



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative



January 2011

Win a trip to Washington, D.C.

An all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 11-16, 2011 along with a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to one young person from this area.

Contest applicants must currently be a high school junior residing in the RVEC service area, either town or country. However, the parents do not have to be Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative members.

Based on the highest test score of an open book and essay exam, RVEC will award one contest winner a five day all expense paid trip to the nation's capitol. The winner will also receive a \$500 scholarship to use during their first year of college or trade school. Study material and the exam will be mailed after the application deadline of February 28th. 6-S-6-J.

Further information and applications may be obtained by contacting RVEC at 712.659.3649 or <http://youthtour.iowarec.org/> or <http://youthtour.coop/>.



YOUTH TOUR CONTEST APPLICATION

Student _____

Address _____ Telephone # _____

School _____

(Must currently be a high school junior to enter)

We certify that we are the parents or legal guardians of the above youth and give our permission for the youth to participate in the trip to Washington, D.C. should he or she be declared the winner; and further agrees that his or her entry will become the property of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Mail to: Youth Tour Contest, RVEC, PO Box 486 Glidden, IA 51443

RVEC Member/Owners Cashed in Savings on Prescription Drugs using their Co-op Connections Card!

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our member/owners and our community 365 days a year. Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) launched the Co-op Connections Cards in October of 2010 and has already provided member/owners with hundreds of dollars of savings on their pharmacy bills.

The Co-op Connections Cards prescription drug discounts ranges from 10 to 60 percent. The logo and information on the back of your cards is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and **LOCAL**

pharmacies. The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the county, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions. Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code

22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code. 17.11.01

Along with prescription drug discounts the Co-op Connections Card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and PreFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.rvec.coop and click on the Co-op Connections Card.

The Co-op Connections Card is FREE - and just another of the many benefits of being a cooperative member!



RVEC members have saved over \$1,044.28. See how much you can save!

Familiar Light Bulb on its Way Out



By this time next year, the federal government will have turned the lights out on the familiar A-shaped incandescent bulb that's probably in most of your table lamps and overhead light fixtures.

Starting January 1, 2012, the traditional 100-watt and 150-watt A19 incandescent light bulb will not be sold anymore. A year later, the familiar 75-watt incandescent also will be history. And in 2014, Americans will wave good-bye to their beloved — albeit energy-inefficient — 60- and 40-watt A-shaped incandescents. 8-S-29-D

The result: Most people will switch to more efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs or to a brand-new, high-efficacy halogen bulb that manufacturers have introduced in response to the "light bulb law" within the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

You might grumble about the considerably steeper price of the alternative bulbs — in the \$2-per-bulb range versus the 50-cent incandescent. But you could notice a difference on your electric bill once you make the switch, as CFLs last for around five years and use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescents, which burn out after about seven months of normal use.

A heads-up: Starting this July, light bulb packages will carry a Lighting Facts Label, which will explain how bright the bulb is, how long it will last and how much energy it will use. Instead of saying how many watts the bulb is, it will give its lumens — a measure of light output.

RVEC Winners

Richard Cork won the book, *Iowa Spaces Places Faces* by Carson Ode. Leon & Denise Muhlbaer won the \$100 gift card and a member from Humboldt County REC won the Energy Star washer and dryer. Thank you to everyone who returned their survey.

What Exactly is an Electric Cooperative?

You receive this publication because you buy your electricity from an electric cooperative. That's a utility that operates like no other.

Cooperatives are consumer-owned businesses, which means that you and your neighbors actually own your electric utility. In fact, you may have noticed that the utility refers to you as a "member" rather than as a "customer." 07.26.02

The cooperative's board of directors is a group of consumer-members just like you, and, in fact, you can run for a seat on the board yourself if you'd like to. When the directors' terms expire, the cooperative will hold an election — and you will get to vote. So the cooperative is governed by its consumers, and those who govern it are elected by the consumers.

Cooperatives have their roots in their local communities, so they never sell stock. That way, consumer-members retain local control.

Take advantage of the opportunity to participate as an owner-member of your electric cooperative by attending its membership meetings and voting in board elections.

What to do if you have a Power Outage?

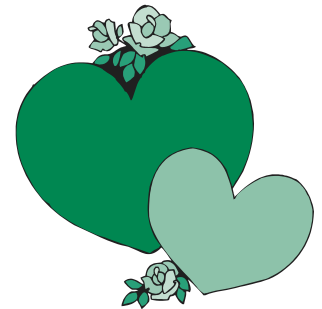
- ✓ Check your fuses or circuit breakers to rule out problems with electricity inside your home. Replace fuses or reset breakers if needed. It is the member's responsibility to replace the fuses in the meter and to repair any wires or equipment located between the meter pole and your buildings and/or equipment.
- ✓ Check the lower left section of your meter. If you can see a red light you have power coming into your location.
- ✓ If you do not see the red light in your meter please contact RVEC immediately so we can begin restoring your power.

Give your Valentine the Gift of Energy Efficiency

If you want to give your Valentine a useful and unusual gift, offer to make the home more energy-efficient.

A few ideas:

- ♥ Buy a bagful of compact fluorescent light bulbs and use them to replace the standard incandescent bulbs your Valentine probably has in their lamps and overhead fixtures. CFLs use 75 percent less energy than the old bulbs and last up to five years.
- ♥ Change the heating and air conditioning filters, which could require climbing a ladder or removing a grate. A dirty filter can be clogged with dust, pet hair and other debris that prevents air from passing through it—and that will force your loved one's furnace or a/c to work extra hard—and waste energy—to keep the home comfortable.
- ♥ Switch the direction of all ceiling fan blades to the "winter" position. That makes the blades gently push warm air—which rises—back into the room so your Valentine will feel more comfortable without turning up the heat.
- ♥ Replace your Valentine's old thermostat with a programmable model that will automatically lower the heat as soon as everyone leaves the house for the day and crank it back up a little just before the family gets home. 2-S-4-F
- ♥ Buy your Valentine a casual, washable sweater or a flannel quilt to curl up in while reading or watching TV. Your gift will keep her warm and make it unnecessary for her to crank up the thermostat.



WATTS CURRENT

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Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

College Scholarship for Area Youth

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative's commitment to community is shown, in part, by supporting youth. Each year, RVEC works with other Cooperatives to offer college scholarships for its member-owners.

Scholarships include:

- *Wind Energy or Turbine Technology at Iowa Lake Community College for first or second year students at Iowa Lakes Community College.*

One \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to an individual who has met the eligibility requirements.

Recipients must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program; be either first or second year students at Iowa Lakes Community College; have a high school grade point average of 2.5; an Iowa resident and maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

Applications are available online only: www.iowalakes.edu. Select Scholarships from the Quick Links menu. Applications are due April 1. For more information, call 800-242-5106 ext. 4410 or 712-362-0410 or email bkraft@iowalakes.edu.

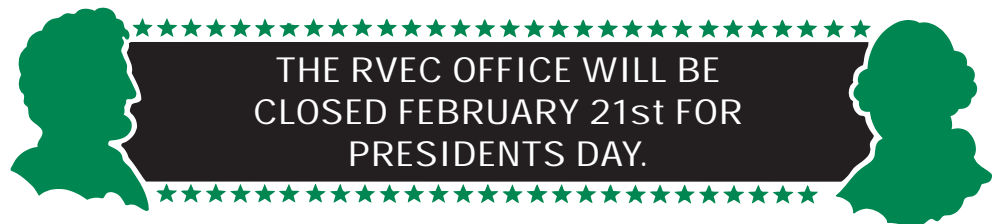
- *Electrical Technology, Powerline or Powerline Technology for first or second year students at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, IA.*

Three \$500 scholarships will be awarded annually to individuals who have met the eligibility requirements. 24.08.06

Recipients may be either first or second year students at Northwest Iowa Community College in Electrical Technology, Powerline or Powerline Technology.

To be considered, applicants must reside in one of the nine counties served by RVEC, and file an application with Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by April 1. Students must maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA.

For an application or more information, contact Ron Plumb, at Northwest Iowa Community College 800-352-4907, ext 152 or plumbr@nwicc.edu



Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$10.00.