



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative



September 2011

Annual Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) was held September 7th at The Lincoln Club in Glidden, Iowa. The meeting was attended by approximately 365 members and guests. The official registration count showed that 170 members registered.

Lunch was served from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. President LaVerne Greving called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Reports were given by; Jeffrey Springer, Dairyland Power Cooperative; Mark Ludwig, Secretary/Treasurer; LaVerne Greving, President; and Jim Bagley, CEO.

CEO Jim Bagley presented Taylor Radke a certificate for representing RVEC on the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. and congratulated him for being an outstanding representative for your Cooperative. Taylor gave a summary of what he did during the Youth Tour trip.

Employees Diane Hansen and John Johnston were recognized for their 35 years of service along with Mary Klindt for her 10 years of service. 4-S-11-D

Attorney Denny Puckett gave the election results. Directors elected for a three-year term included: District 4 – Dave Onken of Glidden, incumbent; District 7 – Karen Werner of Schaller. Karen is the first women board director for RVEC.

Each registered member received a ham and an extension cord for attending the meeting. Prizes awarded during the meeting were: \$100 electrical bill credit, Randy Schreck; \$50 electrical bill credit, Leroy Haberl and James Meyer; \$25 electrical bill credit, Mildred McQuigg, Raymond Sigwalt, Jason Soyer and Arlin Sigmon.

The Board of Directors held a re-organizational meeting following the annual meeting. The following officers were elected: LaVerne Greving, President; Tim Reeve, Vice-President; Mark Ludwig, Secretary-Treasurer; and Jeff Cranston, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.



Dave Onken



Karen Werner

Are You On Life Support?



Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) has a list of members who depend on electricity to run life support equipment. If you are on this list, you have priority during an outage or you are notified when a planned maintenance is scheduled.

If you, or someone in your family, is on life support call RVEC and verify your name is on our list. 28.22.02



THANK YOU



Keith Kenny



Rick Handlos

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative would like to thank Keith Kenny & Rick Handlos for their service and dedication. Keith and Rick were a board director since 2003. Keith and Rick chose not to run for reelection for the board.

Farm Safety Tips



Sow seeds of safety for a harvest free of tragedy: make electrical safety a priority year round. Each year, farm workers are killed or injured when their equipment makes contact with overhead power lines.

Review farm activities and work practices that take place around power lines to prevent tragic accidents.

- Know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them.
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

For more information on farm/home electrical safety, visit



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October is Co-op Month

- ✓ Co-ops are owned and governed by the people who use their services or buy their goods – their members.
- ✓ Cooperatives are owned and controlled by the people who buy their goods and use their services – their members – and any surplus revenues are returned to those member-owners. No other business form has this characteristic.
- ✓ Co-op members directly and democratically elect their board of directors from within the membership.
- ✓ Cooperatives are businesses that, by their very nature, are directly accountable to their member-owners. They are structured to ensure that the business serves only the best interests of its members.
- ✓ A cooperative returns any margins, after bills are paid and money is set aside for operations and improvements, to the co-op members in the form of patronage dividends. 12.27.02A
- ✓ Co-op members benefit from better service, high quality products, cost savings on products and services and from their direct control of the co-op business.
- ✓ According to a recent survey by the National Cooperative Business Association, more than two-thirds of Americans surveyed believe that the democratic business structure of cooperatives is more trustworthy and ethical than other types of business.



Look Up, Look Down, Look Out!

- For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.

Iowa's electric cooperatives want you to have a safe and productive harvest!

**RVEC Puts
Safety First!**

*Source: National Cooperative Business Association.

Need Help With Heating Bills?

THE 2011 - 2012 LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LIHEAP INFORMATION

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist low-income families meet the cost of home heating. Applications are accepted on a first come/first served basis from November 1, 2011 (October 1 for elderly/disabled) through April 1, 2012, Monday through Friday, or as posted at the local office.

ELIGIBILITY

A household may qualify for assistance in this program if the household's income falls within the income range listed below. This program is not designed to pay a household's total energy costs, but to provide assistance in the payment of residential heating costs for eligible households.

At the time you apply, providing you have brought all necessary documentation with you (proof of income for the last 13 weeks and a copy of your heating and electric bills), you will be told whether you are eligible and if so, for what amount you might qualify. This initial determination is subject to review and totally dependent on the availability of federal funds. In most cases, benefits will be in the form of a credit applied to your heating bill by your utility company. Households who reside in subsidized housing that are individually metered and responsible for paying their primary heating costs are eligible. Subsidized households that are master metered are usually not eligible to receive assistance benefits. 9-S-8-E

Residents of any licensed medical facility (hospital, skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility) publicly operated community residence or emergency shelter is ineligible unless they are paying a vendor directly for their primary heating source.

HOW TO APPLY

You may apply at your local community action agency from November 1, 2011 through April 1, 2012. Disabled and elderly lowans may apply beginning October 1, 2011. Applications are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

Please furnish your Social Security number, a copy of your most recent electric bill and proof of your households' gross income from all sources. If you receive interest or dividend income, alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. 11.17.02

PROOF OF INCOME:

Attach documents that offer proof of total household gross income from all sources. HACAP or T.R.A.I.N. offices must have complete proof of income to process your application.

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the three month period preceding the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Family Investment Program, Veterans Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions. Please bring a copy of your most recent check.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return. If you received interest or dividend income, alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

TANF (FIP) AND SSI RECIPIENTS:

Please bring in a copy of your Medicaid card.

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHERE TO APPLY, WRITE:

Iowa Department of Human Rights
321 E. 12th Street, Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
3	\$27,795
4	\$33,525
5	\$39,255
6	\$44,985

For family units with more than six members, add \$5,730 annually, for each additional member.

Contact your local community action agency in your county for more information.

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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Brad Polzien..... Wall Lake
Tim Reeve Glidden
Steve Seidl Coon Rapids
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For outages and emergencies --

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Call to Grassroots

KEEP RURAL ELECTRICITY AFFORDABLE



Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) has been very active in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., making sure our legislators know what effects laws could have on utility costs for our members. 12-S-33-C

In the past year, various out of state environmental groups have injected misleading TV, newspaper and automated telephone call advertisements into essential discussions on needed baseload generation in Iowa. We believe these out-of-state special interest groups have no legitimate stake in Iowa's energy future and their intentions are remarkably disingenuous and intentionally misleading on proposed legislation.

Increased baseload energy, as part of an on overall energy package that includes renewable resources, will mean reliable, affordable, safe electricity delivered in an environmentally responsible manner for the future for electric cooperative members, agribusiness and other partners in business in rural Iowa.

BE INFORMED:

Sign up today to be included in e-mail communications from RVEC so you are armed with the facts that matter to Iowans. To sign up go to www.rvec.coop and complete the sign up form or simply fill out this form and mail it in with your bill payment. If you change your mind, rest assured, you can unsubscribe simply by notifying RVEC.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Location # _____ Acct # _____

Thanks for making a difference in Iowa's energy future!

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.