

living with energy

IN IOWA

Grundy County REC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

AUGUST 2019

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Iowa State Fair!

Grundy County REC
celebrates a
successful year

Visit our website at www.grundycountyrecia.com

Iowa youth
learn how to run
a cooperative!

Tips for charging
an EV at home

Living with Energy in Iowa magazine (ISSN: 1935-7176) is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, a not-for-profit organization representing Iowa's member-owned local electric cooperatives. Association address: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. The phrase **Living with Energy in Iowa** is a mark registered within the state of Iowa to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine does not accept advertising.

Editorial Office: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Telephone: 515-276-5350. E-mail address: editor@livingwithenergyiowa.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length before publication. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

Website: www.livingwithenergyiowa.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine, 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Periodicals Postage Paid at Des Moines, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

Change of Address: Every local electric cooperative maintains an independent mailing list of its members, so please send your change of address directly to your local electric cooperative's office. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

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ON THE COVER

The internationally acclaimed Iowa State Fair is the single largest event in the state of Iowa and one of the oldest and largest agricultural and industrial expositions in the country. Annually attracting more than a million people from all over the world, the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines is Iowa's great celebration, a salute to the state's best in agriculture, industry, entertainment and achievement. ⚡

Photo: Iowa State Fair

Iowa youth learn how to run a cooperative

BY SHELLY YORK

This year marked my 10th anniversary of serving as Iowa's Youth Tour director. Among seeing the iconic monuments and basking in the historical significance of our nation's capital, the most important part of our 1,030-mile journey is teaching the participants something else. It's helping the next generation of leaders to understand the significance of the cooperative business model.



For the past three years, Youth Tour participants have been fully immersed in operating a cooperative. The cooperative provides snacks – something that is needed with early wake-up calls and late nights taking in all the sights and sounds the incredible D.C. area offers visitors. The D.C. Munchie Cooperative follows the cooperative business model, operating with a board of directors and staff.

Before we leave on Youth Tour, a survey is sent to all of Iowa's participants asking what role they would like to play in their cooperative. With the results in hand, a nominating committee is formed. The committee interviews potential directors, and the members elect the board, who in turn, hire a manager. The manager then hires staff. When we arrive in D.C. on Friday night, the manager and directors buy the snack inventory.

The co-op raised capital for purchasing snacks by selling punch cards that members used for purchases at the co-op's store. The cooperative also had additional funds available to them via a loan from Marion Denger, the board president for Prairie Energy Cooperative and Iowa's representative on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's board. The cooperative also held regular board meetings and delivered ads to encourage members to patronize the co-op's store, which based its inventory on responses to a member survey.

Back at the hotel, we set up the D.C. Munchie Cooperative. This year, it

was a fully functioning co-op with 44 members who each paid \$1 to join.

At the end of the week, the D.C. Munchie Cooperative held its annual meeting. The co-op had generated a margin, so the board of directors declared a distribution to members and held back a small amount to restart the co-op next year. For every \$5 punch card purchased, co-op members received \$3 back. The cooperative members also received their \$1 membership back. The students saw firsthand the value of being a member-owner of their D.C. Munchie Cooperative.

It's gratifying to see the Youth Tour participants work together and show excitement for their co-op. Through this process, they see the cooperative principles in action and gain an appreciation for providing a service that its members want. While the



participants get to see government in action on the nation's biggest stage, they also carry practical lessons home. As cooperatives, we value this business model, which is just as relevant today as it was back in the 1930s. Helping our upcoming leaders to embrace the cooperative way of doing business is one of the most essential lessons from this trip we can teach our youth! ⚡

Shelly York is Iowa's Youth Tour director and an executive assistant for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a Philips Airfryer!

Your favorite fried food – from vegetable chips to traditional fries and doughnuts – are now guilt-free, thanks to the TurboStar technology inside this advanced airfryer. The unit uses superheated air to fry foods with little or no oil. Food is exposed to constant, circulating heat that cooks it evenly without the need for turning or stirring. The airfryer is ready to go in seconds without preheating, and a handy keep-warm function ensures your food stays at the ideal temperature for up to 30 minutes.



Valued at \$400. See <https://bit.ly/2Lzstgx> for details. ⚡

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com no later than August 31, 2019. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the patio grill from the June issue was Tom R. McDonald, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.

OFFICE CLOSING

Grundy County REC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in celebration of **Labor Day.** Our phones are answered 24/7.



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E-mail: vdaily@grundycountyrecia.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Call our office 24/7: 319-824-5251

General Manager/CEO: Vicki Daily

Officers and Directors:

District 1: Kevin Pruisner
District 2: Norbert Boyle
District 3: Nick Strohhbehn
District 4: Larry Rohach
District 5: Ben Espenscheid
District 6: David Schmidt
District 7: Jason Paper

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

President and manager's report to our members

BY VICKI DAILY

Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide our members safe, reliable electric service. **Serving you is our No. 1 priority!** For the past 83 years, we've strived to put you first in every decision.

The past year was one of solid performance for your cooperative, both operationally and financially. Throughout the year, we initiated ways to better serve our members and be more engaged through radio ads, Facebook posts and monthly articles in *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine. We offer many member-benefit programs, which promote energy efficiency and load management savings, different bill payment options and numerous other valuable programs.

Grundy County REC functions most effectively with committed and informed leaders. We hold open and fair director elections, and we make sure our directors have access to training and education opportunities so they can make informed decisions and manage fiduciary responsibilities on your behalf. Strong leadership is essential to GCREC, and we are blessed to employ hardworking individuals who manage the day-to-day operations of the cooperative in order to keep your lights on.

Your cooperative has a proactive safety culture, with the goal of sending each employee back home safe every day. After the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange introduced the Commitment to Zero Contacts initiative in April 2018, your cooperative signed a commitment form. It is designed

to provide cooperatives with ideas and resources to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contact and enhance co-op safety programs.

Our Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op, by voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

Grundy County REC is run by a democratically elected board of directors – a board that's given the privilege to serve because of your vote. Our directors are members of your community.

They're concerned with the issues you face every day, because they face them, too. And remember – all members of Grundy County REC are eligible to run for the board – even you!

This year, along with voting for directors, you'll have the opportunity to vote

on proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. Details on these proposals are included in this report and will also be mailed with the Notice of Annual Meeting.

We hope you will join us on September 5 at the Grundy Center Community Center for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members and Election of Directors. As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we are committed to our mission and core values that are the foundation of the service we provide our members – it's the cooperative difference! ⚡



Kevin Pruisner is the board president and Vicki Daily is the executive vice president/general manager for Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative.

Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

The 83rd Annual Meeting of the members of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at the Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Avenue, Grundy Center, Iowa at 7 p.m. on Sept. 5, 2019, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. The election of three (3) directors for a term of three years each;
3. Consider and vote on proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation as recommended by the board of directors. A summary of the proposed changes is provided on Page 13; and
4. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the Committee on Nominations appointed by the board of directors of the cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws.

THREE-YEAR TERM

(Three to be elected)

District 1: Kevin Pruisner
(Incumbent)
Jerry Schipper

District 5: Matt Kopriva

District 7: Jason Paper
(Incumbent)
James Gienger

Members are urged to attend the meeting, hear the reports of the officers, vote for directors and transact such other business as may come before the meeting. Dated this 9th day of August, 2019. ⚡

Submitted by Larry Rohach, board secretary

Annual meeting agenda

6:00 pm Doors Open – Registration & Refreshments

7:00 pm Call to Order

Presentation of Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of 2019 Notice of Annual Meeting

Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Report of Nominating Committee

Election of Directors

Vote on Proposed Amendments to Articles of Incorporation

President's Report, Kevin Pruisner

General Manager's Report, Vicki Daily

Youth Tour Winner

Report of Election & Amendments

Unfinished Business

New Business

Drawings for Prizes (Must be present to win)

Adjournment



Learn more about cooperative careers at the Iowa State Fair

Stop by our booth in the Rastetter 4-H building on the south side of the fairgrounds to find out why it's a great time to pursue a career in the electric cooperative industry!



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives of Iowa



Cooperating to fund and develop economic vitality across Iowa

BY KAY SNYDER

Iowa's rural electric cooperatives' community support goes far beyond the safe, reliable and affordable power they provide every day. Utility-sponsored Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) are a key tool providing statewide impact for community infrastructure, business growth, and job creation and retention.

An RLF is a source of money from which loans are made for multiple small business or community development projects. As loans are repaid, the funds are loaned out again. In 1995, the USDA awarded the first grant from the Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDL&G) program to Iowa

Lakes Electric Cooperative. With this grant, an RLF was created to provide a source of ongoing funding for investment and job creation. Since that first award, all **36 of IADG's member rural electric cooperatives (RECs), 22 independent telecommunications companies and 11 municipal utilities** have received at least one REDL&G award and have created RLFs to continue support of local projects.

One of the advantages of the RLF program is that the loan funds are locally controlled where the development opportunities can best be assessed and met. Iowa RECs have funded, and in many cases co-funded important projects

Recent projects supported by RLFs



Nutriom LLC – Panora

Nutriom, LLC recently held a groundbreaking for its new pasteurization facility in Panora. Nutriom is a growing, family-owned company, from Washington state, that invented a technique for drying eggs to keep their fresh flavor, nutrition and functionality. The product is called OvaEasy Egg Crystals. This 9,000-square-foot addition will enable Nutriom to accept and pasteurize eggs more efficiently and safely. The new addition will free up space in the main building for a future third drying lane and a new freeze dryer chamber to support business growth. **Guthrie County REC, Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Central Iowa Power Cooperative** were among seven organizations that supported this project with their respective RLFs.

Disaster Relief – Marshalltown

After the destructive July 2018 tornadoes, **Consumers Energy, Heart of Iowa Communications Cooperative and Marshall Economic Development (MED)** swiftly created a \$340,000 fund to provide interest-free microloans to established Marshalltown businesses affected by the tornado. To help with short-term capital needs, IADG worked on structuring a program and securing a special provision from the USDA, enabling them to utilize their RLF funds for the initiative. The program has assisted 21 companies with loans totaling \$197,000.



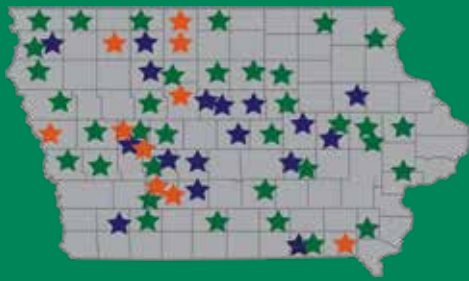
Tarkio Masonic Lodge Building Renovation – Stanton

The Tarkio Masonic Lodge Building, built in 1878 in downtown Stanton, was recently renovated to create an upper story residential living unit with two commercial spaces on the ground level. The project was an effort to expand housing options, create downtown activity, expand business opportunities and become the catalyst spark needed to revitalize Stanton's downtown. The upper-story apartment now houses a young family, and The Hair Company salon has opened on the main floor. A second main floor space has been rented to a company that is currently located in Woodlands, Texas. **Southwest Iowa REC** provided RLF support for this project.

818 Forward with Faith – Pella

818 Forward with Faith (FWF) is a non-profit dedicated to building homes where adults with disabilities can lead lives of dignity while their specialized physical, emotional and social needs are met. The first 4,200-square-foot, two-story, four-bedroom home is under construction in Pella. The house will have a large eat-in kitchen, great room, family room, laundry room and storm shelter on each level. Forward with Faith was deliberate in planning





across Iowa. The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) is pleased to be a partner and provide technical support and administrative assistance with the REDL&G program and statewide RLFs.

Iowa's rural electric cooperatives are steadfast community partners and actively contribute to the vitality of the communities they serve. Contact your local REC if you are interested in learning more about its RLF activity. ⚡

Kay Snyder is the director of marketing and communications for the Iowa Area Development Group.

Since the program's inception

1,111 loans
totaling \$139 million
have leveraged over

\$1 billion
in projects

and created and retained
21,886 jobs

the house design to ensure both functionality and a feeling of ownership by residents. FWF was started Jerry and Judy Fynaard, whose son, Caleb, was born with cerebral palsy. After graduating high school, Caleb was involved in a serious car accident and required care beyond what the facility he was living in could provide. These circumstances led the Fynaard's to create 818 Forward with Faith. **Pella Cooperative Electric Association** and **Southwest Iowa REC** provided RLF support for this project.



Trinity Fabricators, Inc. – New Albin

Trinity Fabricators, Inc. – a structural steel fabricator for building construction – received support from RLFs of **Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Dairyland Power Cooperative** and the **IADG Energy Bank** to increase efficiency through the purchase of a plasma cutting system. The new system allowed Trinity to replace multiple pieces of equipment with an automated fabrication process, which needs only a fraction of the time to cut and prepare the same material manually. Trinity can now process more volume and bigger and more complicated designs. The company is the sole manufacturer of structural steel beams for Kum & Go convenience stores located throughout 11 states and have cut steel for more than 180 Applebee's restaurants plus a wide variety of other customers.

Suidae Health & Production, PC – Algona

Six veterinarians created Suidae, a swine-exclusive veterinary clinic that is focused on herd health, from evaluation and intervention to disease risk assessment. Suidae began operation in its new headquarters and swine veterinary clinic in July 2018, which is in the former Iowa National Guard Armory in Algona. **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative** and **Midland Power Cooperative** supported this project through their RLFs.



Grinnell Regional Medical Center (GRMC) – Grinnell

The Brownell Emergency and Trauma Center at GRMC opened in 2018. This 4,400-square-foot renovation included five exam rooms and two large trauma bays with collapsible walls, replacing the previous single-bay separated by a curtain. This upgrade improved safety and privacy while allowing GRMC to maintain its Level III Area trauma center designation, a vital benefit for Poweshiek County residents. This was **T.I.P. REC's** first award through the REDL&G program, and as such, created their RLF. ⚡



SAVOR Summer PRODUCE



Zucchini Chocolate Cake

- ½ cup oleo
- ½ cup oil
- 1¾ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup sour milk
- 2½ cups flour
- 4 tablespoon cocoa
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- ¼ cup chocolate chips

Cream together oleo, oil and sugar. Add in eggs, vanilla and sour milk; beat well. Stir in flour, cocoa, baking powder, soda, salt and cinnamon. Beat well. Stir in zucchini. Pour into a 9x13-inch greased and floured pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top. Bake at 325 degrees F for 40-45 minutes.

Annalee Buffington • Marshalltown
Consumers Energy

End of Garden Refrigerator Pickles

- 2 quarts green tomatoes
- 1 quart onions
- 1 quart celery
- 1 quart cabbage
- 1 quart cauliflower
- 1 quart cucumbers
- 1 quart green beans
- 1 pint green or red peppers
(or a combination of both)
- 9 teaspoons salt
- 2 quarts vinegar
- 8 cups sugar
- 9 teaspoons mixed spices
- 2 teaspoons turmeric powder
- canning supplies

Chop vegetables into chunks and place in a large pan. Add salt and let stand for 2 hours, then drain. Add vinegar, sugar, spices and turmeric powder and bring to a boil. Put in hot sterilized jars, add canning flats. These will seal and can be stored in the refrigerator up to 3 months.

Barb Walter • Alton • North West REC

Summer Squash, Carrot and Stuffing Bake

- 2 cups water
- 7 cups zucchini and/or yellow squash, sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- ⅓ teaspoon salt
- 10.75 ounces cream of chicken soup
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 6 ounces stuffing mix
- ¼ cup butter, melted

Bring water to boil in a large pan. Add sliced, unpeeled zucchini and/or squash, onion and salt. Cook 5 minutes, stirring twice; drain well. In a large bowl, combine soup, sour cream and shredded carrots; gently fold in zucchini mix. Combine stuffing mix with melted butter. Sprinkle half the stuffing mix into a 12x8x2-inch baking dish. Spoon vegetable mixture on top; sprinkle with remaining stuffing mixture. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees F oven for 30-35 minutes or until heated through. Optional ingredients can be added, layered in the casserole: 8 ounces shredded cheese, 1 diced green pepper and/or cooked and diced chicken.

Tonya Poe • Albia
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CLEAN IT FIRST
Clean produce before peeling to prevent dirt and bacteria from passing from the knife onto the fruit or vegetable. Gently rub produce while holding under plain running water; no soap is needed. Scrub firm produce, such as melons or cucumbers, with a clean produce brush.

Green Tomato Relish

- 12 medium onions
- 12 large green peppers
- 12 large green tomatoes
- 2 quarts water, divided
- 1 quart white vinegar
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 4 sterilized pint-sized canning jars and lids

Grind together onions, peppers and tomatoes. Put in a colander and pour 1 quart boiling water over, then drain 5 minutes. Pour another quart of boiling water over and let stand 10 minutes. Combine the vinegar, sugar, celery seed and salt in a pan and boil 15 minutes. Pour the ground mixture into pint jars. Pour the boiling mixture over, and then quickly put on lids and rings to seal. Very good on hamburgers, hot dogs or brats. Gives a little zip to potato or tuna salad.

Bonita Miller • Eldon • Access Energy Cooperative

Zucchini Pancakes

- 3 cups grated zucchini
- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- salt
- oil
- sour cream

Zucchini should be salted and drained, but not peeled. Mix flour, mayonnaise, onion, eggs, cheese and lemon juice together; then add zucchini. Fry in a little hot oil until light brown. Serve with sour cream.

Nina Clausen • Exira • Guthrie County REC

Butternut Squash Soup

- 2½ pounds butternut squash
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 7 cups water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- ⅓ cup heavy cream

Combine the first seven ingredients in a large pot. Bring to boil, then cover and simmer 35 minutes. Let soup cool, then puree in blender. Stir in heavy cream and bring to simmer. Season as desired. Serves 6-8.

Loretta Janssen • Swaledale • Franklin REC

Veggie Salad

- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups cooked sweet corn
- ½ cup tomatoes, diced
- 6 celery stalks, diced
- 2 cucumbers, diced (remove seeds)
- ½ red onion, diced

In one bowl, mix the first six ingredients into a dressing. In a large bowl, mix all vegetables and then toss with dressing. Can be served immediately or kept in a refrigerator. Best if served within 3 hours of mixing. Any veggies can be used, whatever you have in the garden.

Cassie Glade • Panora • Guthrie County REC

WASH AND USE

Except for leafy salad greens, fruits and vegetables should be washed just before you're ready to use them (i.e. not days in advance).

PRODUCE TIP

DON'T LET IT DRIP

Keep meat away from produce. Meat can drip, so it's best to keep at the bottom of your fridge, so if it does drip, it won't contaminate your fruits and veggies.

PRODUCE TIP

KEEP IT GREEN

Avocados last longer in a plastic baggie in the fridge. However, if you have only half of an avocado, Ziploc suggests wrapping it in a paper towel, sprinkling some lemon over it, and putting it in a plastic baggie.

PRODUCE TIP

IT'S A GAS!

Certain vegetables (and fruits) contain a gas called ethylene. Ethylene triggers the ripening process and will deteriorate some veggies faster. Ethylene-producing produce: apricots, avocados, bananas, cantaloupe, melons, mango, peaches, pears, tomatoes.

PRODUCE TIP

Wanted: Christmas cookie and candy recipes The Reward: \$25 for every one we publish!

Soon the lights will twinkle, the stockings will be hung and ornaments will be placed on the tree. Share your delicious cookie and candy recipes for the holidays. If we run your recipe in the magazine, we'll send a \$25 credit for your electric co-op to apply to your power bill. Recipes submitted also may be archived on our website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com.

The deadline is August 31, 2019. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions.

EMAIL:

recipes@livingwithenergyiowa.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your e-mail message.)

MAIL:

Recipes

Living with Energy in Iowa
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

Power up! Steps for charging your electric vehicle at home

BY PAT KEEGAN AND BRAD THIESSEN

Electric vehicles (EVs) are getting more attention these days. Electricity as a vehicle fuel is typically one-half to one-third the cost of gas or diesel, and EV batteries now enable longer ranges. The upfront price of an EV is still higher than its gas-powered cousin, but the cost is coming down.

The Chevy Bolt, for example, has a range of up to 238 miles on a full charge and costs about \$36,000 before incentives. The number of models is also increasing, and there could even be an electric pickup truck option in the near future.

It's important to note you may have to pay upfront costs to charge your EV at home, but it depends on which charging option you select. Take a look at the important steps for choosing an EV and effectively charging it at home.

Step 1 Choose your EV

There are two basic types of EVs: the all-electric vehicle, which is commonly referred to as an AEV or EV and the plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, also known as the PHEV, which can run using an electric motor or a gas engine. Unlike the gas/electric hybrid that started with the Toyota Prius in 2000, where the battery assists the gasoline engine, yet the car is fueled solely by gasoline, the PHEV features a larger battery that fuels an electric motor, which can power the car independently. A PHEV can run solely on electricity for about 15 to 50 miles depending on the model. This electric-only range may be sufficient for running errands or for those with a shorter daily commute.

Step 2 Select your charging level

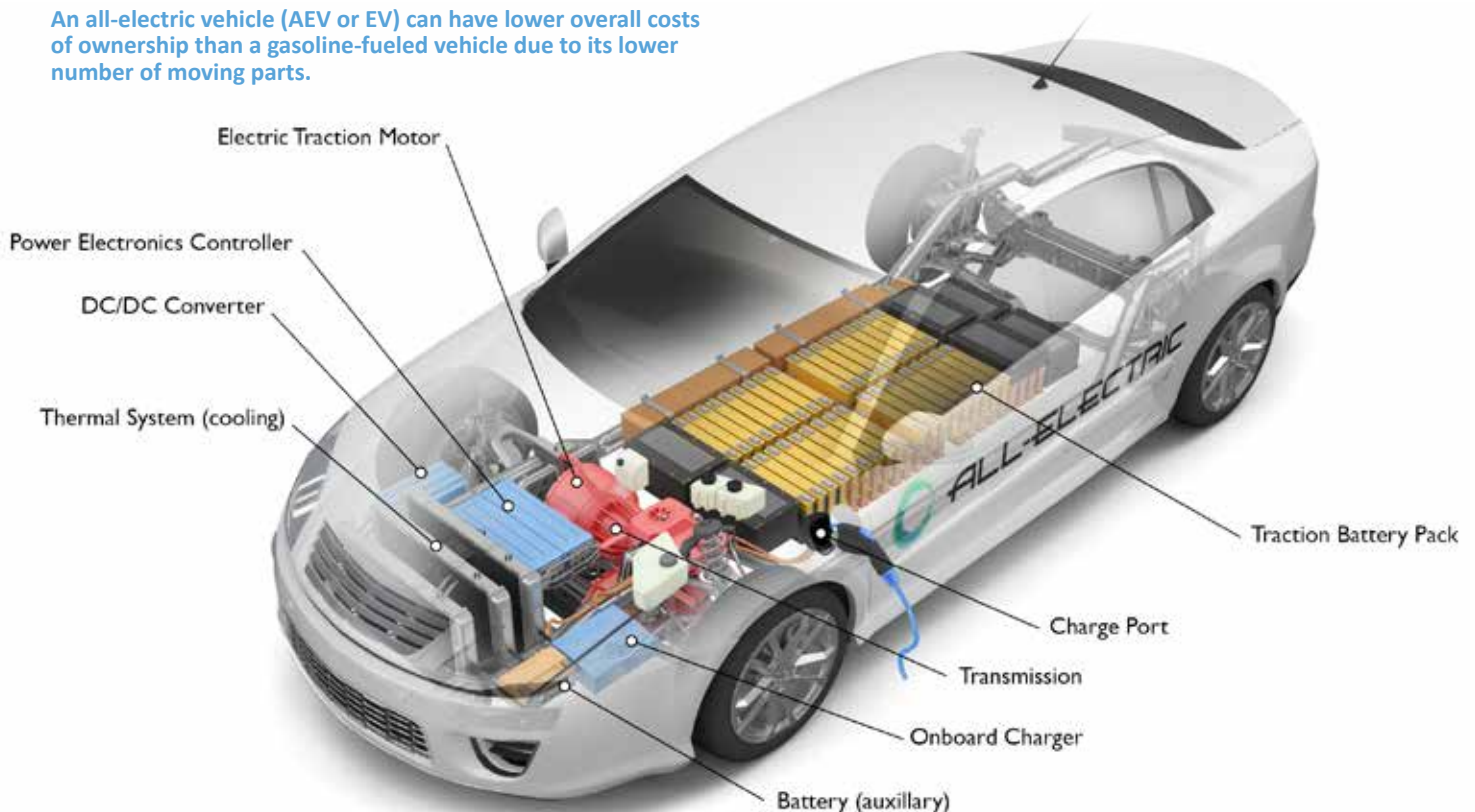
There are two levels of charging to consider for your home. A Level 1 charging unit is the most basic. It's usually included with the vehicle and plugs into a typical 120-volt outlet, so it is the easiest and cheapest charging solution.

A Level 2 charging unit is more powerful and needs to be purchased separately. It plugs into a 240-volt outlet, the type used for larger appliances (like a clothes dryer), which most of us don't have in our garages or outside our homes, so there's an additional cost to have the outlet installed.



All-electric vehicle

An all-electric vehicle (AEV or EV) can have lower overall costs of ownership than a gasoline-fueled vehicle due to its lower number of moving parts.



A Level 2 charging unit can provide about 250 miles of charge in 10 hours, making it a suitable charging solution.



Photo: Tesla

Opportunity for electric cooperative members!

Touchstone Energy® has been working behind the scenes to provide a unique incentive for electric cooperative members and employees to take advantage of a fleet or individual purchase of the All-New NISSAN LEAF®, the World's Best-Selling 100% Electric Car.

A \$3,500 special rebate is available on the 40-kWh model NISSAN LEAF and a \$2,500 rebate is available on the 226-mile range, 62 kWh, ePlus model. This offer can be combined with the \$7,500 Federal EV Tax Credit to provide buyers with savings up to \$11,000 on the purchase of a new NISSAN Leaf®.

Simply download the flyer at <https://bit.ly/2XRGbwQ> and bring your electric bill and/or proof of cooperative employment, to your local NISSAN Dealer and you can become eligible to use the special Fleet Certification Code to obtain your special rebate. Please see eligibility requirements for more details. ⚡

Step 3 Know your needs

Most EVs travel 3 to 4 miles per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Level 1 charging units distribute charge to the battery at 1 to 2 kWh, giving the battery roughly 3 to 8 miles range per hour of charging. So, if you drive your car 40 miles or less during the day and can charge it for 10 hours a night, this will probably be adequate. Level 1 charging makes the most sense for PHEVs and early EVs with smaller batteries and shorter ranges.

Level 2 units typically supply power levels from 6 to 12 kWh, depending on the amperage of the circuit and the power level the EV can accept. This means the Level 2 chargers will provide between 18 and 48 miles of range per hour of charging.

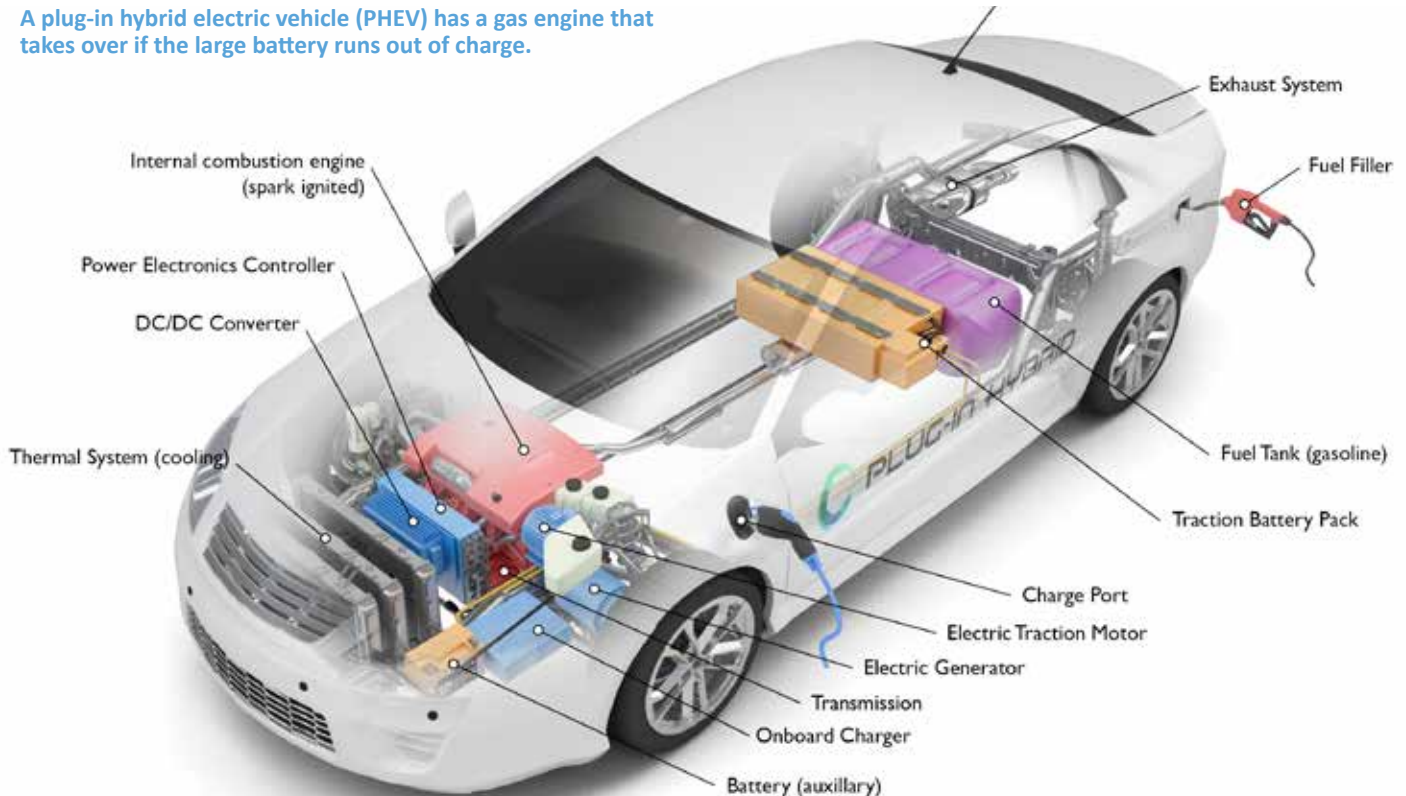
Step 4 Count the costs

A Level 1 charging unit comes with the car and will meet the needs of most PHEVs and early-model, short-range EVs. A Level 2 charging unit can cost \$500 to \$700, with installation between \$500 and \$2,700 depending on how far your electrical panel is from where you will be charging the EV.

With information about the basic options now in hand, talk to your electric co-op *before* making an EV charging decision. Some electric co-ops offer special incentives for members installing Level 2 chargers or members willing to schedule EV charging during non-peak energy hours. ⚡

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle

A plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) has a gas engine that takes over if the large battery runs out of charge.



afdc.energy.gov

Grundy County REC continues to be on solid financial ground

The board of directors of Grundy County REC is elected by you, our members, to make sure the cooperative remains financially stable. Every month, the directors review the current financial statements and compare them with the annual budget and financial position of the prior year.

Our Independent Financial Audit, performed by CliftonLarsonAllen, CPAs, was presented to the board of

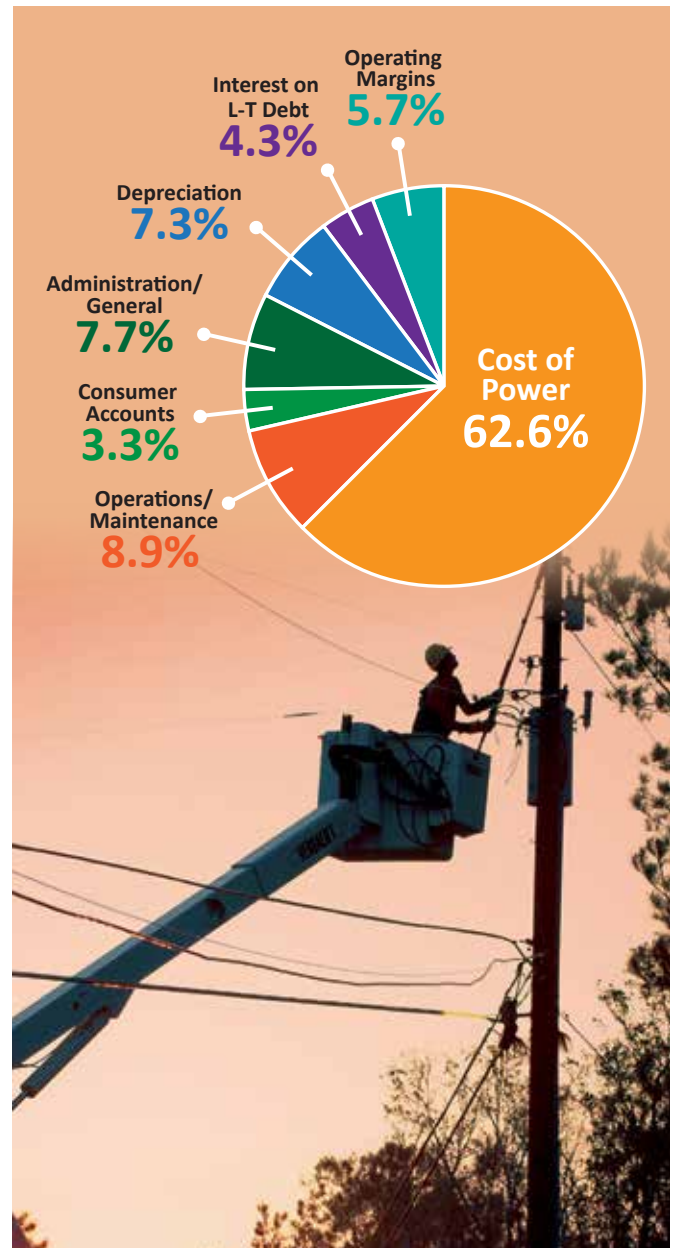
directors on April 25, 2019. The board approved the year-end audit report to officially close the 2018 books. The 2018 financial statistics provide an overview of the financial performance of your cooperative demonstrating that 2018 was another successful year for your cooperative.

Looking at the bottom line of this report, you'll see that net margins totaled \$1,442,033 and is an indication

of how we are doing financially. Of that amount, GCREC's operating margins were \$450,122 and the remaining \$991,911 are allocations from our power suppliers and other credits and dividends from certain organizations we do business with as part of the cooperative's operations. It may be up to 30 years before we receive a payment of these allocations, which may then be retired to our

2018-2017 Financial Statistics

Assets	2018	2017
Total Utility Plant	\$21,225,032	\$20,173,355
Less Depreciation	(5,711,117)	(5,448,635)
Net Utility Plant	15,513,915	14,724,720
Investments & Receivables	4,435,810	3,828,863
Cash & Equivalents	938,935	811,811
Accounts & Notes Receivable	800,173	1,032,969
Other	296,257	286,703
Total	\$21,985,090	\$20,685,066
Liabilities		
Memberships	\$16,128	\$15,914
Patronage & Other Equities	10,425,038	9,215,324
Long-Term Debt	10,412,236	10,365,985
Accounts Payable	697,918	480,923
Other Liabilities	433,770	606,920
Total	\$21,985,090	\$20,685,066
Revenue & Expenses		
Total Revenue	\$7,873,219	\$7,513,463
Cost of Power	4,931,997	5,023,524
Operations/Maintenance	703,864	590,164
Consumer Accounts	260,870	212,217
Administration/General	608,810	602,087
Depreciation	577,785	562,210
Interest on L-T Debt	339,771	331,016
Total Expenses	\$7,423,097	\$7,321,218
Margins		
Operating Margins	\$450,122	\$192,245
Non Operating Margins	102,286	99,463
G&T Capital Credits	868,039	386,858
Other Capital Credits	21,586	28,226
Net Margins	\$1,442,033	\$706,792



Board proposes changes to Articles of Incorporation

Grundy County REC's board of directors has the responsibility of periodically reviewing the Articles of Incorporation of the cooperative to determine if any modifications are in order. At the May board meeting, the board identified several areas where it felt the articles should be modified. The cooperative Members will be asked to cast a ballot at the annual meeting scheduled for Sept. 5, 2019, for the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. A summary of the revisions is noted below:

- One amendment would eliminate the current \$10 membership fee. Any current member who has paid this fee shall have it refunded as a credit against the member's bill and the fee will no longer be required. The administrative burden of collecting and subsequently refunding the fee outweighs the benefits of the same.
- Another amendment would clarify language concerning requirements for membership and the obligation to purchase electric energy from the cooperative. References to specific amounts of electricity are proposed to be removed, as well as language about farm tenants and landlords who receive a share of agricultural products as rent as being eligible for membership. All members must receive electric service from the cooperative.
- Provisions concerning joint memberships are proposed to be clarified, so it references "spouses" instead of "husband and wife."
- The board has proposed language that would allow it to approve voting by mail as an alternative to voting in person at the meeting. It would also give the board the ability to consider whether voting by electronic means should be allowed. The cooperative prides itself on being democratically member-controlled and the board is evaluating ways to increase member participation in the business of the cooperative. Allowing members alternative voting methods may be one way to increase participation. The members will continue to have the option of voting in person. The board is confident that the mail option can be implemented for future meetings, as a number of electric cooperatives around the

state already permit mail voting. The board knows some cooperatives are also moving toward electronic voting; but the board will only choose to allow such voting if it can be done in a manner that is secure and user friendly. Therefore, the amendment would not mandate electronic voting but would allow the board to explore this option. Without the amendment, the articles only permit voting in person at the meeting.

- The proposed amendments also expand the language of the articles describing the eligibility requirements for directors. The articles presently require directors to be members; but do not really contain any restrictions or other qualification details. The proposed amendment would include restrictions on the eligibility of individuals who do not receive electric service at a location in the area from which they have been elected; individuals who have been adjudged to be guilty of a felony within 10 years prior to nomination; individuals who are employees or former employees of the cooperative; relatives of board members or employees; individuals who have financial or business interests that create a conflict with the cooperative; or individuals who have violated the law or cooperative policy, or who have materially failed to satisfy his or her duties as a director, including the duty to attend meetings.
- The number of signatures required to nominate a candidate for the board of director election is proposed to be reduced from 20 to 15.
- Other clean-up items are included, eliminating unnecessary language about a prior reduction in board size and a reference to non-voting members.

You are encouraged to vote in favor of the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. Should you have any questions regarding the proposed amendments, please do not hesitate to call or stop by the office. The full text of the proposed amendments can be obtained from the office and will also be mailed to members with the Notice of the Meeting. ⚡



membership.

For 2018, equity was strong at 47.49%, which supports the cooperative's ongoing commitment to making improvements in our service territory to enhance service to members. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we deliver energy to our members. At the end of the year, any over-collected margins that remain after year-end are returned to our members. In 2018, \$217,862 in patronage dividends were refunded to you, which included the year 2001 and 31% of 2017. Grundy County REC is proud to report that since 1961, your cooperative has refunded \$4,714,262. This is not a claim an investor-owned or municipal utility can make!

One of the main components of our budget is power costs. Around 63 cents of each dollar collected from our members for their energy bill is used to pay the power bill to Corn Belt Power Cooperative for power supply costs. That means that we operate the cooperative on 37 cents of each dollar we collect. You can see on the chart that these 37 cents cover the cooperative's operations and maintenance expenses, administrative and general expenses, consumer accounts expenses, interest expenses, depreciation expenses, as well as an operating margin.

Grundy County REC's board of directors and staff work diligently to ensure all auditing standards are followed and all requirements are met. ⚡

Engage with Iowa's federal lawmakers during the August recess

Congress typically recesses for the month of August and doesn't conduct any legislative business in Washington, D.C. This allows senators and representatives to return to their home districts and spend the month meeting with constituents. Often, the August recess is accompanied by local town hall meetings or public forums, which are shared through local media outlets and via the lawmakers' websites.

Members of Iowa's electric cooperatives are encouraged to meet your U.S. senator or representative during these meetings. Two key topics of interest for cooperative members include reiterating our support for the RURAL Act and the SECURE Act.

The SECURE Act is a bill backed by Republicans and Democrats that aims to improve the nation's retirement system, including the benefits received

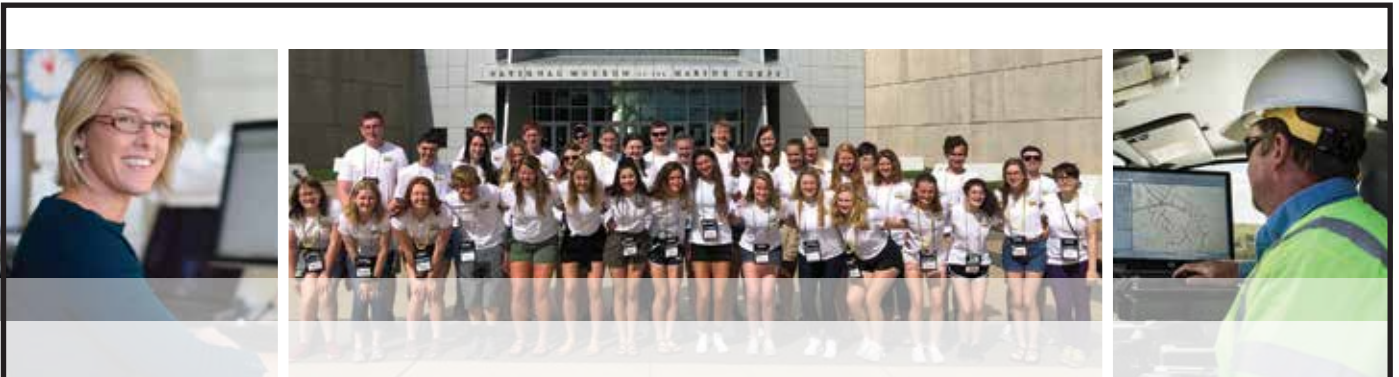


by your hometown co-op employees. The SECURE Act includes provisions that keep more funds in Iowa co-op employees' retirement accounts and help save members like you

approximately \$30 million nationwide. To date, based in part on electric cooperatives' advocacy in D.C., the bill (HR 1994) passed the House 417-3, with Iowa's representatives voting for it. The bill now moves to the Senate where a companion bill called the RESA Act is being championed by Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley.

The RURAL Act, co-sponsored by Iowa's U.S. Reps. Cindy Axne and Abby Finkenauer as well as Sen. Joni Ernst, strives to retain the tax-exempt status of nearly 900 rural electric co-ops across the country, including Iowa's electric cooperatives. This will allow the full use of critical federal, state or local grants to benefit electric cooperative members.

For more information on these issues, please contact your local electric cooperative. ⚡



Find us at the Iowa State Fair!

Visit our booth in the Rastetter 4-H building on the south side of the fairgrounds to learn more about programs and scholarships for students. We'll also tell you why cooperative careers provide great opportunities for rural Iowa living.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives of Iowa



The world belongs to righties

BY VALERIE VAN KOOTEN

If you're a left-handed person, you've already figured out that the world is a lot easier for righties. Being right-handed is the default position for most products, and if you're a southpaw, well, you're going to have to do a lot of adjusting.

I'm not left-handed, but my dad, my son and my grandson are. And so I've witnessed the problems they've had in life: no one wants to sit next to them at the restaurant. Typical college classroom desks with a flat surface on one side always cater to the right-handed. The number pad on a computer keyboard is on the right.

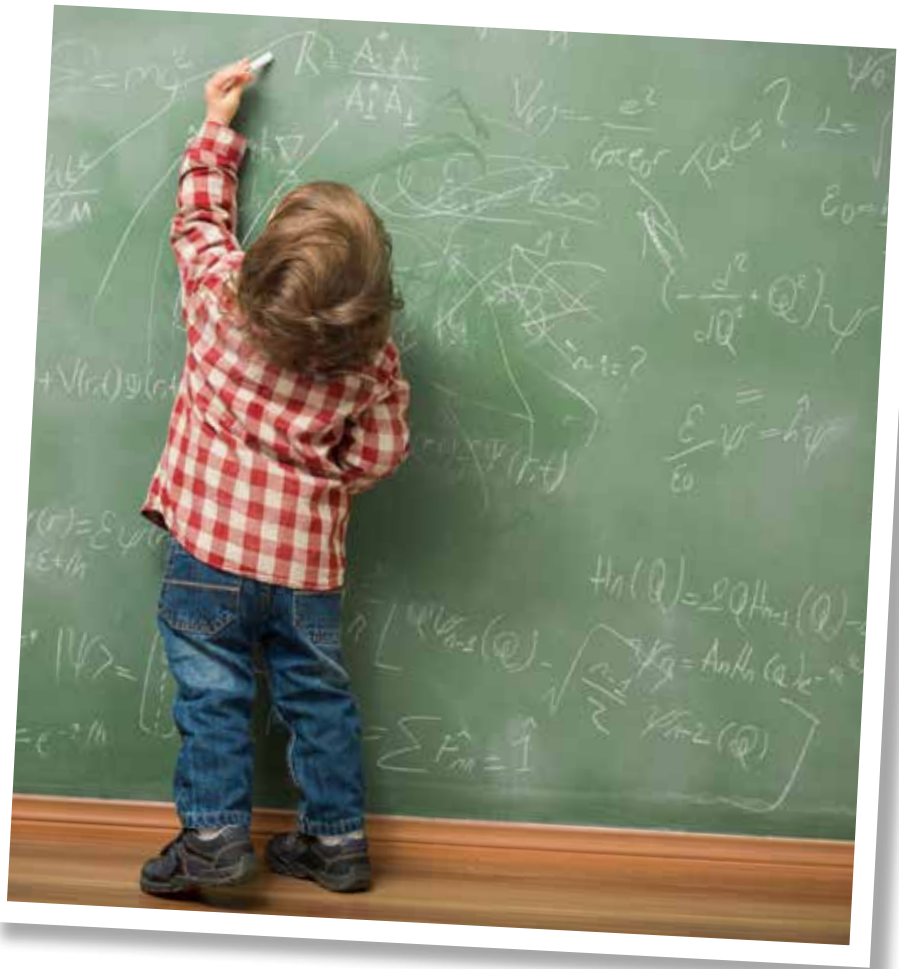
Some people are solely left-handed. Others, like my father, are ambidextrous ... while my dad writes with his left hand, he plays baseball as a right-hander, something he credits to having broken his left arm in grade school.

When our oldest son was in kindergarten, his first report card was a momentous event. We waited with bated breath to find out how our pride and joy had done. His marks were great – well, as great as they get in kindergarten, like “Learning not to talk without raising his hand” – but one comment stopped us cold. The teacher had written, “Colin has problems using scissors.”

We were cut to the quick: Did our son have some sort of scissor impairment that wasn't covered in the parenting manuals? Was he physically unable to cut things? We approached the parent-teacher conferences with trepidation.

The teacher said nothing about the scissors malady. We waited until the end of the conference and tentatively brought it up. “Uh, your comment ... about the scissors? Is there a problem?”

The teacher looked a little blank and then smiled. “Oh, yes ... he has



problems with the scissors, but it's probably because he's left-handed. You should look into purchasing him some scissors for left-handed kids.”

Was there such a thing? Turns out there was! The internet revealed a world of products for those who do not share Right Hand Privilege, including can openers and corkscrews, notebooks with the wire ring on the left, and computer accessories, like a mouse that's meant to be operated on the other side. We purchased the scissors, the cutting went much better, and our parental guilt was assuaged.

Over the years, we amassed a houseful of left-handed items: a guitar, golf clubs and baseball gloves – lots of baseball gloves.

There's a special market for these things out there, mostly desperate parents looking for a specialty item for their child. We've sold off most of them, but I decided to hang onto the baseball gloves in case we had a grandchild who was a leftie.

Good thing I did. From the time our oldest grandson was a year old and began hurling footballs around, it was evident that the trait had been handed down to him. My son will save a lot of money on left-handed baseball gloves. He can come shop in our closet. 🌿

Valerie Van Kooten is a writer from Pella who loves living in the country and telling its stories. She and her husband Kent have three married sons and two incredibly adorable grandsons.



LESS GARAGE TIME

Electric cars have fewer moving parts compared to internal combustion engine vehicles. As a result, EVs require less maintenance and have lower maintenance costs.

- Idaho National Laboratory

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CO-OP FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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