

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Thank You, Members!

Nearly 1,000 PCEA members turned out for this year's Member Appreciation Day Drive-Thru BBQ Sept. 14.

For more than two hours, a steady stream of cars pulled through the co-op's shop to receive a member gift and a sack lunch of either hamburgers or hot dogs. Thank you to everyone who came out on a beautiful Saturday - we appreciate you!

Members of the Marion County Cattlemen handled the grill to serve up the tasty burgers and hot dogs while PCEA staff and board members put together the lunch bags and handed them out.

In the week leading up to the event, the co-op randomly drew five lucky winners to receive a \$25 bill credit. Congratulations to these PCEA members:

- Todd Walters
- Larry Pleima
- Douglas Nunnikhoven
- Sonny Swank
- Roxanne Watson



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 > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.

Iowa's Co-ops Celebrate National Co-op Month

It's October which means it's time to celebrate National Co-op Month! Again this year, Iowa's electric cooperatives are partnering with the Iowa Credit Union League and the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives to spread the word about the positive impact cooperatives have on Iowa. As part of the celebration, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation to declare October as Co-op Month in Iowa.

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 and Instagram this month as we celebrate the cooperative difference. Learn more about the cooperative advantage at www.IowaCooperatives.com.

THESE ARE THE WORDS WE LIVE BY.



1
Voluntary
& Open
Membership



2
Democratic
Member
Control



3
Members'
Economic
Participation



4
Autonomy
&
Independence



5
Education,
Training &
Information



6
Cooperation
Among
Cooperatives



7
Concern
for
Community

Board of Directors Tour CIPCO Summit Lake Facility

The Board of Directors were invited to tour the Central Iowa Power Cooperative's (CIPCO) Summit Lake facility for their August 29 board meeting. The Board traveled to Creston, Iowa where the gas-powered plant is operated.

In 2021, an expansion project was completed following the demolition of the 68-year-old steam plant. As part of the repowering project, three efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines were installed that produces 110MW of power to assist during times of peak energy use.

The new generators are reciprocating piston engines fueled by natural gas. Each turbocharged engine-generator weighs approximately 400 tons and has 18 cylinders. Each generates 18.8MW, which is equivalent to about 25,000 horsepower. Because the engines run at a very low and constant speed, the engines can start and stop quickly and can be tuned for efficiency.

CIPCO and PCEA remain focused on a balanced and diverse generation portfolio. This expansion encompasses diversity in project geography and fuel sources.



Meter Testing Scheduled in October

Chad Lankford with Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative in Glidden will be out testing meters in our service territory this month!

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 the week of Oct. 14. Don't be alarmed if you see him by your meters and be sure to give him a friendly wave!

PCEA regularly tests and inspects our meters to ensure a high standard of accuracy. It is a rare occasion to find that meter is running fast. More commonly, as meters get older, they slow down. In these cases, a meter will allow more electricity to pass through it than it records. If a meter is found to be registering over or under 2% of the normal conditions of the member's electric load, the member's electric bill will be adjusted up or down to reflect the correction.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



Need Help with Your Heating Bill?

The 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 18 and over). Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you;
- Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members (documentation required);
- Most recent heat bill; and
- Most recent electric bill.

Wage Earners: Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return

Fixed Income: This income may include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

Self-Employed/Farmers: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP Recipients: Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.



Income Maximums

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$30,120
2	\$40,880
3	\$51,640
4	\$62,400
5	\$73,160
6	\$83,920
7	\$94,680
8	\$105,440

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,760 for each additional member.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1 or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

Board Briefs from the September 26 Board Meeting

- The Board of Directors reviewed proposals for audit and tax preparation services and hired CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as the Cooperative's audit firm.
- Directors reported on their attendance at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Region 5 meeting. Resolutions were voted on to establish legislative directives for the Cooperative's national trade association.
- The operations department reported on ongoing construction in the Pleasantville area that will enhance reliability.

Board
Briefs