

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

We'll See You at the Fair!

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the Bruce Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building at the Iowa State Fair. Pella Cooperative Electric is proud to be a Touchstone Energy member, which means we're part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member-consumers use energy wisely.



NOTHING COMPARES

AUG 12-22 | 2021

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair this summer, make sure to stop by and see us in the newly renovated 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds. Come into the air-conditioned facility for a break from the heat and look for us near the new concession area.

Electric co-op staff from across the state will hand out plastic hard hats for the kids while supplies last. They can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

Electric co-op members who take a quick survey on our iPads will automatically be entered into our fair contest. After the fair, three lucky winners will be randomly selected to choose one of three prize options:

- ★ Roomba 614 Robot Vacuum
- ★ DEWALT 20V MAX XR Blower
- ★ Breville Smart Oven Pro

We will also announce the winners from our new Shine the Light contest during the fair. Iowa electric co-op member-consumers and employees had an opportunity to nominate local community volunteers for the contest in June. Three deserving volunteers will each receive a \$1,500 donation for their charity as we celebrate our cooperative commitment to community.

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello!

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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 Carroll Hoksbergen
Secretary Bryce Arkema	Director Jon Van Woerkom
Treasurer Bob Van Soelen	CEO Jon Miles

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.



*Duane Ver Ploeg
PCEA Board President &
Representative on the
CIPCO Board of Directors*

2019 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report

2020 will long be remembered as the year of the coronavirus – a pandemic that became the center of

our world. We watched the effects unfold country by country, then coast to coast in the U.S. We wondered when and how it would affect our members, employees, family, and friends. After battling fear and a lack of information initially, it didn't take long to feel the impact in our communities.

Despite the pandemic, CIPCO had planned an ambitious year including the continued repowering of the Summit Lake plant, CIPCO's largest construction project in the history of the cooperative. Wapello Solar, LLC was under construction by Clēnera with an anticipated early 2021 completion date. With the planned closure of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), CIPCO worked to identify the right, cost-effective generation resources through power purchase agreements and market buys to fill anticipated gaps in the resource plan.

While the pandemic tested our strength in 2020 as a whole, the massive derecho that swept across the state in August with hurricane force winds tested our systems, but it also demonstrated the power of cooperation. CIPCO received overwhelming support from Dairyland

Power Cooperative, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative with exhaustive restoration activities for critical transmission lines. Unfortunately, the derecho brought an additional casualty; the early loss of DAEC due to catastrophic storm damage.

Despite the unexpected challenges during 2020, such as derecho costs topping \$5 million, and lower energy sales, CIPCO's financial results reflect another year of stability and competitive rates. The year represents the fifth consecutive year of declining rates and is the lowest rate in more than 10 years. Even with the challenges of 2020, we successfully executed on the long-term strategy of re-investing in the system to maintain and improve reliability. Capital expenditures for the year were more than \$93 million, one of the largest capital additions in CIPCO's history. This included significant work on Summit Lake.

Pella Cooperative Electric and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to our members across the system. Despite the attention given to high-profile issues and events in 2020, other projects are crucial to the successful operation of the CIPCO system. Throughout the year, a number of substation projects were completed. And despite the disruption of the derecho in the second half of the year, CIPCO finalized work on more than 32 miles of line. CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.34

hours per consumer without the derecho and 23.19 with the derecho included. Without the derecho, this would be the ninth consecutive year in which CIPCO's average outage total was below the target of 1.00 hours per consumer. For 2020, Pella Cooperative Electric's was 0.93 hours per member, without the derecho, however, it is 1.43 including the August derecho.

Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. During 2020, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$222,699 to Pella Cooperative Electric.

I'm proud of the actions taken in 2020 to sustain and grow our connections within the rural electric industry during a tumultuous year. Our actions have strengthened CIPCO's mission to provide members with wholesale power and services in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors. I am proud to say, as a result of decisions made and actions taken in 2020, Pella Cooperative Electric's members, as well as the entire CIPCO system, are well-served now and into the future.



- The board listened to a presentation about the Spirit of Pella from Christi Vander Voort with the Pella Area Community & Economic Alliance.
- The board reviewed highlights from the 2021 legislative session.
- CEO Jon Miles shared the co-op's recent interview with KNIA/KRLS radio. Dr. Bob Leonard featured CEO Jon Miles and Assistant Manager Doug Stewart in an In Depth feature aired on June 15.

Spirit of Pella Non-Profit Organization Launched



A group of over 35 volunteers along with partner Pella Area Community & Economic Alliance (PACE) officially launched Spirit of Pella, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

The organization is a group of passionate volunteers, businesses, and organizations working to enhance Pella's community through various projects, such as installing interactive public art, launching a Pella Christmas event, adding additional holiday lighting, and enhancing local gathering spaces.

"People are the lifeblood of our community. Domine Scholte, Pella's founding father, had the vision to build a Pella full of life. A Pella that was innovative, connected people, blossoming with color, celebrated heritage, and a town full of people. We are carrying on Scholte's vision and his spirit with the Spirit of Pella," commented Mary Mansfield, member of the Spirit of Pella steering committee.

The five initial projects defined by the organization are: murals and public art, Christmas lighting, enhancing the Molengracht Courtyard and Klokkenspel Plaza, and launching a Kerstmarkt – a Dutch European Christmas Market. The projects were identified after careful research and compiled data from retail coaching consultations completed for PACE Alliance's strategic initiatives.

"Research and recommendations from The Retail Coach



A rendering of the Molengracht courtyard. The Spirit of Pella is working to raise funds to enhance existing spaces in Pella.

have provided solid proof that Pella is a great place to work and live, but we can improve on focusing more efforts to create events during the winter season and enhance our underutilized spaces like the Molengracht Courtyard and the Klokkenspel Plaza," explained Karen Eischen, PACE Alliance Executive Director. "PACE Alliance understands the need but lacks the funding. We are happy to partner with Spirit of Pella organization to fundraise and make this happen for our community."

"This group of volunteers is passionate and has an incredible vision for our community. I'm happy to be a part of an organization that honors the past while looking toward the future, which lines right up with Pella Cooperative Electric's values," said Amy Blunck, Communications Director at Pella Cooperative Electric and Spirit of Pella committee member.

Spirit of Pella is funded through monetary and in-kind donations. Businesses and individuals may support Spirit of Pella by donating at www.spiritofpella.org.

4 Ways to Beat the Heat & Save Energy this Summer

- 1 Instead of cranking up the A/C, use ceiling fans to make rooms feel a few degrees cooler.
- 2 Delay heat-producing chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry until the evening hours.
- 3 Keep blinds and curtains closed during the day – especially for east- and west-facing windows.
- 4 Use your outdoor grill for summer cooking! Using your oven indoors heats up your kitchen, which will kick on the A/C in high gear.





We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?

When major storms knock out power, Pella Cooperative Electric line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. We encourage members to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages. Here are a few items for a checklist of safety:

- Follow Pella Cooperative Electric on Facebook and Twitter for outage updates. We update our social media channels in the event of any power outages that affect a large number of people.
- In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration.
- If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely. Every generator should also be equipped with a double throw switch, so it doesn't backfeed onto the electrical grid, causing safety issues for our line crews.
- After the storm, always assume downed power lines are live and dangerous.
- Make sure you're signed up for NOAA emergency alerts.
- Set aside basic household items you would need during a power outage, including flashlights, batteries, a power bank to charge your cell phone, and a battery-powered radio.

PCEA's Nondiscrimination Statement

As a recipient of Rural Development funding, Pella Cooperative Electric follows USDA's Nondiscrimination policy, which is as follows:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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