Servicing, LLC
- Alberta Dunkin
- Alice Wales
- Allen or Carol Schipull
- Andrea Burger
- Ann Marie Watson-Baumhover
- Arnold Gitters
- Arnold Ozinga
- Bill Pitt
- Blaine or Sue De Heer
- Blom & Vogel % Dennis Vogel
- Blythe E Crook
- Bob Dingeman
- Brandon or Eryonne R Thomas % Kevin Thomas
- Brenda Vos
- Brian A or Heather G Hunt
- Brian McMarn
- Brian or Allissa Miller
- Brian or Keri Sees
- Brian or Robin Smith
- Brian or Wendy L Mecum
- Bryan Gaylor
- Charles Hendricks
- Charlie or Amy L Sinclair
- Christi Hoover
- Christopher L Vickery
- Chuck Vander Ploeg % Carla Thomassen
- Clayton or Laura Beyer
- Connie Hupp
- Cordell R or Karen E Brown
- Cory J or Allison B Kerndt
- D&G Property Corp
- Dan or Alice F Steffen
- Dan or Annette Ver Woert
- Darren Beavers
- Darryl or Shelly De Ruiter
- Dave or Brenda Ver Steeg
- Dave Renfrow
- David or Carolyn A Harvey
- Dawn or David Cooper
- De Vore Homes
- Dean Fridley
- Dean or Judith Baarda
- Dieleman B Dreesman
- Digital Solutions
- Dirk Rietveld
- Donald D Kain
- Donald R or Karen J Branderhorst
- Dorothy Templer
- Doug Hoksbergen
- DSI Land Development
- Duane Dingeman
- E Scott or Katie Coyle
- Earl or Barbara F Reedy
- Ed Thomas
- Ellinwood Studios
- Eric Schippers
- Ewing Land Development
- Floyd R Stebbeds
- Forrest R Bowers
- Franklin Fagg
- Fred Buser Sr
- Geneva Harrison
- George or Melinda DeWitt Jr
- Gerald Vander Linden
- Gilbert Van Wyk
- Gino or Linda Fontanini
- Gong Yu or Quao Sun
- Harold or Marie Van Maanen
- Harold Samuelson
- Henry or Mary L Roush
- Holly or Allen Midkiff
- IES Commercial
- Integrated Asset Services
- Iowa Telecom
- Iowa Wireless /IA142
- Ivan Wooster
- Jadco % Jad Vander Zyl
- James Arnett
- James or Marci Tyree
- Jamie Snodgrass
- Jeff Beary
- Jeff or Anne Dirkx
- Jeff or Misty D Reinier
- Jeff Vander Beek
- Jerry or Bernice Stump
- Jerry Viers
- Jill or Michael Schippers
- Joan Anderson
- Jodi Willemsen
- Joe Sedlock
- John Lanphier
- Joseph P or Debbie S Michaels
- Josh or Penny Freeman
- Joshua B Essary or Angelee R Ballard
- Joshua or Heather Allen
- Joshua or Julie A Hengstenberg
- Judith Dingeman
- June Donkersloot % Robert Donkersloot
- JWCM Inc % Jim Van Waardhuizen
- Karen J Newendorp-Bishop
- Keith or Janice Vander Wal
- Ken Frederick
- Kendal or Brenda Colvin
- Kerry Johnson
- Kevin or Marla Renaud
- Kirk or Lynn Haws
- Koopman Construction
- Larry or Jean Rigen
- Larry Vande Kamp
- Laura Anderson
- Laura Thomas
- Lewis W Cooper
- Linda Erickson % Nancy Erickson
- Linda K Hartgers
- Linda or George Glenn
- Lois M Hotovec % Jefferson Place - Tulip Lane
- Lois Williams
- Lori Glasgow
- Magic Media
- Marinus or Ruth Spierenburg
- Marion L James % Tonya Purdy
- Martin T Hewitt
- Marvin Ball
- Marvin or Cathi Estness
- Marvin or Nancy Van Wyk
- Matthew Bonnett
- Matthew L Nichols
- Matthew or Nicole Patton
- Maynard or Dorothy M De Vries
- Michael or Judy Garvey
- Michael or Sheren Martin
- Michael R or Betty A Buitenwerf
- Michael Van Steenwyk
- Mike or Lorna Pollock
- Mildred Boyd
- Nicole R Zobel
- Norm Huyser
- Patty Moore or Tim Foster
- Paul or Georgia S Steenblock
- Pella Wrecker
- Principal Financial Group % Terrus Real Estate Group
- R & D Precision Builders LLC
- Ramon Robinson % Levi Robinson
- Randall R or Rhonda L Cochran
- Randy Schuttinga
- Randy Stiles
- Re/Max Farm and Home Realty
- Red Rock Lake Marina LLC % Mat Bales
- Richard Dawson
- Richard Honomichl
- Rick or Mary Doty
- Rigen Construction

# Did You Miss Your Refund? (continued from page 3)

- Robert E or Sandra Cole
- Robert Monsma
- Rodney Horsman
- Roger Gregson Jr
- Russell G Cooner or Suzanne L Cook
- Sally or Ralph Wichhart
- Sandy Lee
- Scott Criswell
- Scott M Gordon
- Scott or Karen Elliott
- Scott or Kris Enyart
- Scott or Shannon Johnson
- Shane or Janel Larter
- Sheridan or Marilyn Cook
- Shirley Atkin % Mike Adkin
- Stacey Wharton
- Stanlynn Stieg or Sid Blommers
- State Savings Bank
- Steven Winter
- Stuart Zurcher
- Susan Dabb
- Thing or Nhuong V Nguyen
- Thomas L Shinn
- Thomas or Karen Brown
- Tim Erickson
- Tim Wells
- Tom Van Syoc
- Travis or Jean Gustafson
- Udders Steakhouse % Doug Mckinney
- V.R. Farms Inc.
- Verna Sterling
- Virginia Paulson
- Vos Brothers Farm % Paul Vos
- Wilma Rozendaal

# Thank You to the 2026 Nominating Committee

On Thursday, January 15th, seven members of the Cooperative 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, Jon Van Woerkom was nominated. For District 2, Duane Ver Ploeg and Dave Willemsen were nominated. For the At-Large seat, Bryce Arkema and Howard Van Zante were nominated.

Thank you to the 2025 Nominating Committee for your service and time. The members who attended are listed below!



From left to right: Ruth De Bruin, Doug De Haan, Bob, Van Soelen, Ryan Kelderman, Amy Olsen, Stu De Haan, and Dennis Goad.

The PCEA Board of Directors met on January 29th for the January board meeting and discussed the following:

- Directors and staff reported on the recent IAEC Welcome Back Reception, which marked the start of the 91st Iowa General Assembly. Cooperative leaders met one-on-one with local elected officials to discuss issues affecting rural electric cooperatives and the members they serve. These conversations help ensure lawmakers understand how policy decisions impact electric reliability, affordability, and long-term infrastructure in rural Iowa.
- Cassie Cason, CFO, presented the year-end financial statements to the Board of Directors. The board reviewed the cooperative's financial position as part of its regular oversight, and the 2025 financials are now audit-ready with fieldwork scheduled to begin soon.
- Rob Burton, Line Superintendent, updated the Board of Directors on ongoing tree trimming work being completed by Frest Tree Experts. Tree trimming is part of the cooperative's normal maintenance program and is completed across the service territory on a multi-year cycle. Recent storm-related outages in the South have highlighted how fallen trees and limbs can impact electric service, and regular tree trimming helps reduce outage risk and improve reliability.

Board Briefs