

HIGHLINES

December 2020

A publication for members of Pella Cooperative Electric

Get Your Energy Savings This Year

Now is the time to take advantage of Pella Cooperative Electric's rebates, before the year is over. Many lighting programs will not be continued in 2021, so be sure to get your lighting projects in before year-end. Full rebate requirements are listed online at pella-cea.org. If you have questions, contact Member Relations Manager Stan Eysink at (800) 619-1040.



RESIDENTIAL

- Energy Star central air conditioners
- Energy Star electric clothes washers
- Energy Star electric clothes dryers
- Air-source heat pumps
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Drain water heat recovery systems
- Indoor air quality units
- Weatherization projects
- Interior lighting
- Outdoor security lighting
- Electric vehicle chargers



COMMERCIAL

- Air-source heat pumps
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Central air conditioning
- Air cooled chillers
- Water cooled chillers
- Heat recovery ventilators
- Variable speed drives
- Electric vehicle chargers
- Commercial refrigeration
- Energy Star dishwashers
- Commercial lighting
- Outdoor security LED lighting
- Custom energy efficiency rebates



AGRICULTURAL

- Ventilation and circulation fans
- Dairy equipment
- Livestock equipment
- Lighting

Board Positions Up for Election



One of the cooperative business functions that sets Pella Cooperative Electric apart from municipal or investor-owned utilities is the co-op's Board of Directors. These men and women are voted on by the membership, and they guide and govern the co-op.

Two positions on Pella Cooperative Electric's Board of Directors are up for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Any members who have ever considered serving on a board and would be interested in helping drive the direction of your cooperative, consider running for a director's seat.

All PCEA board terms are three years. Currently, District 2 represented by Darrell Boot and an At-Large position filled by Carroll Hoksbergen, will be on the ballot.

District 2 represents members to the north and northeast portions of the service territory and the At-Large position represents the entire service territory. See page 4 for a map of the districts.

The current board has assembled a nominating committee that will help identify qualified candidates interested in putting their name on the ballot. Any member who can get more than 50 signatures can petition their name to be on the ballot as described in the PCEA Bylaws, Article III, Section 3:

"Any fifty (50) or more member-consumers may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty-five (35) days prior to the meeting at which the directors are to be elected, and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted; such nominations made by such member-consumers to be subject to the same qualifications, district and residence requirements as nominations by the Nominating Committee heretofore prescribed."

The Board of Directors serves as a voice for the co-op membership, and each position is critical in governing and maintaining a stable and successful organization. Look for more information in the near future about voting in 2021.

Howell Substation Work Begins

Groundwork has started at Pella Cooperative Electric's new Howell Substation, which is located on Highway 163, just south of Pella Christian High School. The existing Howell Substation was originally constructed in 1981. PCEA decided to purchase land for a new location so the substation can be expanded and serve load growth. PCEA hopes to have the new substation completed in spring 2021. Work is expected to begin on another new substation, Thunder Creek located north of Pella, in 2021.



What is a substation?

A substation is a facility that serves as a point where electric voltage "steps down" or lowers from a high voltage transmission line to a lower voltage distribution line, where it is then distributed to members' homes and businesses. These areas are fenced in and equipped with transformers, bus, circuit breakers, switches and other pieces of equipment. Substations are highly dangerous and only co-op employees should ever be in a substation. The co-op has nine substations located throughout the service territory.

Youth Tour 2021 Canceled

For over 50 years, teens from rural America have been coming to Washington, D.C. on the "trip of a lifetime," courtesy of their local sponsoring electric co-op. Over the years, these delegates have toured some of the finest museums in the world and visited America's most historic monuments. They have met with their elected officials and explored Capitol Hill. They have learned about the impact electric co-ops have on their communities.



Due to the ongoing pandemic and our overarching commitment to keep our delegates, staff, and communities safe, Iowa's electric co-ops have decided to not participate in the 2021 D.C. Youth Tour. The co-ops start planning for Youth Tour about eight months in advance, and with the uncertainty of what 2021 will bring (i.e. the group's accessibility to museums and historic sites, increased costs, COVID restrictions, etc.), a decision was needed. The co-op hopes to be able to send a student to D.C. in 2022.

PCEA Office Lobby Closed

Due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases in Marion County and for the health and safety of our employees and the general public, Pella Cooperative Electric's lobby will be closed to the public.



Even though our office lobby is closed to the public, our service to our members remains the same. Members may contact us for any questions or assistance by calling 1-800-619-1040, or by email at service@pella-cea.org. As a reminder, there are many easy and convenient ways to pay:

SmartHub - Log into your account through SmartHub on your web browser, or through the app.

Auto Pay - Set up a recurring payment from your credit or debit card in the SmartHub app. You may also set up auto draft from your bank by filling out a form found online at pella-cea.org.

Dropbox - Drop off your payment in our dropbox located in the co-op's parking lot, 2615 Washington St., Pella.

Mail - Mail us your payment to PO Box 106, Pella.

Phone - Call anytime at 1-800-619-1040 to make a sure payment.

Bright Idea



Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like house guests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.

Member Spotlight

Grace Therapeutic Riding



Photo courtesy of Grace Therapeutic Riding.

A therapy participant climbs up on a gentle, well-mannered horse and takes off around the arena. A volunteer walks alongside of the horse – otherwise known as side-walking – to make sure the participant doesn't fall as they ride around Grace Therapeutic Riding's barn.

It's called hippotherapy – a form of physical therapy that utilizes the natural gait and movement of a horse to provide motor and sensory input. It encourages children to develop independence and confidence, and to carry out daily activities, both at home and at school. Grace Therapeutic Riding, a new member to the co-op, makes it their mission to enrich the lives of people with the use of equine-assisted therapies and training.



Allison Van Wyngarden with Grace Therapeutic Riding poses with one of their horses. Photo courtesy of Grace Therapeutic Riding.

"Therapeutic riding is a big umbrella of different ways you can use horses for various therapies. A few years ago, God put this idea on my heart. I knew my dad had really nice horses that we could go trail riding on, and I felt like there was more we could do with them," Allison Van Wyngarden, the Director and Therapeutic Riding Instructor, explained.

Through a partnership with Kinetic Edge Occupational and Physical Therapy that began in May 2019, participants are able to receive hippotherapy by Ashley Beekman (Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant) with Kinetic Edge and Allison (Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor through Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) with Grace Therapeutic Riding.

"As a business we've done a lot of work in collaboration with

Vermeer Corporation; they've been really influential in the success of our business and this is just another extension of that. I want to say thank you to the entire Vermeer clan for the way that you're providing opportunities for us, and this is an excellent thing to be a part of – we're thankful," said Troy Vander Molen, CEO of Kinetic Edge Physical Therapy.

Grace Therapeutic Riding started operation at Windy Acres and moved to the Vermeer Ranch, built by Bob and Lois Vermeer, just a few miles down the road from the co-op's office on Highway G28. They moved into their new facility - which is outfitted with a free electric water heater from Pella Cooperative Electric and LED lighting - this past summer. On November 18, 2020, Pella Cooperative Electric Communications Director Amy Blunck joined the Pella Area Community & Economic Alliance to hold the facility's official ribbon cutting ceremony, welcoming their new facility to Pella.

"The passion was visible on everyone's faces as they shared their story and goals for the riding center at the Dutch Greeter's ribbon cutting," Blunck commented, "As a community-centered co-op ourselves, our hearts are always warmed to see one of our members have a passion to serve our local community. We're pleased to welcome them to the co-op membership."



Allison works with a therapy participant in the ranch's arena. Photo courtesy of Grace Therapeutic Riding.

The team at the riding center hopes to expand their operations in the future to serve mental health and other therapeutic riding programs. The facility is open a few days a week and is currently accepting new participants. If you are interested in seeking equine therapy or volunteering at the ranch, contact Allison Van Wyngarden with Grace

Therapeutic Riding at 641-230-0279 or reach out to Kinetic Edge at 641-621-0230.

Nominating Committee Selected & Searching for Candidates

The 2021 Nominating Committee has been selected and began recruiting interest for director candidates to fill two board positions whose terms expire at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

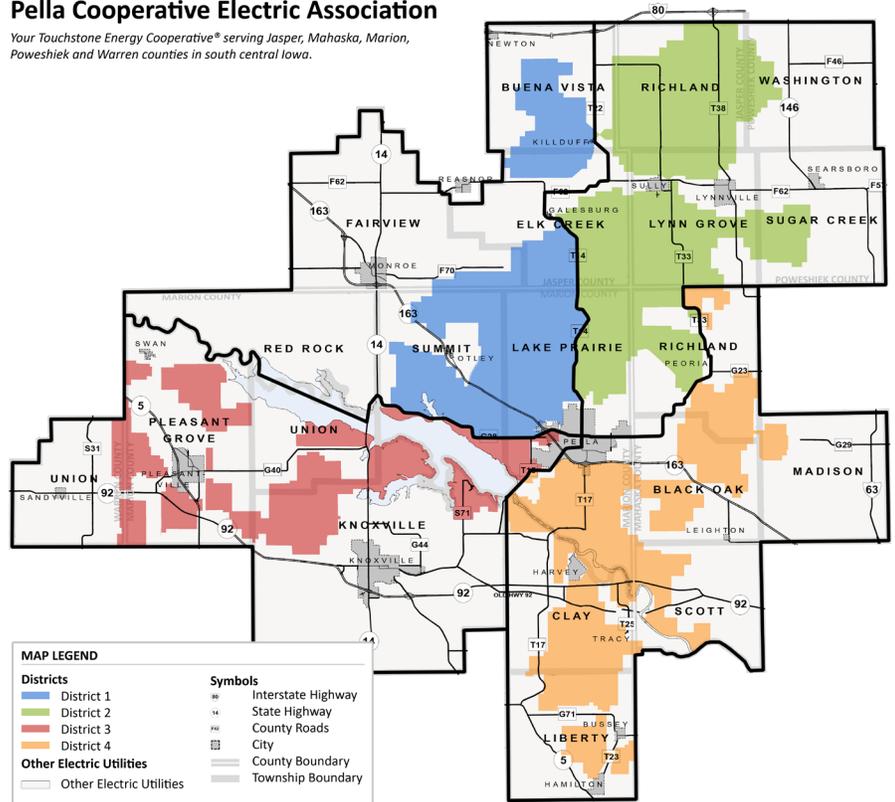
Thank you to these members for their willingness to serve: Darren Boot, Steve Dykstra, Eric Harsin, Jim O'Halloran, Wade Puyear, Carl Van Zee, Maury Van Der Wilt, Kim Vande Voort, and Craig Zylstra.

The Nominating Committee considers the points listed below when reviewing qualifications for candidates. View the full requirements in the co-op's ByLaws online at pella-cea.org. Any person, to become and remain a Director of the Cooperative, shall, among other things:

1. Comply with applicable requirements of law, the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Cooperative's duly adopted policies, and the Cooperative's duly made decisions;
2. Assume a fiduciary duty to act, in good faith, in the best interests of the Cooperative and its member-consumers;
3. Be loyal to the Cooperative and not have conflicting commercial or personal interests;
4. Possess the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to manage the affairs of the Cooperative;
5. Be willing to devote such time and effort to the duties of a Director as may be necessary to manage the Cooperative's affairs;
6. Be able to represent the entire membership on an impartial basis;
7. Be willing and able to attend regularly scheduled and special meetings of the Board of Directors, national, state, and other meetings of organizations with associated interests that further the Cooperative movement; training institutes or seminars which will aid in keeping him/her well informed on matters affecting the Cooperative; and
8. Not use, or cause to be used, his/her position as Director to further any political or business ambition.

Pella Cooperative Electric Association

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative® serving Jasper, Mahaska, Marion, Poweshiek and Warren counties in south central Iowa.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Our office will be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

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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 > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

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