



MAY 2023

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

PCEA Lineman Assist Neighboring Co-op Following EF-4 Tornado

While our territory missed much of the severe weather at the end of March, other neighboring Cooperatives withstood considerable damage and numerous outages following an EF-4 tornado.

Line Foreman Shawn Williams and Lead Lineman Randy Reineke hit the road at 4:00 AM on Saturday, April 1 to support and help TIP Rural Electric Cooperative in Sigourney.

"We really enjoyed working the T.I.P crew during the weekend clean up," said Shawn. "Its rewarding to see everyone's efforts come together in a time of great need."

Cooperation among Cooperatives is one of our core principles. We believe working together is the best strategy to empower their members and build a stronger cooperative economy. Assisting other Cooperatives in times of need is a true example of this principle.

Thank you to Randy and Shawn for your efforts in getting lowans' lights back on.



Left to right: Line Foreman Shawn Williams and Lead Lineman Randy Reineke up and leaving the shop at 4 AM to head to Sigourney.



Left to right: Lead Lineman Randy Reineke and Line Foreman Shawn Williams assisting with repairs with T.I.P Electric Cooperative.

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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 Inskip	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.

Thank You for Attending the 2023 Annual Meeting

With the severe weather rolling through Pella during our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 4, we were excited to serve dinner to over 300 members and their families before calling off the business meeting to get everyone home safely.

However, we were still able to give away our awesome prizes and present the President and CEO report via our Facebook page.

- The following members were prize winners:
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Bryon Vander Molen | Russ Van Norden |
| Delwin Van Zante | Gary Vanden Berg |
| David Willemsen | Brad Van Zante |
| Mark Meinders | Helen Roose |
| Doug Nunnikoven | Elaine Van Wyke |
| John Boogman | Gordon Foster |
| Rod Van Genderen | Warren Van Wyngarden |
| Sheryl Mulder | Mary Lou Van Roekel |
| David Mathes | Jan Robertson |
| | John Smith |

If you haven't picked up your prize, please do so at the PCEA office at your earliest convenience.

Nearly 500 ballots were cast for the 2023 PCEA Director Election. Three positions on the Board were elected: incumbent Jon Van Woerkom, representing District 1 and incumbent Duane Ver Ploeg, representing District 4, and incumbent Bryce Arkema serving At-Large. Board officer positions had no change.

Thank you again for attending and we look forward to seeing you at the 2023 Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, September 16th!

2023 Board of Directors Election Results



Jon Van Woerkom
District 1



Duane Ver Ploeg
District 4



Bryce Arkema
At-Large

Congratulations to directors who were reelected to a three-year term. Thank you to our members who made their voice heard in the 2023 election.

Pella Cooperative Electric

Thank You for Your Service to the Cooperative



Bob Van Soelen

PCEA Director and Board Treasurer has reached his 10 year milestone at the Cooperative. Thank you Bob, for your dedication to the co-op and its membership.

Board Briefs

- The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the 2022 Form 990 Federal Tax Return.
- The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members date was set to be held on April 2, 2024 by the Board.
- The operations department reported on the recent pole testing and inspection performed in accordance with the Cooperative's Inspection and Maintenance Plan.
- Senior Accountant Cassie Cason presented the March financial statements. Cooperative net margins are \$133,00 through the end of first quarter.

Pella High School Junior Wins National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Pella Community High School junior Thomas Tangen has been selected to represent Pella Cooperative Electric on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Tangen will join nearly 40 other students from June 17-23 in Washington, D.C. On the weeklong tour, students learn about electric cooperatives, American history, and U.S. government and walk away with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. They will participate in National Youth Day, visit with their elected legislators, and explore the sights around the nation's capital.

"I'm excited and honored to be selected as Pella Cooperative Electric's Youth Tour representative," said Tangen. "I'm really passionate about history and believe this tour will help me learn from the past to better our future."

A junior at Pella High School, Tangen is active in band, choir, bowling, golf, boy scouts, and National Honor Society. He is a member of Peace Lutheran Church and is active on the Church Praise Team, running live stream of services, and youth group opportunities. He has also been involved in the NASA Student Design Competition twice and the Eagle Scout Project through boy scouts. Tangen is the son of Joseph and Bethany Tangen of Pella.



Thomas Tangen

"We believe Thomas has embodies the character and leadership skills to represent our Cooperative in Washington, D.C.," said Doug Stewart, CEO of Pella Cooperative Electric. "We're excited to provide him with this opportunity to not only serve as the Cooperative's delegate but enhance his leadership skills and learn about our nation's capital."

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 capital. 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.

PCEA Hosts Red Rock Balloon Fest Group to Talk Hot Air Balloon Safety

During the April safety meeting held Tuesday, April 18 at the Pella Cooperative Electric shop, PCEA hosted local utilities and local EMS to discuss hot air balloon safety.

Summer is a popular month for hot air balloon rides and the Red Rock Balloon Fest group discussed many topics of safety and emergencies during flights.

Thank you to the Red Rock Balloon Fest group for putting on the program!



May is Military Appreciation Month and PCEA is Proud of Three Employee Veterans

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op ethos.

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. Afterall, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them to thrive. I believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry.

PCEA is proud to employ three veterans, and we're especially grateful for their contributions to the co-op and to our community.

Brandon Stone, PCEA Plant Accountant, served in the U.S. Army from 2006-2014. Matt Ainsworth, Journeyman Lineman, served in the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserves from 2001-2007. Lance Freml, Journeyman Lineman served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2003-2007.

Mission-oriented Outlook

Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work-- to help our consumer-members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal oriented, wanting to do right for their co-op and their community.

At the national level, electric co-ops support the "Vets Power Us" program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country along with the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and I hope you'll join me in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country--and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Brandon, Matt, and Lance, we salute you!



*Brandon Stone
Plant Accountant*



*Matt Ainsworth
Journeyman Lineman*



*Lance Freml
Journeyman Lineman*

Honoring Memorial Day

Our office will be closed May 29 in Observance of Memorial Day