

HIGHLIGHTS

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

May 2025

Call 811 Before You Dig!

With the start of the spring season brings spring projects! Keep safety at the forefront of your projects and call 811 before you dig! Here's a refresher on some of our frequently asked questions!



What is 811?

811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. Anyone who plans to dig should call 811 or go to call811.com before digging to request that the approximate location of buried utilities be marked with paint or flags so that you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line.

When do I call 811?

You should call 811 or use Iowa's 811 center website a few business days before you begin any digging, including common projects like planting trees and shrubs or installing fences and mailboxes. The specific amount of advance notice that you are required to provide varies by type of project.

What info do I need before calling 811?

You will need to know the address of where you plan to dig, including the county and nearest cross street, as well as the type of project you're completing and the exact area on the property where you're planning to dig. Whether you call 811 or make your request online, you'll need the same info.

After I call 811, what do I do?

You need to wait a few days to allow utilities to respond to your request and ensure that all utilities have indeed responded to your request before breaking ground. Once all utilities have marked their buried lines, you should dig carefully around any utility marks and consider relocating projects that are close to buried utilities.

Where does PCEA locate?

When you call 811, only the utilities that are owned by the Cooperative will be located. PCEA will locate any underground services up until the meter. Anything beyond the meter, we cannot locate. The member is responsible for maintaining and locating any wire past the meter. Local electricians are able to locate wire that is not owned by the Cooperative.

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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 > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

Thank You for Attending the 2025 Annual Meeting

The Cooperative was thrilled to host nearly 300 members and guests at our 2025 Annual Meeting, held at Pella Christian High School on April 8, 2025.

The evening began with a delicious dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by the business meeting at 7:00 PM. Attendees heard updates from PCEA President Duane Ver Ploeg on the latest PCEA developments, as well as insights from CEO Doug Stewart.

Members were given the opportunity to enter for exciting giveaway prizes, and every attendee received a complimentary knife and peeler set as a thank you for joining us.

The 2025 Director Election saw more than 400 ballots cast. Two Board positions were filled: incumbent Steve Inskeep was re-elected for District 3, and Roy Jahner was newly elected to the At-Large position.

Thank you again to everyone who attended. We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, September 13th!



Director Boot Awarded for 10 Years of Service



PCEA Board President Duane Ver Ploeg (left) presents Darrell Boot (middle) his service award alongside CEO Doug Stewart (right.)

Board Director Darrell Boot was recognized for his outstanding 10 years of service at the February board meeting.

Darrell began his tenure with the Cooperative Board in April 2015 as the District 2 Director and currently serves as the Board's Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

He and his wife, Bonnie, have been valued Cooperative members since 1983. Together, they have raised three children and are proud grandparents to six.

Thank you for your dedicated service, Darrell. We look forward to many more years of working alongside you as a Cooperative director.

Board Briefs

- The Board of Directors accepted the minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting, as prepared by the Cooperative's attorney, Fred Dorr. These minutes will be presented for membership approval at the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- The 2026 Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026.
- The Board approved the Cooperative's 2024 Form 990 tax return.
- Director Carroll Hoksbergen was elected as Board Treasurer during the Board's reorganizational meeting.
- CEO Doug Stewart and Line Superintendent Rob Burton presented the results of the NRECA Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). The Cooperative successfully passed its RESAP inspection, which is conducted every three years.

Meet Tyler the Tile Guy: The Story Behind The drainEDGE Company

By Emma Henning - PCEA Communications Coordinator

When Tyler and Rachel Edge founded The drainEDGE Company in March 2023, they set out with a clear mission: bring high-quality drainage solutions and outstanding service to the drainage tile industry — and do it in a way that truly puts people first.

And if you spend even five minutes with Tyler — better known by customers and friends as “Tyler the Tile Guy” — you’ll understand exactly why this business is different.

“We produce drainage tile — plastic corrugated pipe that goes underground to assist with water movement and management,” Rachel explains. “Many of our customers work in agriculture, where it’s used in fields for better water management. But we’re also growing into the commercial sector, helping support infrastructure for construction and roadways.”



Rachel and Tyler Edge
The drainEDGE owners

At The drainEDGE Company, we offer a wide range of pipe sizes, for use in small-scale projects to major infrastructure. Our drainage pipe comes in diameters ranging from 3 inches to 24 inches, designed to fit every job’s unique needs. The company’s product lineup includes single-wall, dual-wall, flexible dual-wall, and small coils, with coverage across the Midwest — including Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, and beyond. They primarily sell direct to contractors and some direct to farmers, ensuring that those who need it most get the products quickly and reliably.

A Unique Blend of Expertise

Before he was “Tyler the Tile Guy,” Tyler was introduced to the plastic industry back in 2006. It didn’t take long for him to see how drainage tile could completely transform agriculture, crop yields, and soil health. With over 17 years of hands-on experience under his belt, he not only learned the business inside and out — he spotted the gaps where customer service and product availability could be better.

Meanwhile, Rachel brought her own valuable experience from executive leadership in healthcare, with a focus on customer care and team development. Together, they blended their strengths to create something unique: a company that’s as focused on people as it is on production.

Their approach is simple but powerful: “Plastic may be our product, but people will remain our focus.”

Built on Core Values

The drainEDGE Company runs on one key principle — and Tyler the Tile Guy says it best: “It’s not about us; it’s about enhancing the lives of everyone we serve.”

The company’s core value, Together, is more than just a word on the wall. It drives every decision they make, from how they treat employees to how they support farmers and contractors managing the land.

Today, The drainEDGE Company operates 24/7, with 20–25 full-time employees keeping two busy production machines humming along. From day one, neighboring businesses in Pella rallied around them, offering support and making their first impressions of the community unforgettable.

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. After all, 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. We 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 we hope you'll join us 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 26 in Observance of Memorial Day