

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Take An Active Role in PCEA's Election!

Serve on the nominating committee!

Pella Cooperative Electric Association is looking for members to serve on the nominating committee. The committee serves the membership by seeking members to run for election to the PCEA Board of Directors.

Committee members learn and follow the policies and processes of being a nominating committee member, which are found in the co-op's bylaws. The committee meets at least once between December and the April 2, 2024 Annual Meeting.

If you're interested in serving on the nominating committee or have any questions about the process, don't hesitate to call the Cooperative at 1-800-619-1040.



PCEA's 2023 Nominating Committee

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

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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 > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.

Honoring Our Own This Veterans Day

Saturday, November 11 is Veterans Day - a day to recognize, honor, and thank our military veterans who have served our great country. PCEA is proud to recognize three of our own employees who wore the uniform and served our country.

- 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.
- Brandon Stone, Plant Accountant, served in the U.S. Army from 2006-2014.

Thank you Matt, Lance, and Brandon for serving our country and to all our veterans protecting our freedoms - we honor and thank you this Veterans Day.



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- President John F. Kennedy



Journeyman Lineman
Matt Ainsworth



Journeyman Lineman
Lance Freml



Plant Accountant
Brandon Stone

PCEA Welcomes Grady Kurfman to the Team

PCEA would like to give a warm welcome to PCEA's newest apprentice lineman Grady Kurfman who started at the Cooperative on October 16. Grady graduated from lineman school at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, IA in July 2023. He's originally from Liberty, Illinois.

Welcome to the PCEA team Grady!



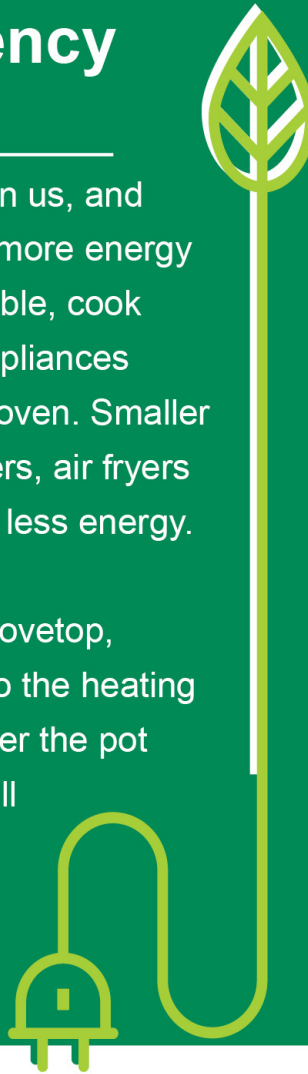
Grady Kurfman
Apprentice Lineman

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Happy Thanksgiving!

Our office
will be closed
November 23rd &
24th.



THE GREATEST NUMBER OF HOME-COOKING FIRES OCCUR ON

THANKSGIVING DAY

Make sure smoke alarms work!

Test them by holding the button on the front; you should hear a loud beep to confirm the batteries are good.

Remain in or near the kitchen at all times while you are cooking.

Keep anything that can catch fire (oven mitts, towels, curtains, wooden utensils, etc.) away from your stovetop.

If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly with a timer.

Keep children at least 3 feet away from the stove or where hot food or liquids are being prepared.

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Source: International Association of Fire Fighters*

A Storm is Brewing: Electric Reliability is in Jeopardy

By Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Congressman Randy Feenstra, representing Iowa's 4th District

Supply chain delays. Disorderly retirements of dispatchable electric generation. Complex regulations on power plant emissions. Regional warnings about a lack of generation capacity to cover electric demand. Permitting delays for needed electric transmission infrastructure.

Individually, any one of these issues is enough to seriously impact reliability of electric service. But all these scenarios are playing out simultaneously across the nation and a perfect storm may be on the horizon.

Electric reliability across America is in serious jeopardy, and frankly, it's unacceptable. Here are the facts:

Dispatchable sources of electric generation like coal and nuclear are being retired far too early. And their generation capacity is being replaced by intermittent sources of generation like wind and solar. The downside: These intermittent sources only work when the wind blows and the sun shines.

Battery storage is not yet feasible for longer durations on a utility-scale level. For all practical purposes, electricity must be generated as it is being consumed. This becomes a problem when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining and energy consumption is high.

Demand for electricity continues to grow as our society becomes increasingly reliant on electricity. Locally owned electric cooperatives work hard to provide reliable and affordable electricity for the member-consumers they serve. Co-ops are mission driven to power lives and empower communities and they make long-term decisions to ensure power is available when it's needed.

That's why we believe in a power generation strategy that prioritizes energy diversity. The same adage used for sound financial investing also applies to power generation: don't put all your eggs in one basket. Iowa's electric cooperatives use dispatchable sources of power like coal and natural gas because they can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. But our ability to provide reliable electricity is in jeopardy.

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency released its proposed rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units. The proposal is part of the current administration's misguided regulatory agenda to create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and net zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. We believe this proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation.

But that's not the only threat we face. The 2023 NERC summer reliability assessment is just the latest in a series of alarming reminders about the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. Nine states experienced power interruptions last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

It's imperative that policymakers work to prioritize reliability in every energy policy discussion. Federal policies must recognize the compromised reliability reality facing the nation before it's too late.

The families, farms and businesses served by electric cooperatives deserve affordable AND reliable electricity to power their lives.

