

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

A Successful Member Appreciation Day in the Rain!

PCEA held our 2022 Member Appreciation Day Drive-Thru BBQ on Saturday, September 17 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Although the forecast was storms and rain, the day couldn't of been more successful!



As members began arriving, hamburgers and hot dogs were being grilled by the Marion County Cattlemen. Members were able to get out of the rain as they drove through the shop to grab their member gift and meal. We were excited to serve nearly 850 members!

The week prior to the event, we randomly drew five lucky winners to receive a \$25 bill credit in celebration of the day. Congratulations to the following members! Your credit will automatically appear on your next bill.

- Lisa Brandhof
- Bernie Beekhuizen
- Trent Alberts
- Cornie Van Den Broek
- Ben Conover

Thank you for attending our Member Appreciation Day drive-thru BBQ. We always enjoy celebrating YOU, our members.



Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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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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.

We're Looking for Students Interested in Public Service and Leadership

High schoolers who attend our Zoom sessions in October will have a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Pella Cooperative Electric has a long history of supporting students in the communities we serve through scholarships and leadership opportunities. We've also been sending deserving high school students to our nation's capital every summer for years as part of the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program.

Iowa's electric cooperatives are pleased to once again offer a virtual opportunity for rural students to learn more about advocacy, electric cooperative career opportunities and the cooperative business model with a three-part webinar series in October. The Iowa Youth Leadership Academy is open to any high school student in our service area and they are invited to register at www.iowaYouthTour.com by October 1.

"This new program is perfect for rural Iowa students who have a passion for public service, leadership or government," remarked PCEA CEO Doug Stewart. "We want to raise students' awareness of how local electric co-ops power people's lives and empower communities. We also want to talk about exciting cooperative career paths that are available in smaller communities."

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes and focus on a specific topic:

- Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m. – Cooperative Business Model
- Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m. – Rural Iowa Advocacy
- Thursday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m. – Civic Involvement and Leadership

At the end of each live session, one lucky attendee will be selected at random to win a pair of Apple AirPods. Students who attend all three sessions will be entered into a random drawing for two \$1,000 college scholarships. All students who register online by October 1 will receive a special box of co-op goodies in the mail.

During the Zoom sessions, students will be inspired by our lineup of speakers and presenters. Participants will learn how to advocate for issues that are important to them and build leadership skills from a motivational speaker. Attendees will also hear from former Iowa Youth Tour students who pursued their passion for government service and leadership after attending the weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. The 2023 Youth Tour is slated for June 17-23 next summer.

Learn more at www.iowaYouthTour.com or contact Emma Henning at ehenning@pella-cea.org for more information.

The advertisement features a blue background. On the left, there is a circular inset image of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt, smiling and waving her hand while sitting at a desk with a laptop. To the right of the image, the text reads: "WANTED: Rural Iowa high school students who have a passion for leadership". Below this, it says: "Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at iowaYouthTour.com". At the bottom of the advertisement is a smaller version of the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy logo.

Meter Testing Scheduled in October

Chad Langford with Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative will be out testing meters this October! As part of our Cooperative principle of cooperation among cooperatives, we appreciate the support from our fellow Iowa REC. Chad will be testing meters through the PCEA territory October 10-12 and October 17-19. Don't be alarmed if you see him by your meters and be sure to give him a friendly wave!



TRICK-OR-TREATING SAFETY TIPS

Walk on sidewalks or designated paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



Thank You for Your Service to the Cooperative

PCEA Journeyman Lineman Lance FremI is celebrating his five year milestone at the Cooperative on October 9.

Thank you Lance, for your dedication to the co-op and its members for five years!



Lance FremI
Journeyman Lineman



Iowa's Cooperatives Team Up to Celebrate Iowa Co-op Month

To celebrate National Cooperative Month in October, Iowa's electric cooperatives are partnering with the Iowa Credit Union League and the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives on an Iowa Co-op Month campaign to raise awareness about the positive impact of cooperatives in our state. Governor Kim Reynolds recently signed a proclamation declaring October as Co-op Month in Iowa.

The Iowa Co-op Month campaign works to educate Iowans about the "cooperative advantage" through a landing page at www.IowaCooperatives.com, media outreach and coordinated social media posts. Here are some co-op facts you might not know:

1. Nearly one in two Iowans is a member of a cooperative, including credit unions, electric distributions co-ops and ag services co-ops.
2. If all of Iowa's 12,000 cooperative employees were grouped together, they would be one of the top 10 largest employers in the state. Co-ops offer stable careers with top-tier benefits in communities of all sizes.
3. Iowa's locally owned cooperatives generate more than \$60 million in property taxes each year, which directly benefit Iowa communities, counties, local schools and hospitals.

We're proud of our cooperative heritage of being locally owned and governed with a mission to improve quality of life for our member-owners. At Pella Cooperative Electric, we are democratically controlled by our members through an elected board of directors who make long-term decisions for the cooperative. All co-ops are guided by 7 Cooperative Principles, which is a key reason why electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities; we always put the needs of our members first.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter this month to watch new videos celebrating the cooperative difference featuring Iowans just like you. Learn more about the cooperative advantage at www.IowaCooperatives.com.

UNDERSTANDING THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance. These principles are a key reason why America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first.



1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are elected among members and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.



6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

THESE ARE THE WORDS WE LIVE BY.



The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts providing retail electric service to more than 42 million consumers in 48 states and whose retail sales account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States. Learn more at electriccoop.org



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

- President Ver Ploeg, Secretary Arkema, and Director Van Woerkom reported on their recent attendance at the NRECA Region 5 Meeting.
- The board approved a new strategic plan for PCEA with long-term goals for the Cooperative's future.
- Darrin Lynch, Regional VP with NRUCFC, presented the Key Ratio Trend Analysis report. This report is used to benchmark important financial ratios within the rural electric utility industry.