

# HIGHLINES

April 2020

A publication for members of Pella Cooperative Electric

## \*\*\*84th Annual Meeting Postponed\*\*\*

The Pella Cooperative Electric Board of Directors approved postponing the 84th Annual Meeting in an effort to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

“During these uncertain times with the threat of coronavirus on everyone’s mind, the safety and continued health of our members, employees and community is our priority at this time,” said Jon Miles, CEO of Pella Cooperative Electric. “The annual meeting will be rescheduled for a later date.”

PCEA provides a critical service to our members. We are taking all reasonable steps to ensure the health of our employees so that we

can continue meeting the needs of you, our members, during this pandemic.

One of the steps we have taken was to close the business lobby to the general public. If you need assistance, please contact our office at (641) 628-1040 or (800) 619-1040. We can also be contacted at by email at [service@pella-cea.org](mailto:service@pella-cea.org).

Pella Cooperative Electric will continue to monitor the situation closely and will follow the recommendations set forth in the State Disaster Emergency Plan issued by Governor Reynolds.

## LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 13

On April 13 if you see a lineman out and about, take a minute to thank him! America’s electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Linemen serve on the frontlines of our nation’s energy needs, and on April 13, Pella Cooperative Electric, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep our lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they’re restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, linemen are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn’t work around holidays, vacations, birthdays or even pandemics. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineman.

PCEA is proud to honor the linemen who maintain miles of power lines in our service territory.

We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineman for the important work they do to power our lives.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of March 20, Pella Cooperative Electric has temporarily suspended late fees and service disconnections for non-payment until May 31, 2020.

We encourage members to try to keep their account in good status. If you find yourself in financial difficulties, please contact our office to see what payment options may be available to you.

At Pella Cooperative Electric we understand the importance of electrical service, especially during these unprecedented times, and this is one way that we can help you, our members.

# We're Here

Normally at this time of year our cooperative is preparing our members for the spring storm season and reminding them how to be safe when severe weather threatens. Up until a few months ago, no one had ever heard of COVID-19, much less understood its consequences or think it could happen here. At the time of this writing, we are inundated with daily state and national briefings, news tickers scrawling across our television screens, and empty shelves in the supermarkets.

It's during times like these that electric cooperatives like PCEA shine. Our commitment to ensuring you receive the safest, most affordable and reliable electric service doesn't waiver in the face of a national pandemic. The conversation about electricity as a convenience has pivoted to talking about electricity in order to survive. We know how much our members depend on us to provide the power they need for home comforts like heating, cooling or cooking on their electric stove. Those who are working from home rely on dependable electric service so technology can keep them connected to their jobs and their paychecks.

I assure you, we are here just like we were yesterday, and just like we will be tomorrow.

To be sure, the world looks different in this new light. Practices within our cooperative operations have changed as we do our part to slow the spread of this virus. Our lobby doors now remain locked at all times to prevent the public from coming in. We have hand sanitizer available for every employee and encourage frequent hand washing. Staff is also directed to disinfect their workstations daily and maintain their distance from each other.



**Jon Miles, CEO**  
**Pella Cooperative**  
**Electric**

Most of our meetings with members or board members are conducted over the phone or through Zoom. The line crew must wipe down and disinfect their vehicles and trucks daily.

The PCEA Board made the difficult decision to postpone our annual meeting after Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds declared no gatherings of more than 10 people. It was a disappointment to everyone involved who worked so hard to ensure the event went smoothly, and who enjoy seeing and reconnecting with our members for a brief time. We are currently working to reschedule the annual meeting for a later date, and we will be sure to let you know as soon as a decision is made.

In the meantime, I encourage you to connect with us through our Facebook page, where we will post updates on your cooperative as we go through this together. We will also keep our website up to date with any news. As always, our phone lines are open, so please give us a call if you have any questions regarding your electric service.

I know we are all anxious for life to return to normal. When it does, I hope you'll continue to consider Pella Cooperative Electric as more than your energy provider, but as your trusted partner. On behalf of the employees and board of directors, I wish you and your family good health now and in the days to come.

## Show You Care with RECare

Take the opportunity to make a difference in our community with the RECare program. RECare was established to help low-income cooperative members pay their electric bills and make weatherization improvements to their home. Unemployment and unexpected expenses are some of the many reasons why families fall behind on their energy bills.

By giving to the RECare program, your donations will go directly to families in our community. All funds are distributed by the cooperative to a local community action agency. Contributions can be made through a monthly pledge on your electric bill or as a one-time donation. Matching donations are also accepted.

Even a dollar a month can make a difference for those in need, and your contributions are tax deductible.

Fill out this form and return with your payment or sign up on our website, [www.pella-cea.org](http://www.pella-cea.org).

### MEMBER AUTHORIZATION FORM

YES! I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

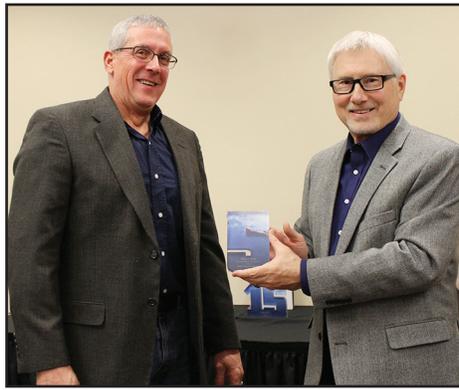
Mail your payment or sign up online at [www.pella-cea.org](http://www.pella-cea.org).

- The 2019 Financial Audit was approved.
- The Board was informed that the Knoxville substation transformer arrived February 27, 2020.
- The 2019 Reliability report was approved.





CEO Jon Miles with Director Bob Van Soelen.



CEO Jon Miles with Director Darrell Boot.



CEO Jon Miles with Director Duane Ver Ploeg.



CEO Jon Miles with Randy Reineke.



CEO Jon Miles with Terry Fraker.



CEO Jon Miles with Tim Ver Meer.

## Recognition for PCEA Board Members, Staff

**P**CEA hosted its annual holiday party on March 14 for the directors and employees. During the celebration, service awards were given to directors Darrell Boot, who has served five years on the board, and Duane Ver Ploeg, who has served on the board for 35 years. Also receiving service awards this year were Randy Reineke for 15 years of service, Terry Fraker for 20 years of service and Tim Ver Meer for 40 years of service.

During the event, Director Bob Van Soelen was also presented with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board Leadership Certificate by PCEA CEO Jon Miles.



**APRIL IS NATIONAL  
SAFE DIGGING  
MONTH**



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



**Bright Idea** This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants. Using them helps reduce the energy and chemicals needed to treat tap water. They're economical, too, with DIY kits starting at around \$50. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, rain barrels can save about 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months.

# Required Grain Bin Notice

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact Pella Cooperative Electric.

PCEA will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators, as well as permanent equipment.

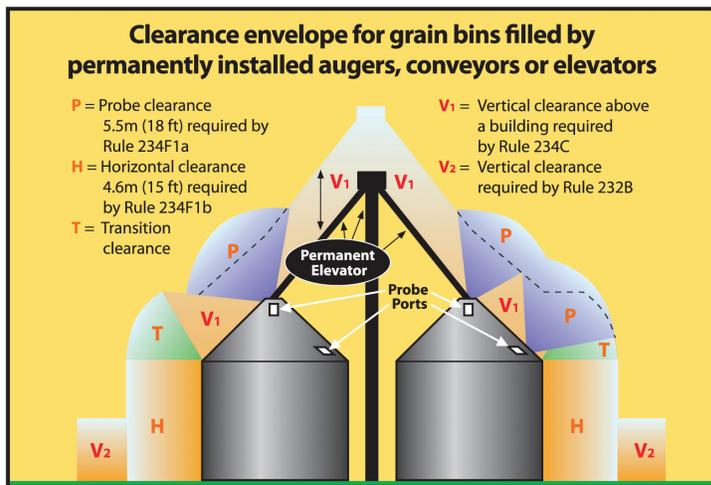
Electric wires should be at least 15 feet from the non-loading side of the grain bin; at least 18 feet from the highest filling or probing port on the bin; and a clearance of at least the bin height plus 18 feet from the loading side of the grain bin. Electric service cannot be provided to a grain bin installation that does not meet these clearances.

The drawing at right shows the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact PCEA.

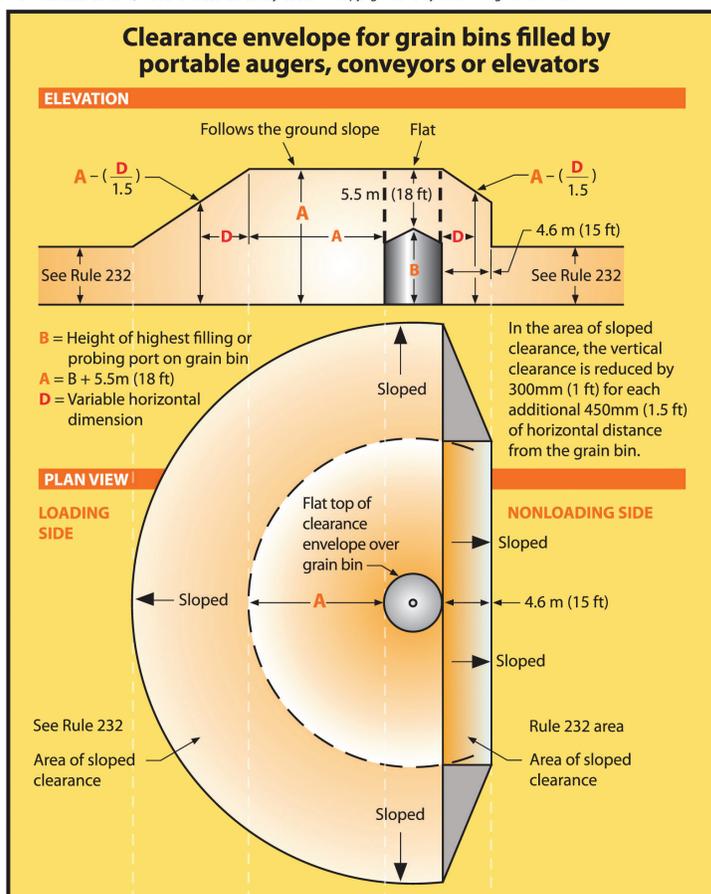
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board).*

If the electric wires around your existing or proposed grain bin do not meet the requirements shown in the diagrams, or if you have any questions, please contact our office at (800) 619-1040.

*Disclaimer for Artwork: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.*



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved. The IEEE disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting from the placement and use in the described manner.

**Pella Cooperative Electric will be closed April 10 in observance of Good Friday.**



## HIGHLINES

**Published monthly by:**  
Pella Cooperative Electric  
2615 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 106  
Pella, Iowa 50219-0106  
**Edited by:** Sue Warrick

**Phones answered 24 hours a day**  
641-628-1040  
800-619-1040  
Web site: [www.pella-cea.org](http://www.pella-cea.org)  
Email: [service@pella-cea.org](mailto:service@pella-cea.org)

**Open weekdays 7:30 am - 4:30 pm; excluding holidays**

Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative. The co-op exists to provide electric service at cost. It is the members (anyone who gets electricity from the cooperative), not outside investors, that own and control the co-op. Cooperatives are governed by a member-elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See [pella-cea.org](http://pella-cea.org) > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

**Board of Directors:** Bryce Arkema, Darrell Boot, Carroll Hoksbergen, Steve Inskeep, Bob Van Soelen, Norman Van Zante, Duane Ver Ploeg, and CEO Jon Miles.