



A WORD FROM

Vicki Daily, General Manager

At Grundy County REC we're often asked why we run radio ads or spend resources on mailing out a member newsletter each month. Great question! Proactive communication is essential in any industry or business, and it's especially important for Grundy County REC to communicate often with our members who own the co-op. In fact, the core principles of our cooperative business model include concern for community and keeping our members informed and educated.

We use a variety of communications methods to "cut through the clutter" and make sure we reach our members with our messages. Our monthly newsletter, social media posts, bill stuffers

## Why Do We Advertise?

and website serve as effective ways for us to quickly communicate important information with you. Let's break these categories down one by one:

### 1. Safety Awareness

As your electric cooperative, we have a duty to keep you safe from the dangers of electricity. Preventative safety messages are a top priority in our public communications efforts. For example, we remind farmers to watch out for electric lines and poles during planting and harvest seasons. We encourage members to call 8-1-1 before digging so underground utilities can be properly located. During the holidays, we promote safety in the kitchen because the incidence of home fires increases dramatically during that time. Throughout the year, we tell members to "look up and live" as they use ladders and tall equipment around the house, garage or barn.

### 2. Energy Efficiency

We're committed to helping our members use energy wisely. We provide multiple resources to help you find ways to reduce that electricity bill and become more energy efficient. For example, we often post energy efficiency tips on our Facebook page and within the pages

of our member newsletter. We communicate through various methods to let you know about rebates and incentives for energy efficient products.

### 3. Cooperative Business

As an owner of the electric cooperative, you need to know important information about the financial condition of the business and when to elect directors of the board. We publish an annual report which includes important information about the co-op and we post notices on our Facebook page and within the pages of our member newsletter.

### 4. Regulatory Notices

We are required to communicate with our co-op members regarding specific state and federal regulations. For example, you may notice the grain bin clearance notice we publish every year in the member newsletter and articles informing members about financial aid available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Communicating frequently with our members is an important business function that helps Grundy County REC achieve our mission of powering lives and empowering communities.

## Mid Iowa Cooperative receives rebate

Mid Iowa Cooperative's new location north of Grundy Center was ready just in time for this past harvest season. Chief Operations Officer Rick Eckerman said it was a rough summer to do construction due to the wet year, but they were able to fill the new facility to capacity, which is approximately 5 million bushels of soybeans and corn.

Mid Iowa invested in a monitoring system for the grain bins to help run aeration fans when it is the most economical. They also installed over 800 HP of VFD motors that will reduce their electrical cost. Grundy County REC was able to help out the project by rebating these motors along with their LED lighting around the whole facility. Mid Iowa is planning on holding an open house/customer appreciation event later this year.

Grundy County REC welcomes Mid Iowa as a new member and we look forward to working with them in the future.



Rick Eckerman receives an energy-efficiency rebate check from Member Service Manager Mike Geerdes.



**May is Electrical Safety Month.**

Safety Starts with You.

**#ElectricalSafetyMonth**

## Safety starts with you

Electricity plays many roles in our lives. May is National Electrical Safety Month, a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

### Ground fault circuit interrupters

Check your GFCIs frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done.

### Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards.

### Extension cords

If an extension cord is noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized. And if it shows any signs of damage, it should be replaced.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in property damage.

Don't become a statistic!

# SUMMER IS COMING PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

## Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill



Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.



Change the air filter on your cooling unit.



Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.



Clear the air vents throughout your house.



Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.



Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at:

**Safe  
Electricity.org**

## Is your a/c ready?

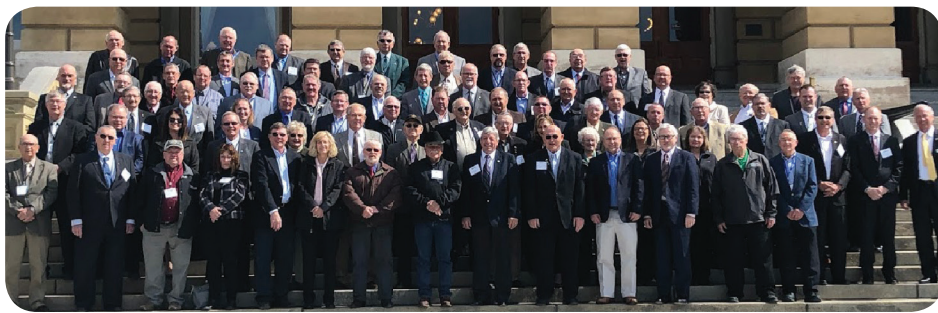
After a long, chilly winter, we're all ready for warm summer weather. Is your air conditioning system as ready as you are?



There's nothing worse than an a/c malfunction on the hottest day of the year.

Plus, air conditioning is your biggest energy expense during the summer. Keep summer energy bills in check by making time for a few pre-summer rituals:

- Schedule a tune-up.
- If you're in the market for a new air conditioner, buy one with the highest SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating you can afford.
- Don't buy too big. Your air conditioner should "fit" the size of your home.
- Turn on your ceiling fans.
- Close window blinds during the hottest part of the day.
- Add insulation to your attic and caulk windows.



## Electric co-ops advocate for rural Iowa during REC Day on the Hill

More than 200 employees and directors, representing 36 of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives (RECs), traveled to the Iowa State Capitol on March 20 to advocate for important issues during our annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. The cooperative advocates were briefed on state and federal legislative issues by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) before meeting with local legislators during a dessert social in the Capitol.

"This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally visit with our elected officials and provide them with a co-op perspective on issues that are important to rural Iowa and rural economic development," remarked Steve Seidl, board president of IAEC.

Advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Legislators also learned about three priorities important to Iowa's electric cooperatives:

- Ensuring safety and reliability of service through vegetation management.
- Supporting cost-effective energy-efficiency programs for homes and farms.
- Responsible power generation and delivery through fair treatment of all members and use of advanced technology.

Many electric cooperatives also displayed booths in the rotunda, providing information on topics including energy-efficiency programs, rural broadband efforts, investments in technology and rural economic development.

## COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Effective May 22, 1991, the Iowa Utilities Board passed a ruling requiring all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its memberships: If a member-consumer has a question or concern regarding his/her electric service, please write or call your local electric cooperative at the following address or phone number:

### Butler County REC

521 N. Main Street, PO Box 98  
Allison, IA 50602-0098  
(319) 267-2726  
www.butlerrec.coop

### Franklin REC

1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437  
Hampton, IA 50441-0437  
(641) 456-2557  
www.franklinrec.coop

### Grundy County REC

303 N. Park Ave., PO Box 39  
Grundy Center, IA 50638-0039  
(319) 824-5251  
www.grundycountyrecia.com

### Prairie Energy Cooperative

2099 Highway 3 West, PO Box 353  
Clarion, IA 50525-0353  
(515) 532-2805  
www.prairieenergy.coop

If your complaint is related to your cooperative's service rather than its rates, and your cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or by email to [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).

*Our offices are closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.*

*Phones are answered 24/7.*

# Seeking board candidates

As an electric cooperative, Grundy County REC is guided by an elected board of directors who represent our members' best interests when making important decisions. It is important for us to elect strong directors to our board, which is why we encourage members to run in our board elections. Not only do we need to encourage friends and family to run for board positions, but we need to get out and vote for those individuals that we think will act in the best interests of our cooperative.

The nomination process puts no limit on the number of candidates in a given district. To serve on the board:

- ✓ A candidate must hold an active membership and be a bonafide resident in the district he or she is to represent.
- ✓ A candidate cannot be in any way employed by, financially affected by, or have other interests in a business which is in competition with the Cooperative, its affiliates, or sells its products or services to the Cooperative. No close relative of a candidate, as defined by board policy, can be employed by the Cooperative.
- ✓ All candidates should note the time requirements of a director are more than just 12 monthly meetings. Directors should be prepared to devote an average of 25-30 days annually to Cooperative business-related activities.

Director elections will be held at the September 5 annual meeting. At this time, three board seats are up for election in three of the seven cooperative districts. The incumbent directors whose terms expire in 2019 are: Kevin Pruisner, District 1; Ben Espencheid, District 5; and Jason Paper, District 7.

If you are interested in being nominated as a director please contact one of the following nominating committee members to receive information on how to run for our board of directors and to find out more about the election process.

- Larry Bakker, 18105 T Ave, PO Box 36, Dike, IA 50624-0036, District 1
- Kevin A. Herink, 2297 Hwy E29, Clutier, IA 52217-9540, District 5
- Paul Selken, 1230 Sanford Ave, Marshalltown, IA 50158-9562, District 7
- Larry Rohach: 22054 X Avenue, Reinbeck IA, 50669
- David Schmidt: 11287 300th Street, Conrad IA, 50621



## EV charging station rebate available!

Electric vehicle sales are on the rise and Grundy County REC wants to know if you have one so we're offering a new incentive rebate for members with Level 2 electric vehicle chargers.

- ✓ Rebate of 50% of a Level 2 charger equipment price (not installation) up to \$500 per charger.
- ✓ Rebate is retroactive.
- ✓ Rebate is limited to 3 chargers per household.
- ✓ Charger must be hardwired and installation must meet local codes.
- ✓ Member is required to provide charger serial number and specifications.
- ✓ Member is required to sign an agreement for future possible load control.
- ✓ Member is required to provide make, model, VIN, license, and purchase date information about the vehicle(s).

Contact Mike Geerdes at 319-824-5251 or 800-390-7605 to learn more and apply for the new rebate.

## Co-op Connections card

### Featured Business of the Month

The Landmark Bistro is a friendly family-owned and -operated restaurant in Grundy Center with exceptional food and service. They offer a menu using fresh local products, daily homemade specials and desserts along with a full-service bar. The inside decor is from local "landmarks," and they have an excellent outdoor patio seating area. Stop by The Landmark Bistro today and be sure to show your Co-op Connections Card to receive your discount.

*Other area businesses participating include:*

- 319 Décor & Design - Grundy Center
- Crazy Daisies - Grundy Center
- Natural Grind - Grundy Center
- Stylish Living - Grundy Center
- Tasty House - Grundy Center
- Retro Rooster - Traer
- Sweets on Main - Traer
- Traer Theater - Traer
- A Wild Hair Salon & Boutique - Traer



**INtouch** is published monthly for members and associates of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative  
303 N Park Avenue • P.O. Box 39 • Grundy Center, IA 50638-0039  
PHONES: 319.824.5251 or 800.390.7605 • FAX: 319.824.3118  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
GENERAL MANAGER: Vicki Daily

**smart choices**  Sign up for Smart Choices e-newsletter at [www.grundycountyrecia.com](http://www.grundycountyrecia.com)



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