

HIGHLINES

June 2020

A publication for members of Pella Cooperative Electric

84th Annual Meeting to be Recorded; Available Online

At its April 30 meeting, the board voted to record the Annual Meeting and make it available online. The recorded meeting will be available to view July 7, 2020, on our web page at pella-cea.org.

The meeting will have a condensed agenda that will include coverage of Pella Cooperative Electric's financial condition, results of the election and the prize drawing at the conclusion of the meeting.

In advance of the Annual Meeting, a ballots will be mailed to Pella Cooperative Electric members that will include the ballot with instructions, the date we must receive the ballot back in the office and a return envelope. All ballots received by the indicated date will be entered into the prize drawing.

While our past Annual Meetings have given us the opportunity to spend time with our members, share a meal, and conduct the business of the cooperative, the Board of Directors chose to postpone the original April 2 meeting due to health and safety concerns of you, our members.



Return Your Ballots for a Chance to Win!

This year's annual meeting prizes will be announced during the Virtual Annual Meeting July 7, 2020.

In order to register for a chance to win one of our great gifts, make sure you complete and mail your ballot so it is received in our office no later than **June 26, 2020**. A random drawing of winners will be held from the ballots received.

Prizes are:

2 – 2 Iowa State Fair tickets

1 – Flat screen TV

6 – Gift certificates toward your Pella Cooperative Electric bill

1 – Bruxvoort's Decorating Center gift certificate



Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for members of the Pella Cooperative Electric Association will be held virtually July 7, 2020, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The report of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of three directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years for District 1, District 4 and At-Large positions.
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

In conjunction with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been appointed as director candidates by the Board of Pella Cooperative Electric, pursuant to the By-laws:

<u>District 1:</u>	<u>District 4:</u>	<u>At-Large</u>
Brad Flory	Duane Ver Ploeg	Bryce Arkema
Brian Hauser	Unopposed	Unopposed
Dale Lensing		
Mike Lubberden		
Dwain Russell		
Jon Van Woerkom		

You are urged to complete and return the ballot for directors that you will be receiving in the mail. Ballots received in the Pella Cooperative Electric Office no later than June 26, 2020 will be counted. Please watch the broadcast of the 2020 Annual Report as recorded and posted on our website at pella-cea.org.

Dated at Pella, Iowa this 8th day of June, 2020.

Bryce Arkema, Secretary



Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Proposed Bylaws Change

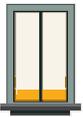
The Pella Cooperative Electric Board of Directors voted to approve the following Bylaws change at the Board meeting held April 23, 2020.

Section 3. Notice of Members' Meeting. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or by the persons calling the meeting, to each member, provided, however, that with respect to all meetings at which directors are to be elected such notice shall be so delivered not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. In case of a joint membership, notice given to either husband or wife shall be deemed notice to both joint members.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!

NO-COST TIPS



Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you're home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.

LOW-COST TIPS



Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



Celebrate with the Safe Use of Metallic Balloons

Colorful metallic or Mylar balloons can brighten any celebration, from drive-by birthday parties and anniversaries to celebrating graduations. We would like to remind you that by using them improperly you can cause inconveniences and safety hazards. With proper precautions, metallic balloons can be used without problems.

Metallic balloons have a coating that conducts electricity. If the balloons are released and come in contact with overhead electric lines, they can cause serious damage, including power outages and fires.

The following tips will help you use metallic balloons safely:

- Always keep the balloons weighted so they don't accidentally fly away.
- Never release metallic balloons or any balloons into the air. When you are done with the balloons, deflate them and throw them away.
- If balloons do get into power lines, DO NOT attempt to retrieve them yourself. Contact your power company and/or emergency services.

If you see a Mylar balloon that has contacted a power line, keep yourself, your equipment, and all other items and people, at least 20 feet away. Always assume the power lines are energized.

Pella Cooperative Electric wishes you happiness and safety in all of your celebrations.



Fencing Project Completed

The Pella Board of Directors recently approved the installation of a security fence on the south side of the PCEA property. The fence was installed to help protect PCEA property, the employees and the community. This new addition to the property will also help eliminate the flow of traffic through the driveways, making it safer for the line crew and other employees when backing out of the buildings.



As more and more electric lines are buried in neighborhoods and throughout your local electric cooperative's territory, more and more big green metal boxes, about the size of a small refrigerator, are likely to be seen. These are pad-mounted transformers.

They may look different, but they serve the same purpose as those gray cans normally seen on top of power poles. They step high-voltage electricity down so it is more useful and safer for your home. The only difference is that the pad-mounted transformer connects to underground power lines rather than overhead lines.

These green boxes look pretty harmless, but they need to be treated with the same respect you show overhead power lines. They route a lot of electricity and a lot of danger lurks inside.

- Never open one. Report it to your electric cooperative if you find it unlocked or the lock broken.
- Teach children to stay away from them.
- Don't use them as a bench when looking for a place to sit.
- Don't play on them and never use them as a step stool to reach something overhead!

That big green box is an important part of the electric grid and needs to be treated with respect.

Norton Earns 2021 Youth Tour Slot

Pella Cooperative Electric is proud to announce that the winner of this year's Youth Tour is Gavin Norton of Knoxville. Gavin is the son of Lora Mattson and Louis Norton and is currently a sophomore at Pella Community High School. Gavin keeps very busy with activities such as football, wrestling, track, band and 4-H. He also does volunteer work in the community and still finds time for his hobbies, family, and friends.



The 2020 Youth Tour was scheduled for June 18-25, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Youth Tour was canceled. Gavin has accepted the offer to attend the 2021 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

- Pella Cooperative Electric's line patrol has been completed
- Tree trimming is scheduled to take place on the northern part of the service territory.
- Fencing around the pole yard has begun



Bright Idea



Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE

Eliminate the hassle of remembering to pay your bill each month. Ask about our auto credit card and auto bank draft payment plans. It's easy to sign up!

We also have SmartHub available to our members, where you can make payment on your monthly bill and also track your monthly energy usage.

Visit our website at pella-cea.org or contact our office at (641) 628-1040 for more information!

How to Get Rid of Humidity in Your Home

You probably know the signs of too much humidity in your home in spring and summer: dampness in the basement, condensation on windows, signs of mold. Too much humidity promotes mold, mildew and other biological growth that can lead to serious building damage and promote allergic reactions, asthma attacks and even pneumonia.

Too much humidity can also reduce energy efficiency. For example, running the air conditioner or a dehumidifier will reduce humidity but at a cost.

It's important to keep humidity at bay.

First, understand why your house may be more susceptible to humidity problems. The following factors can be contributors:

- Less than 800 square feet of total living area
- Less than 250 square feet of living area per occupant
- Tight wall and ceiling construction and weatherstripping on windows and doors causing low level of infiltration
- Heating systems that use outside combustion air
- Low-sloped roof or unventilated attics
- Cracked heat exchanger in gas space-heating equipment
- Electrically heated home
- Unvented appliances
- Excessive use of humidifier

Second, know the source. Most interior moisture comes from bathing, cleaning, cooking and water evaporation and emission. Outside moisture enters through leaks in your home's shell.

For interior moisture sources, look for stopped-up drains or leaky plumbing.

To correct problems:

- Add ventilation fans in the kitchen, bathrooms and laundry rooms, and vent your clothes dryer to the outside.

- Use exhaust fans about 10 minutes to remove moisture and odors after bathing or showering
- Repair stopped-up drains and leaky plumbing hoses
- Reduce the number of house plants and pilot lights
- Use air conditioning or a dehumidifier
- For exterior moisture sources, look for leaks around windows, doors, electric outlets and air conditioning units.

To correct problems:

- Change air conditioning unit filters regularly
- Weather-strip and caulk to fix leaks in and around the roof, walls, windows, doors, outlets, air conditioning units and pipes.
- During humid weather, run the air conditioner regularly, but if the night time low is forecasted to be 55 degrees or below, open windows
- Properly vent attic and crawlspaces and cover exposed earth in crawlspaces with a vapor barrier
- Install downspouts that flow away from the foundation
- Slope the grade away from the house
- If you have single-pane windows, install storm panels, double insulating glass or triple-glazed panels; remember, wood or vinyl-sheathed wood is a better insulator than metal for windows and door.



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

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. 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, Norman Van Zante, Duane Ver Ploeg, and CEO Jon Miles.