

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

OCTOBER 2026

Thank You, Members!

What a great day with our cooperative members! Thank you to everyone who joined us for Pella Cooperative Electric's annual Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, September 19.

Nearly 1,100 members and guests joined us, with around 400 vehicles making their way through our drive-thru event. Our team enjoyed handing out meals, visiting with familiar faces and having the opportunity to say thank you to the people we're proud to serve.



Pella Cooperative Electric's 2026 Employee Team and Directors.

A special thank you also goes to the many local partners who helped make the day possible. We're grateful to:

- **Marion County Cattlemen** for grilling
- **Wander's Farms Locker** for supplying the hamburgers and hot dogs
- **Vander Ploeg Bakery** for the buns and cookies
- **Covenant Reformed Church** for allowing us to use their parking lot
- **Central College Dutch baseball team** for helping with traffic control

It takes a great group of people to make an event like this run smoothly, and we appreciate each of you!

Member Appreciation Day is one of our favorite traditions because it gives us a chance to celebrate what makes Pella Cooperative Electric special, our members. Thank you for spending part of your Saturday with us and for making this year's event another great one. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

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

President Duane Ver Ploeg	Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Darrell Boot
Vice President Steve Inskeep	Director Jon Van Woerkom
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Treasurer Carroll Hoksbergen	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.

Local Voices Shape Local Solutions

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Pella Cooperative Electric.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve - and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned

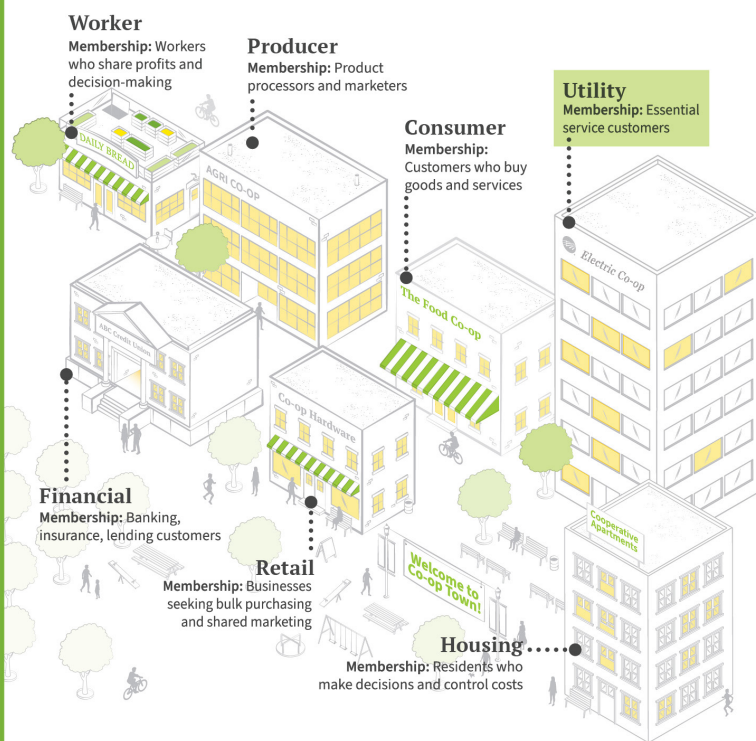
by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives - like Pella Cooperative Electric - provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

KINDS OF CO-OPS

Cooperatives come in many forms—from electric utilities and credit unions to farm supply stores and housing co-ops—but all cooperatives are built with a common purpose: to meet the needs of the members they serve.

Co-ops strengthen local communities, keep decisions close to home and invest in long-term success.

October is National Co-op Month.



Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. As not-for-profits, their goal is to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes Pella Cooperative Electric different. Our story began in 1936 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students. Consider our yearly scholarship opportunities and Youth Leadership Conference to Washington, D.C. each year.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The board members - your neighbors - who help guide decisions for the future. We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you. Whether it's Pella Cooperative Electric, your local credit union or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible - and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.

Welcome to the Cooperative Team!

It's been a busy month at Pella Cooperative Electric, and we're excited to welcome two new employees to the Cooperative team!

Meet Erica Pepe, Staff Accountant

Erica joins PCEA as our new staff accountant, supporting the Cooperative's accounting and financial operations and helping keep things running smoothly behind the scenes.

Originally from Newton, Erica is a 2023 graduate of Central College and has made Pella home since graduating. We're excited to have her talents and experience on our team as she begins her career at the Cooperative.



*Erica Pepe
Staff Accountant*

Meet Colton Metcalf, Apprentice Lineman

Colton joins our line crew as an apprentice lineman, where he'll work alongside our experienced crew while gaining hands-on experience and continuing to develop his skills in the trade.

A 2025 graduate of Pleasantville High School, Colton recently graduated from Northwest Iowa Community College's powerline program. His connection to PCEA began before his first day on the job. Colton was also a 2025 Pella Cooperative Electric scholarship recipient!

We're excited to have Erica and Colton join PCEA and look forward to the contributions they'll make as part of the team serving our members each day. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome to the Cooperative!



*Colton Metcalf
Apprentice Lineman*

Prioritizing Safety: Lineman Crew Complete Pole Top Rescue Competency Training

At Pella Cooperative Electric, safety isn't just a policy. It's a core value that drives everything we do. On September 8, our team took part in one of our most important annual exercises including the annual pole top rescue training.

This hands-on training equips our employees with the skills and confidence to respond quickly and effectively in emergency situations, particularly those that can occur at elevated heights and to other crew members. As part of the drill, our linemen practiced simulated rescue scenarios, including how to safely rescue a crew member in the event they become incapacitated.

Whether it's extreme weather, high-voltage equipment, or working at elevated heights, linework carries inherent risks. That's why regular safety training is critical. Not only to protect our employees, but also to ensure reliable service to our members. These exercises strengthen our response capabilities, sharpen our teamwork, and reinforce our commitment to keeping everyone safe.

We're proud of the professionalism and preparedness our team brings to every job and trainings like this are just one example of how we're continually investing in a culture of safety.



Shawn Williams completing pole top rescue training.

Need Help with Your Heating Bill?

The 2026-2027 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, 2026 to April 30, 2027.
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027.

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.

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



Income Maximums

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$31,920
2	\$43,280
3	\$54,640
4	\$66,000
5	\$77,360
6	\$88,720
7	\$100,080
8	\$111,440

For households with more than eight members, add \$11,360 for each additional member.

Board Briefs

The PCEA Board of Directors met on Thursday, October 1 and discussed the following:

PCEA Directors Attend Regional Meeting

Several PCEA Directors recently attended the NRECA Region 5 Meeting, which brings together electric coops from the Midwest for education and discussion on issues affecting electric cooperatives. The meeting is an important part of NRECA's member-driven policy process.

Financial Update

CFO Cassie Cason reviewed PCEA's year-to-date financial results with the Board. The Cooperative remains in a stable financial position, with results tracking expectations. Warmer summer temperatures have contributed to higher electricity sales during the summer months. Maintaining financial stability is important as PCEA continues to invest in the electric system and provide reliable service.