

Member Appreciation Day Revamped

Changed to a Drive-Thru Event

Due to COVID-19, PCEA had to cancel our previously scheduled Member Appreciation Day. To still appreciate our members, we invite you and your family to a drive-thru event on Saturday, September 26 at Pella Cooperative Electric. The Marion County Cattlemen will be grilling up hamburgers and hotdogs for our members. The meat is sourced locally from two steers purchased from 4H kids in Marion County.

Drive thru the co-op's parking lot for a hamburger or hotdog on us, and pick up a member gift! The meals will be provided for vehicle occupants only. One gift per membership.

Employees and board members will maintain social distancing, and will be wearing face masks for your protection. Simply drive thru the co-op's parking lot, and we'll hand you a grab bag lunch for you and the other occupants in the vehicle.

You May Win a Door Prize!

During the week leading up to Member Appreciation Day, PCEA will randomly pick door prize winners from the membership. No entry needed - each membership is eligible to win.

PCEA will draw one winner each day, September 21-25. Check the co-op's Facebook page for door prize winner announcements throughout the week. Winners will be notified directly.

Pella Cooperative Electric Member Appreciation DRIVE-THRU BBQ



September 26
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



WHERE

Pella Cooperative Electric
2615 Washington St, Pella



DRIVE-THRU

Drive thru the co-op's parking lot for a hamburger or hotdog on us, grilled by the Marion County Cattlemen. We'll hand you a member gift on your way through!

*Meals are provided for vehicle occupants only.



PRIZES

During the week leading up to Member Appreciation Day, PCEA will randomly pick door prize winners! No entry needed. We'll let you know if you win! Watch our Facebook page for prize winner announcements.

Brutal Winds Damage Co-op Service Territory

Several hundred members were without power, and probably without some tree limbs as well, on August 10 when a "derecho" brought 100 mile per hour winds across Iowa.

The calls started coming into PCEA's office around 11:30 that morning when winds picked up in the area. The dangerous, strong winds caused tree limbs to fall on power lines, which either takes a power line completely down or causes the system to open the circuit and cause a power outage.

Around 1,000 PCEA members experienced a power outage on that Monday, but by evening all power was restored. Crews worked around the clock to make repairs and restore power to PCEA members. Other co-ops and electric utilities were not that lucky. Thousands of Iowans were without power for several days, and in some areas over a week.

"Thankfully, we only had one pole break from the storm. Diligent testing and treating of our poles makes a significant difference for reliability and our equipment can better withstand Iowa weather. Although, with weather like the derecho, sometimes you don't stand a chance," PCEA Line Superintendent Tim Ver Meer commented.

PCEA sent Journeyman Lineman Matt Ainsworth and Lead Lineman Shawn Williams to aid T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative in their restoration efforts. The majority of their members were without power, and the extra help from PCEA was appreciated.

"I want to thank your board and members, and especially Shawn, Matt and their families, for helping T.I.P. during this storm," T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative General Manager Dean Huls said.



Above: Strong winds took down part of a transmission line owned by MidAmerican Energy. Photo by PCEA Journeyman Lineman Matt Ainsworth.

Below: PCEA Journeyman Lineman Matt Ainsworth and Lead Lineman Shawn Williams head out early on August 13 to aid T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative in their restoration efforts.



Just a Few Dollars Can Go a Long Way

Donate to RECare

During this COVID-19 pandemic, take the opportunity to make a difference in our community and give back to those in need with the RECare program. The RECare program helps low-income members make weatherization improvements to their home and/or pay their electric bill. Unemployment and unexpected expenses are some of the many reasons why families fall behind on their energy bills.

It's easy to sign up. Fill out this form and mail it back to us, or sign up online at pella-cea.org.

RECare SIGN UP FORM "YES! I want to donate."

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: _____

Bright Idea



Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation. Source: energy.gov

Who POWERS you?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community? Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.



As the national network of more than 700 co-ops, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives value the people who elevate and energize our communities. That's why Pella Cooperative Electric and all the other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives across the nation are excited to announce the fifth annual rendition of the very popular #WhoPowersYou contest to honor inspirational community members across the country. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on the community. Nominate somebody today! All entries must be submitted online at whopowersyou.com by October 9, 2020.



\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

\$2,000 SECOND PLACE

\$1,500 THIRD PLACE

\$500 HONORABLE MENTION

Visit whopowersyou.com to submit an entry and for full contest rules.

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Rate Study Happening

Have you ever wondered how the rates you pay for electric service are established? The revenue derived from the rates paid by the members for electric service is what funds the operation of the electric cooperative. Determination of rates is complicated and takes a serious study to determine the right rates to cover expenses across the varying rate classes (residential, commercial, etc.).

PCEA is currently undergoing a "cost-of-service" study. A third-party consulting firm is evaluating our rate structures to make sure they are just and reasonable and will allow the Cooperative to fulfill its financial obligations to the members and the Cooperative's lenders.

In the coming weeks, the rate study will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the management staff in detail. The Board of Directors will decide and vote on any rate changes. Look for more information about changes to your electric rates in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Board Briefs

- The 2021 Annual Meeting date was scheduled for April 6.
- PCEA purchased 11.6 acres, across Highway 163 from Pella Christian High School, for a new substation.
- PCEA employees, members, and the general public should anticipate wearing masks while in the PCEA office starting in September.

Need Help with Your Heating Bill?

The 2020-2021 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 19 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Most recent heat bill
- Most recent electric bill

PROOF OF INCOME:

- Wage Earners: Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return
- Fixed Income: This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.
- Self-Employed/Farmers: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.
- FIP Recipients: Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Gross Income</u>
1	\$22,330
2	\$30,170
3	\$38,010
4	\$45,850
5	\$53,690
6	\$61,530
7	\$69,370
8	\$77,210

For households with more than eight members, add \$7,840 for each additional member.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1 or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

Communications Director Hired

PCEA recently welcomed Amy Blunck as the new Communications Director. Amy comes to us from Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association in Fort Collins, Colorado where she worked as the Communications Director for six years. You might recognize her face - she worked at PCEA prior to working at Poudre Valley, from 2012-2014. Amy has a three-year old daughter, Adaline, and they live in Pella. "I love my job, and am excited to be back in Pella and stay within the co-op family doing what I love," Amy said.



HIGHLINES

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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.