

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC



We're Accepting Applications for High School Leadership Trip to D.C.

Pella Cooperative Electric will send one student on an all-expenses paid Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. in June.

At PCEA, one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school sophomores or juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.



One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 15-21 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with hundreds of students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums, and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications through March 22. Children of PCEA member-consumers are eligible to apply. The student must be a current sophomore or junior or currently hold the status equivalent to a sophomore or junior in an accredited home-based school. To download the application visit pella-cea.org/youth-tour.

For more than 60 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2024 by March 22!

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



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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.

Scholarship Applications Due April 26

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
- Lynnvile-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 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



For students not in either of the Pella districts, applications are due to the PCEA office by April 26, 2024 by 4:30 p.m. Pella students should apply through Dollars for Scholars by February 28.

PCEA Employee Awarded for CLIP Graduation

At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives Annual Meeting last week, they celebrated the first 15 graduates of its new Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program (CLIP) for emerging leaders. Participants committed to a yearlong calendar of in-person, virtual, and on-demand training sessions where they gained leadership skills and learned about various co-op roles. Congratulations to Jolyn Hartson, PCEA Executive Assistant/HR Coordinator on her completion and graduation of the program.

"We're incredibly proud of Jolyn on graduating from the inaugural class of the Cooperative Leadership in Iowa Program. This milestone is a reflection of her dedication. CLIP has helped Jolyn sharpen her skills as a leader who will continue to shape our Cooperative's success," remarked PCEA CEO Doug Stewart.

Congratulations Jolyn!



Jolyn Hartson pictured left with IAEC President Roger Solomonson at the IAEC Annual Meeting.

A New Look for SmartHub Coming Soon

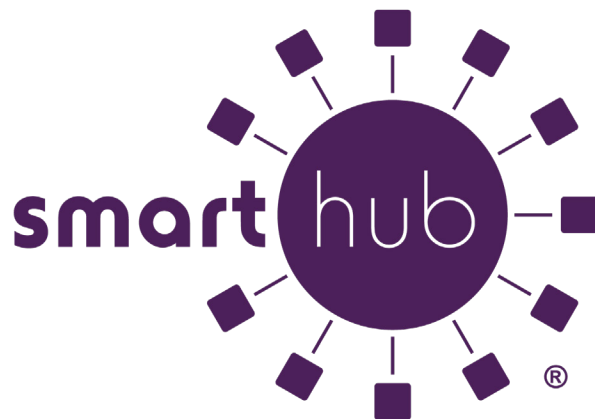
In February, PCEA will be launching a new look for our online account management tool - SmartHub. All while keeping the functionality you have come to expect.

SmartHub allows you to manage your PCEA account at anytime from anywhere. Pay your bill online. View an image of your bill. View your billing history. Update your contact information. View daily usage. Sign up for email, text and mobile notifications.

When you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and easily make a payment. You will also be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual electricity use. You can see how your usage is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your monthly bill.

SmartHub is available through Pella Cooperative Electric's website and as a free mobile app through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Learn more at www.pella-cea.org/smarthub.



Have a Complaint? Here's How to Report It

Pella Cooperative Electric strives to provide excellent customer service to each of our members. If a member has a problem with his/her service, please write Pella Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 106, Pella, IA 50219, call toll free at (800) 619-1040, or email us at service@pella-cea.org. We will work to resolve any issues.

If a member's complaint is related to service disconnection, safety or engineering standards, or renewable energy and Pella Cooperative Electric

does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by:

- Calling (515) 725-7321 or toll-free (877) 565-4450;
- Writing to 1375 E. Court Ave., Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or
- Sending an email to customer@iub.iowa.gov

2024 Annual Meeting to be Held at Pella Christian High School

The PCEA Board of Directors and staff will host the 2024 Annual Meeting and dinner at the Pella Christian High School on Tuesday, April 2.

The Cooperative will be serving a dinner prior to the business meeting. The dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting following at 7:00 p.m.

Watch for more information about the Annual Meeting and how to vote by mail in next few issues of HighLines as well as on our Facebook page and other social media pages.



Members enjoying dinner at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes



The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Pella Cooperative Electric Association was held at the Pella Christian High School in Pella, Iowa at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th of April 2023.

Duane Ver Ploeg, President of the Cooperative, presided and called the meeting to order.

Bryce Arkema, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

Shortly after the meeting convened, it was called off due to the severe weather conditions unfolding, including the threat of tornado activity. Members were strongly urged to return to their homes. It was announced prior to the members' departure that the Board President's and CEO's reports to the members would be videotaped and made available on the Cooperative's website, as well as Director election results. The Nominating Committee's report would also be shown on the subject video report, as would the Notice of this annual meeting.

There were at least 50 members of the Cooperative in attendance, which constituted a quorum of the members of the Cooperative.

The Nominating Committee's report showed the following nominations of members for directors:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 1: Mike Dugger Jon Van Woerkom

District 4: Duane Ver Ploeg Dave Willemsen

At Large: Bryce Arkema (unopposed)

The Certificate of Inspectors of Election, certifying that the following members receiving the highest number of votes cast had been duly elected Directors of the Cooperative will hold office for the term specified and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, was as follows:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 1: Jon Van Woerkom

District 4: Duane Ver Ploeg

At Large: Bryce Arkema

The Certificate of Inspectors of Election will be annexed to the minutes of this meeting, and thereupon such members duly elected Directors of the Cooperative will hold office for the term specified and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

As members departed for home, President Ver Ploeg declared on motion made, seconded, and carried the meeting adjourned.

The PCEA Board of Directors met on December 28 for the December board meeting and discussed the following:

- The Board of Directors approved the operating and capital expenditures budget for 2024.
- The Operations Department updated the Board of Directors on the status of the MidAmerican transmission line upgrade that supplies power to the Otley and West Pella substations.
- In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Cooperative's bylaws, the Board of Directors formally appointed the 2024 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet on Thursday, January 18 to select candidates to run for District 2 and one open At-Large position.

Board
Briefs