

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Follow These Tips for a Safe Harvest Season

September 18-24 is National Farm Health and Safety Week! According to the U.S. Bureau Labor Statistics, the agricultural industry is one of the most dangerous jobs in America with 573 fatalities each year. Fall harvest is the most dangerous season of the year for farmers. Follow these safety tips to avoid an electrical contact this season.

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.



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

President
Duane Ver Ploeg

Vice President
Steve Inskeep

Secretary
Bryce Arkema

Treasurer
Bob Van Soelen

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Darrell Boot

Director
Carroll Hoksbergen

Director
Jon Van Woerkom

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.

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY DRIVE-THRU BBQ

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

11AM - 1PM



WHERE

Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington Street, Pella



DRIVE-THRU

Drive thru the co-op's parking lot for a hamburger or hotdog on us, grilled by the Marion County Cattlemen. We'll hand you a member gift on your way through!

**Until the food lasts! Meals are provided for vehicle occupants only.*



PRIZES

During the week leading up to Member Appreciation Day, PCEA will randomly pick door prize winners to win \$25 off your electric bill! No entry needed. We'll let you know if you win! Watch our Facebook page for prize winner announcements.

Smart Communication with SmartHub

Have you ever had questions about your electric bill? Do you ever wonder your true usage? If you've ever had questions about your account, our innovative web and mobile app, SmartHub, can help provide some answers.



SmartHub is available through Pella Cooperative Electric's website and as a free mobile app through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Through SmartHub, you'll be able to view detailed usage information that will provide insight that can help better understand your bill. You can easily sign up for auto pay and manage your payment methods. You'll be able to put yourself in the driver's seat of your electric account.

You can also contact us with any issues regarding your service. Take control of your account and make interacting easy with SmartHub.

Learn more at
www.pella-cea.org/smarthub

Thank You for Your Service to the Cooperative

PCEA CEO Doug Stewart is celebrating his 10 year milestone at the Cooperative on September 5.



Doug Stewart
 Chief Executive Officer

Stewart started at Pella Cooperative Electric as the Chief Financial Officer in 2012. He later became the Assistant Manager until his recent move to the Cooperative's Chief Executive Officer in September of 2021. Thank you Doug, for your dedication to the co-op and its members for over a decade.



WANTED:

Rural Iowa high school students who have a passion for leadership



Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com

Just a Few Dollars Can Go a Long Way Donate to RECare

Take the opportunity to make a difference in our community and give back to those in need with the RECare program. The RECare program helps low-income members make weatherization improvements to their home and/or pay their electric bill. Unemployment and unexpected expenses are some of the many reasons why families fall behind on their energy bills.

It's easy to sign up. Fill out this form and mail it back to us, or sign up online at pella-cea.org.

RECare SIGN UP FORM *"YES! I want to donate."*

Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ _____
 I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Matching fund contribution. I will make a one-time contribution with a check enclosed. My contribution will be matched by: _____

Account #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Need Help with Your Heating Bill?

The 2022-2023 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, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

All other households: Nov. 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 19 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
- 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



INCOME MAXIMUMS	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$25,760
2	\$34,840
3	\$43,920
4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080
6	\$71,160
7	\$80,240
8	\$89,320

For households with more than eight members, add \$9,080 for each additional member.

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



The PCEA Board of Directors met on August 25 for the August board meeting and discussed the following:

- The board received a report from Chris Perrine, The Cooperative's representative from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.
- PCEA's operations department reported on the recent copper theft at the Richland substation.
- The board reviewed the inspection report on the Rural Safety Achievement Program.
- PCEA directors reviewed plans for the 2022 Member Appreciation Day and approved the Cooperative's financial report for July.