



# WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
*Reliable. Affordable. Responsible*



October 2022

## Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting of RVEC was held September 7th at The Lincoln Club in Glidden, Iowa. The meeting was attended by approximately 325 members and guests. The official registration count showed that 123 member-owners registered.

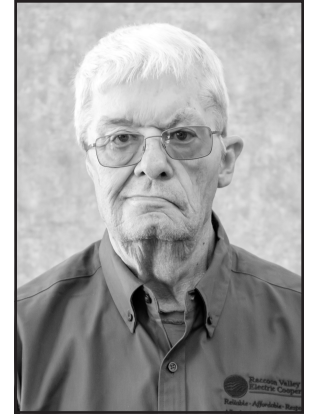
Dinner was served from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. President David Onken called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Reports were given by: Mark Ludwig, Secretary/Treasurer; David Onken, President; Jim Gossett, CEO and Kyra Wolterman, RVEC's Youth Tour participant.

Employees Brady Boell, Brian Heun, Keith Greiving, Ryan Galloway, Jill Hannasch and Mitch McKeever along with directors Karen Werner, Jeff Cranston and Steve Seidl were recognized for their dedication and years of service with RVEC.

Attorney Denny Puckett with Sullivan & Ward, P.C. gave the election results. Directors elected for a three-year term include: District 1 – David Schroeder of Coon Rapids; District 6 – Jeff Cranston of Odebolt, incumbent. 18.09.01

Registered member-owners received a knife and spatula for attending the meeting. Eight electrical bills credits were awarded before the meeting adjourned.

The Board of Directors held an organizational meeting following the Annual Meeting. The following officers were elected: David Onken, President; Jeff Cranston, Vice-President; Mark Ludwig, Secretary-Treasurer; and Karen Werner, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.



*David Schroeder and Jeff Cranston were elected for a three-year term.*



*Thank you for all you do!*



*RVEC member-owners enjoying their meal.*



## 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!

## — CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

We enjoyed RVEC's 11th Annual Meeting last month. It is always good to see those who join us and visit with as many as I can.

This year, Dave talked about the challenges we all face with inflation and supply chain. He relayed that RVEC is handling these challenges as well as can be expected, with no rate increase planned in the coming months. I talked about how these pressures are particularly difficult for a cooperative of our small size, and that our high volume of kilowatt-hour sales helps a great deal.

As in any business, "sales cures a lot of ills." While we deal with high power costs and low meter density, more sales help keep your rates from being higher. Rates from our power supplier are stable and should continue to be throughout the next few years, as long as reasonable transition to renewables is realized.

Maintaining rates means controlling costs. RVEC's controllable costs are high for our size, which is to be expected. Even the smallest utilities need a certain amount of employees and capital investment to operate. RVEC is in the bottom 20% of the country in controllable cost per kilowatt-hour. We are proud of this and work every day to improve.

There are checks we like to write - your patronage checks! In 2021, RVEC returned nearly \$200,000 to member-owners for 1997-99 and \$500,000 to member-owners from 2020. This was the first-time patronage was refunded for the preceding year's performance, a practice the board hopes to continue if financial performance allows. This month, the board will determine this year's retirement, which should include all or parts of 1999-2001. The board has a goal of shortening the time we hold patronage in your accounts by returning it to you sooner. 44.29.03

We are doing our best to live our mission of safely providing reliable, affordable and responsible service while being a leader in our communities' prosperity and growth. I think you will agree, this board and staff has your best interest in mind as we plan and perform every day to meet your needs.

## 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*

**Safe  
Electricity.org®**



# THE 2022-2023 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, 2022 (October 1 for elderly/disabled) through April 30, 2023, 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.

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, 2022 through April 30, 2023. Disabled and elderly lowans may apply beginning October 1st. 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.

### 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. 34.21.01

### 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:

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

### INCOME MAXIMUMS

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Gross Income</u>
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940

For family units with more than five members, add \$9,440 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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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity provider  
and employer.



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*Reliable • Affordable • Responsible*



Touchstone Energy®  
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## Don't Sacrifice Safety for Speed During Harvest



For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible — in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines — can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy. 08.01.01

Farmers and agricultural workers have dangerous occupations. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution.

If you are a farm operator or worker, be aware of the location of power lines and keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call RVEC immediately.
- If your equipment does hit a power line do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first.

## 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 \$25.00.