

● MARCH 2023

# iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**RVEC advocates for  
member-owners**

**Join the 2023  
Energy Trail Tour**

**Irish-inspired recipes**

**Win a KitchenAid Cold Brew Coffee Maker ► See Page 3**



## WINTER MORATORIUM ENDS

The winter moratorium ends April 1, 2023. If your account(s) is past due, you will need to come in or call the office to make arrangements by March 31, 2023, to avoid disconnection of your electrical service.

After April 1, 2023, we do not have to post your premise with a 24-hour disconnection notice. Disconnection may occur immediately. Take the necessary steps to avoid this situation.



### Office Address

Headquarters  
PO Box 486 /  
28725 Hwy 30  
Glidden, IA 51443



**Phone:** 712-659-3649 or 800-253-6211

**Fax:** 712-659-3716

**Hours:** 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Website:** [www.rvec.coop](http://www.rvec.coop)

**Email:** [info@rvec.coop](mailto:info@rvec.coop)

Follow us on Facebook! 

### Directors

David Onken, President ..... Glidden  
Jeff Cranston ..... Odebolt  
Mark Ludwig ..... Breda  
Karen Werner ..... Schaller  
Steve Schable ..... Carroll  
Adam Handlos ..... Glidden  
Dave Schroeder ..... Coon Rapids

Jim Gossett, CEO

RVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# ADVOCATING FOR RURAL POWER AND OUR MEMBER-OWNERS

BY JIM GOSSETT



The Iowa General Assembly convened in mid-January. With the activity among advocates on several causes, you should expect someone

to be looking out for the interests of the electric cooperative member-owner. It is more important than ever that policymakers at both the state and federal levels understand how proposed energy and other policies will affect the well-being of those served by Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC).

RVEC joins other Iowa rural electric cooperatives to advocate for the interests of our member-owners on the state and national levels. Rural Power (a grassroots advocacy initiative) promoters wearing iconic green shirts can be seen across the state, supporting Iowa's electric cooperatives at political events and visiting lawmakers at the Iowa statehouse and Washington, D.C. They support public policy that safely ensures reliable, affordable, and responsible electricity – the fundamental cornerstone of electric co-ops.

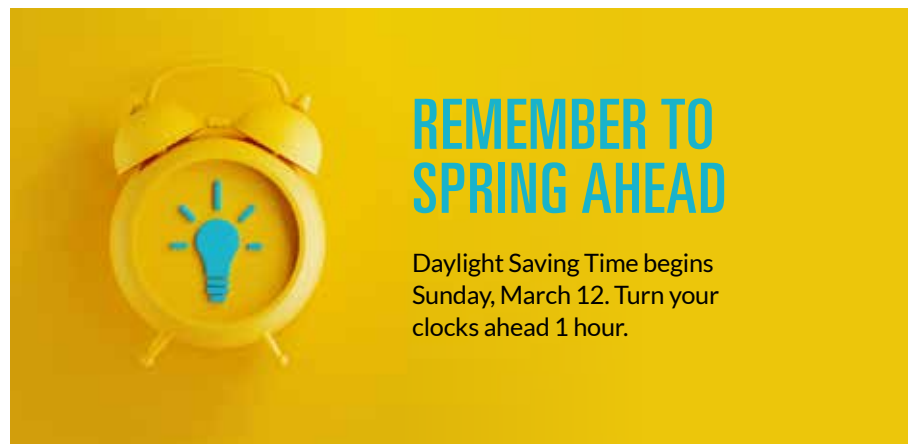
Each year cooperative directors and

employees meet with state legislators at regional gatherings organized by co-ops and at the capitol throughout the legislative session. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss RVEC's position on issues affecting our member-owners and our ability to serve them. RVEC consistently attends local legislative forums and town hall meetings, participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference each year, and joins a Fall Fly-In to Washington, D.C.

While most of our advocates are electric cooperative employees and directors, we know that our member-owners may want to be involved, too. Being a rural power advocate is something you are likely already doing in some form – perhaps it's attending your annual meeting or candidate forum. As an Iowa Rural Power advocate, you are engaged one step further with additional information and opportunities that matter to you and your community.

There are several ways to get involved. Like RVEC's Facebook page, attend a local forum or contact us to let us know your thoughts on an issue that is on your mind. You can email us at [info@rvec.coop](mailto:info@rvec.coop).

*Jim Gossett is the CEO of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative.*





# ELECTRIC CO-OPS ADVOCATE FOR RURAL IOWA PRIORITIES DURING 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

More than 150 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with more than 100 state legislators on Jan. 10 during our 2023 Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2023 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. For example, we're concerned about secretive industrial and commercial corporations seeking to circumvent Iowa's electric service territory laws; these protections exist to provide stability for Iowa homes, farms and businesses. Iowa's electric co-ops are also opposed to any legislation that would deny landowners the option to use their property for utility-scale solar generation if they choose.

"It was a great opportunity to talk about rural Iowa issues that impact our communities and our member-owners," says Racoon Valley Electric Cooperative Board President Dave Onken.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will address many issues, including energy-related matters central to Iowa's rural economy. Electric co-op directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach to address energy issues. Collectively, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives provide affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties every day.



RVEC's employee and directors (pictured left to right) Jill Hannasch, Mark Ludwig, Jeff Cranston, Karen Werner and Dave Onken talk to Sen. Tim Kraayenbrink and Rep. Mike Sexton during the Welcome Back Reception.

## HELP US FIND THESE FORMER MEMBERS

Racoon Valley Electric Cooperative, located at 28725 Highway 30, PO Box 486, Glidden, Iowa, 51443 is holding unclaimed property resulting from patronage dividends due to the individuals listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address listed above or by phone at 712-659-3649 during regular office hours.

Albertson, Marshall or Joyce  
American Concrete North  
Anderson, Mrs. Paul A.  
Baas, Roger  
Bailey, Kirby  
Bauer, Mark  
Bell, Robert  
Brincks, Matt  
Brockman, Calvin R.  
Building & Trade Home (Sac Resources Inc)  
Carpenter, Loretta  
Carruthers, Joseph or Leeann  
Clausen, Joyce  
Coats, Jim  
Commnet Cellular Inc.  
Cooper-Mitchell Farms (Tim Smith)  
Corderino, Julie  
Corderman, Larry  
Corsaut, Charles F.  
Crawford, Scott or Angela  
Cuddy, Mark or Kelley  
Dinges, Steven  
Drees, Mary J.  
Dunn, Patricia  
Edwards, Dale  
Ehrp, Gail  
Essing, David  
Fox, Jason S.  
Gallagher, Eugene  
Gehling, Daryl  
Gerdes, Donna R.

Gray, Toni L. or Kelly K.  
Grubb, Lyle  
GTE Telephone Operations  
Haberl, Billie J.  
Hall, Mike  
Heires, Sandy L. (Renze)  
Hill, Gordon or Rebecca  
Hofbauer, Matt (Tammy Crawford)  
Hofbauer, SW or Joe  
Honold, James P.  
Huegerich, Mr. or Mrs. Kenneth  
Hunt, Mike or Brenda  
Hyland, Jim  
Iowa Telecom  
Jennett, Mary W.  
Johnson, Darrell P.  
Johnson, Marjorie  
Karns, Scott or Kimberly  
Kelley, Dwight J. or Carolyn  
Kraus, Jenn J. or Chris  
Krause, Norma  
Krog, David  
Laxson, Michelle or Tony  
Maack, Dean  
Mahler, Leroy H.  
Mason, David D.  
McCullough, Kevin J.  
Mehrhoff, Mark  
Mitchell, Michael  
Moon, Dennis  
Muilenburg, Rachel

Nemaha Milling-Mooney  
Nichols, Royce  
Norwood, Bob or Violet  
Novartis (Allen Brush)  
Olson, Beth G.  
Olson, Mark  
Ort, Loretta  
Owen, Mark  
Powell, Matt  
Pryor, Cindy R. or Lowell  
Reiling, Lyn S. or John  
Riesberg, Doug or Vilay  
Robertson, Rick  
Rohlin Construction  
Ross, Michael  
Ross, Regina  
Schroeder, V. L.  
Simons, Rita C.  
Smith, Thomas Q.  
Spontanski, Jason  
Steinkamp, Duane  
Stevens, Helen E.  
Stonerook, Tony or Stephanie  
Teague, Margaret  
Van Meter, Sherri  
Viet, Dan or Heather  
Von Ahn, Mark  
Willenborg, Chris  
Williams, Marilyn  
Woebke, Nancy  
York, Chris or Mary  
Youngren, Peter or Renee M

# MONITOR YOUR ENERGY USE WITH SMARTHUB

## Did you know that you can view your daily electric usage on SmartHub?

SmartHub allows you to view and change account information, notify Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative of account inquiries and make payments in a secure environment – right from your mobile device, computer or tablet. You can monitor and analyze your electric use all at the

touch of a button! This service will help manage your account and free up your time with the convenient and no-cost tool.

Go to [www.rvec.coop](http://www.rvec.coop) and click on “view and pay my bill” to register for the service. SmartHub is also available as an app for smartphones and tablets. The app is free and can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and the Android Market.



## Energy Trail Tour 2023

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to view first-hand

how your power providers convert energy from water, wind and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are, then, returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to North Dakota’s Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative. Two lucky couples from Raccoon Valley Electric will be selected at random from those who sign up.



☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 28-30	1st	2nd	(please circle)
July 12-14	1st	2nd	

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person \_\_\_\_\_

Second Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 1, 2023.*

# COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The Iowa Utilities Board requires that all non-rate regulated utilities post the following notice to its membership: If a member-consumer has a problem with his/her service, please write or call the office headquarters:

## Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 486  
Glidden, Iowa 51443  
712-659-3649

If the member-consumer's complaint is related to the Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's service rather than its rates, and Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the:



## Iowa Utilities Board

1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
515-725-7321 or 877-565-4450  
customer@iub.iowa.gov

## NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Program information may be made available in language other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay

Service at (800) 877-8339. 38.27.07 To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or  
(202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

# CONTRIBUTE TO RECare

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) has established RECare, a program for members helping members. RECare provides funds that are distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist low-income member-owners.

You may make a one-time contribution, or you may make a monthly pledge that will be added your monthly electric bill. You may also contribute part of a matching fund if a matching fund is available. Please inform RVEC who will match your donation to maintain the appropriate records. Even a dollar a month will help others in need!



**YES,**

**I want to be part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.**

- ☐ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- ☐ I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.
- ☐ My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is to be matched by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_





IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine  
for members of  
Iowa's electric  
cooperatives.

March 2023

Visit our website at [www.rvec.coop](http://www.rvec.coop)

# WE NEVER STOP.

**Not everyone** starts their day at the same time, or in the same way. But no matter when or how, your local Touchstone Energy cooperative is there to help you power every moment of it.

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