

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

CEO Miles Departs PCEA

Jon says goodbye to the co-op, and hello to retirement

It all started nearly 48 years ago when Jon Miles walked through the door at Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative in Pratt, Kansas to start his lineman apprenticeship. Little did he know that his entire career would be in the electric cooperative industry.

From there, Jon became a lineman and eventually moved into a staff position in the office at Ark Valley Electric Cooperative in Hutchinson, Kansas. His first job as a general manager happened when he and his wife Mary moved to Clay Center, Kansas to work at C&W Rural Electric Cooperative. Since that first manager position, Jon has served as CEO at co-

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Jon climbing a pole when he was a lineman.

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

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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.

Retirement CELEBRATION OF Jon K. Miles

Please join us
Friday, August 27, 1 - 4 p.m.
Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington St., Pella, IA 50219

Pella Cooperative Electric Partners with Forward With Faith on Second Home

Pella Cooperative Electric and Forward with Faith together have secured a \$360,000 loan through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program to build a women's home for adults living with disabilities.

Pella Cooperative Electric utilizes the USDA's economic loan programs to provide long-term contribution to the economic vitality of the communities it serves. For this project, the cooperative is providing \$60,000 from their revolving loan fund, in addition to the \$300,000 grant through USDA, totaling \$360,000 in funds for Forward with Faith.

USDA's RLF program provides grants to rural utility providers, such as Pella Cooperative Electric, that in turn re-lend the money at zero interest to businesses within their communities. For non-profit organizations to be approved, the organization must demonstrate diversification of the local economy, job creation and retention, or upgrading the public infrastructure to improve health, safety and/or medical care of rural residents.

Forward with Faith is a non-profit organization dedicated to building homes where adults with disabilities can lead lives of dignity as their specialized physical, emotional and social needs are met. Their initial home for male adults, which was completed in 2019, was also funded through a USDA RLF loan with PCEA and Southwest Iowa REC. The funds for this project will support the construction of a home where female adults with disabilities can live and prosper.

"These sorts of projects in our community are exactly why we choose to participate in USDA's loan programs," Pella Cooperative Electric Chief Executive Officer Jon Miles commented, "We are pleased when the electric cooperative can partner with USDA to serve and help nonprofit organizations like Forward with Faith obtain the funding to serve our community and enhance the vitality of our region."

Forward with Faith was established by Judy and Jerry Fynaardt after their son, Caleb, was in an accident in 2016. At the time, Caleb had been living in a facility designed to help adults with special needs, but after his accident and recovery time, he needed to move back home. Judy and Jerry were happy to have him home, but soon realized that Caleb needed more.



Forward with Faith's first home in Pella. Photo courtesy of Forward with Faith.

As an adult with special needs, Caleb needed to experience more of an adult life and opportunities, a goal which could be aided by moving into a home of his own and tailored to meet his special needs.

Currently, the Forward with Faith home houses four men who receive 24/7 care and live in a home that is an extension of their childhood home which reflects a living environment that they have always known. The second home will be built in Pella and will have the same footprint and services.

"Building these homes would be difficult without the outstanding support of community members and organizations like the Pella Cooperative Electric Association," noted FWF board member Doug Van Gorp. "We're thankful to be part of a caring community that is so supportive of those with special needs."

Forward with Faith hopes to start construction this fall and have the home completed by May 2022. This is Pella Cooperative Electric's fourteenth USDA economic development loan project and has spurred over \$5 million dollars of additional investment and helped retain and create over 100 jobs in Pella and surrounding communities through the program. This is the second USDA loan project between the electric co-op and Forward with Faith. For more information on how to volunteer or donate to Forward with Faith, visit www.forwardwithfaith.org.

Board Briefs

- The board heard updates on Thunder Creek Substation, which is located northeast of Pella. Construction is well underway and crews have been installing steel at the site. The substation is expected to go live in early 2022.
- The Operations Department gave updates on the Hunter's Ridge subdivision. Seventeen new lots are being put in the subdivision. The co-op will also be installing service to Smash Park within the coming months.

Go Electric With Your Water Heater

And we'll set you up with an electric water heater
FOR FREE.

Why make the switch?



- Not as expensive as natural gas water heaters.
- Safer for the home.
- The cost of electricity remains a good value, and does not fluctuate as much as other commodities.
- PCEA will cover the cost of your new Ruud electric water heater, and we'll deliver it for you.

What's the catch?



- No catch! PCEA is an electric co-op and encourages members to use electricity as opposed to other fuel sources.
- Member is responsible for the installation and cost to run electric to the new water heater.

Interested? Contact Stan Eysink.
1-800-619-1040 | service@pella-cea.org



Louie the Lightning Bug Makes an Appearance in Downtown Pella

PCEA employees helped out at three Thursdays in Pella events this summer. The co-op sponsored the Stars & Stripes night on July 1, and Louie the Lightning Bug made an appearance downtown. Co-op staff entertained kids and adults with the energy bike on July 15, and the co-op featured the Hazard Hamlet safety demonstration on July 29.



PCEA Lead Lineman Randy Reineke's son, Henry, tries out the energy bike.



PCEA Journeyman Lineman Lance Frem'l's daughter, Lily, pedals hard to light up the bulbs on the display.



Louie the Lightning Bug, the celebrity in PCEA's safety demonstrations and videos, greets kids at Thursdays in Pella.

.....CEO Miles Departs PCEA

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ops in Illinois, Arizona, Oklahoma and Iowa.

Miles joined PCEA as CEO in 2016. During his time at the cooperative, Miles has served on the Association Services Committee and as former chairman of the Manager's Section for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. He currently serves on the Work Smart Board and as Vice President on the Pella Area Community Economic Alliance in the local Pella community.

"Retiring is bittersweet. I'm looking forward to enjoying more time with family, but also feel such a sense of nostalgia as I look back on my career. I will miss being a part of such a great industry," Jon commented.

Pella Cooperative Electric extends sincere thanks to Jon for his service to the cooperative industry during his career, and wish him the best in retirement. Join the co-op in celebrating Jon's retirement on August 27 at Pella Cooperative Electric from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.



Jon poses with some of his grandkids in his office at PCEA.

Save the Date for Member Appreciation Day Drive-Thru BBQ



Saturday, September 18

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington St, Pella



DRIVE-THRU

Hamburgers and
hotdogs on us.



PRIZES

\$25 bill credits.

At the County Fair

PCEA Member Services Manager Stan Eysink presents Marion County Fair awards on July 21 to Dax Putz and Colby Putz, who live on co-op lines. Be sure to also catch us at the Iowa State Fair August 12-22 in the 4-H Exhibits Building.



HAPPY LABOR DAY

Our office is closed Monday, September 6.