

# HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

## Pella Cooperative Electric Names Stewart as Next CEO

The Pella Cooperative Electric Association (PCEA) Board of Directors announced their selection of PCEA Assistant Manager Doug Stewart as the cooperative's next chief executive officer. Stewart's appointment will be effective September 1, 2021.



Doug Stewart  
PCEA Assistant Manager

"The selection of the cooperative's chief executive officer is one of the most important decisions a board of directors makes for the members they serve," PCEA Board President Duane Ver Ploeg commented, "With his years of experience in the cooperative industry and a passion for serving co-op members, we are confident Doug Stewart will adeptly lead the cooperative and we look forward to working with Doug as the company moves forward."

Stewart joined PCEA in 2012 and currently serves as the cooperative's chief financial officer and assistant manager. Prior to joining PCEA, Stewart worked at Adams Telephone Cooperative as the Lead Accountant. He holds over 18 years of experience in accounting - much of that experience is specific to cooperative accounting. Stewart is also a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association 2018 graduate of the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program.

"I am honored to be selected to serve an exceptional group of employees and an organization with such integrity and excellence in serving co-op members. I am eager to see what the future holds for the co-op," Stewart noted, "I also thank Jon for his years of service and dedication to this co-op and to the industry."

Stewart will succeed PCEA CEO Jon K. Miles who retires at the end of August this year after nearly 48 years in the electric cooperative industry. Miles' retirement celebration, in which members of the public are invited to attend, will be held at Pella Cooperative Electric on August 27 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

## 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](http://pella-cea.org) > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.*

# Congrats to Our Scholarship Recipients

As one of the seven Cooperative Principles, “Concern for Community” is demonstrated by Pella Cooperative Electric with its belief in empowering our youth. One of the ways the co-op adheres to this principle is through a \$1,000 scholarship to a student in each school district within the co-op’s service territory. These school districts include: Grinnell, Knoxville, Lynnville-Sully, Newton, North Mahaska, PCM, Pella Christian, Pella High, Pleasantville, Twin Cedars, and a homeschool student.

To be eligible, students must be a high school senior, carry a minimum 3.0 grade point average, and must reside in the co-op’s service territory. Scholarship recipients are reviewed and selected by the co-op and through Pella Dollars for Scholars. This year, applications were not received from every school district, therefore some school districts have no scholarship recipient. Congrats to the 2021 scholarship recipients, pictured below with PCEA Member Relations Manager Stan Eysink and PCEA Communications Director Amy Blunck.



**Cally Gibbs**  
Lynnville-Sully High School  
Parents: Casey & Cindy Gibbs



**Morgan Heinen**  
Pella Christian High School  
Parents: Jon & Tricia Heinen



**Lydia Roudabush**  
Grinnell High School  
Parents: Chris & Jody Roudabush



**Seth Schumacher**  
Pleasantville High School  
Parents: Ryan & Renae Schumacher



**Joshua Warner**  
Homeschool  
Parents: Rob & Candace Warner



**Callista Webb**  
Pella Community High School  
Parents: Kurtis & Melissa Webb

## Board Briefs

- Board Member Bryce Arkema attended the Hawkeye Insurance Association Annual Meeting on May 4. Hawkeye Insurance Association provides group insurance and pension benefits to electric co-op employees. Director Arkema sits on their Board of Directors.
- Board President Duane Ver Ploeg attended the CIPCO board meeting. Director Ver Ploeg was selected to chair their Investment Committee.
- Staff reported on the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative’s recent crew inspections.

# Member Spotlight

## Coal Ridge Church



Afternoon sunlight streams through the windows, illuminating rows of curved, wooden pews. An antique reed organ – still intact and operational – sits on the stage a few feet behind a wooden pulpit. Photos from years gone by decorate the walls. This is Coal Ridge Community Church and Museum in Knoxville.

This quaint, rustic church sits near Whitebreast on the south side of Lake Red Rock in Pella Cooperative Electric's service territory. Sitting at the corner of S71 and Inwood Drive, Coal Ridge Church's white steeple and lovely structure graces the countryside. Its history dates back to 1852 when the church was founded in the long-ago town called Coalport.

Sitting along the Des Moines River was Coalport, incorporated in 1857. In the mid-1800s, settlers from other states came to the area to work in the local coal mine. The town also had a general store, school, and pottery mill. The one-room schoolhouse served as the meeting place for church until the community built Coal Ridge Church in 1860 – at a cost of \$600.00.

Then the flood of 1903 came and the result was devastating to Coalport. The Des Moines River waterway now no longer ran by the small town of Coalport, and the settlement dissolved. Only Coal Ridge Church and the one-room schoolhouse remained.

Disaster struck again when in 1908 the church burned to the ground. Although Coalport was no longer in existence, the local residents in the area valued their church. They rebuilt immediately and the new building stood finished in 1909.

The cost totaled \$1,625.00. The construction of the church holds timbers from locally harvested trees, installed by local craftsmen. The careful design of the interior provides wonderful acoustics for the piano and pump organ.

The church's structure from 1909 still stands today. The church

has not had an active congregation in many years, but many families of the original congregation, such as the Franklin and Kuyper/Folkerts families, have dedicated time and resources to keep the building maintained. The Coal Ridge Ladies' Aid group has worked for many years to open the church's doors every summer for worship on Sunday.

PCEA member and local area resident Eunice Kuyper Folkerts was a member of the Ladies' Aid while it existed and still remembers her first visit to the group in 1970 at Fern Franklin's home where they worked on mending, prayed, read the bible together, and had lunch.



"Fern prayed for the neighborhood, the church, her family and for all the people in the world in the mission field, and so on. Lunch was on her own homemade hamburger buns. And when lunch was finished, she said, 'Okay, that was Ladies' Aid. And if you'd like to join it will cost you a quarter,'" Eunice recalled. "I looked in my billfold and had 26 cents! That's one of my favorite stories to tell

because I didn't usually carry cash on me but that day I had 26 cents."

Many members from the original congregation and their families are still involved in the church and often attend "Reunion Sunday" when the church first opens its doors for the summer. Many local residents in the area and campers often choose to worship in the historic church.

Eunice and her husband Davis remain active in the church and have a heart for preserving historical buildings. Eunice has worked on other historical buildings, such as the Pella Opera House and Strawtown Inn and Restaurant.

# Happy 4th of July!

PCEA'S office is closed July 5.

## .....Coal Ridge Continued

"Eunice has long had a serious heart for preservation," Davis Folkerts commented.

In the 1990s, the church was restored by the Coal Ridge Ladies' Aid group. Since then, the church has added an antique reed organ, which was restored by a local Pella pastor. Pews were installed that once sat in Second Reformed Church in Pella. The church added heating and cooling and recently installed a handicap accessible bathroom. Pella Cooperative Electric was happy to help when the volunteers at the church asked the co-op to assist them in replacing the bell tower rope. In 2006, the church and adjacent cemetery were marked on the National Register of Historic Places.

An attribute that graces the hearts of many residents in our rural Iowa region is that of community – and Coal Ridge Church sings that song. A historic building that has stood the test of time only remains because of those in the community who have dedicated time, money and prayers to keep it standing.



"If you're going to love something that's old, you really have to take care of it. Taking care of it is a labor of love." Eunice said.

This summer, take a step back into a simpler time and visit Coal Ridge Community Church for worship on Sundays. The church opens its doors at 5 pm starting on May 30 and holds services every Sunday evening until Labor Day. Visit their website at [friendsofcoalridge.org](http://friendsofcoalridge.org).

## Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

*Nominate a Local Volunteer by June 30!*

Do you know someone in our community who deserves to be recognized for making a difference? Nominate them for our Shine the Light contest by June 30 and they could win \$1,500 for their local charity or nonprofit.

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, this new contest celebrates the people who make our communities better. Three winners will be announced during the Iowa State Fair in August and each will receive a \$1,500 donation for their charity or nonprofit. The winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine.

### How to Nominate

Members and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from Pella Cooperative Electric, you're a co-op member and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member. Minors may be nominated

with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Go to [www.IowaShineTheLight.com](http://www.IowaShineTheLight.com) by June 30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. Nominators will need to provide contact information and answer this question in 500 words or less: How has your nominee made a positive difference in the community and why do they deserve to be recognized? A panel of judges will review all contest entries and we'll announce the three winners during the Iowa State Fair in August.

Help us shine the light on community volunteers; make a nomination by June 30!

