

● MARCH 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

SPECIAL INSERT:

**Franklin REC
2024 Annual Report**

Franklin REC's Annual Meeting is April 1 ► See Page 4

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**Iowa Association of
Electric Cooperatives**

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Rene Carson, a Consumers Energy member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

ENERGY ISSUES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BY HALEY MOON



Energy policy remains a top priority for Iowa lawmakers in the current state legislative session. Since the 91st General Assembly began on Jan. 13, legislative leaders

and Gov. Reynolds have emphasized key issues that could impact how electricity reaches Iowans in their homes and businesses. As always, Iowa's electric cooperatives are actively engaged in these discussions to ensure the voices of co-op member-consumers are heard and that the best interests of rural Iowa are considered.

The following are key legislative issues under discussion and their potential impact on your local electric cooperative:

Service territory protections

Protecting the state's defined electric service areas remains the top priority for Iowa's electric cooperatives. This law, established nearly 50 years ago, is essential for cooperatives to invest in local economic development, maintain affordable rates and ensure reliable service. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives remains vigilant in safeguarding these protections from legislative proposals that could undermine them. Learn more at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com.

Third-party solar developments

Proposals in the legislature aim to establish third-party community solar programs in Iowa. These arrangements are different from the community solar programs available from some Iowa electric co-ops. You may have received information at your home or heard of neighbors being approached about subscribing to or leasing land for non co-op community solar projects.

While electric cooperatives support a diverse energy generation mix, there are concerns that these entities do not adhere to the same consumer protection

standards required of public utilities. Additionally, these projects could disrupt assigned service territories that are crucial for co-ops. If you have questions about solar energy or are approached by one of these third-party entities, please contact your local cooperative for more information.

Governor's energy priorities

Gov. Reynolds has outlined several energy-related priorities aimed at shaping Iowa's future in energy generation, transmission and distribution. These initiatives cover a wide range of topics, including how investor-owned utilities plan for and set rates and invest in new energy projects, ways the state of Iowa can examine the potential of nuclear energy, and making funds available for water infrastructure projects.

One issue of particular importance to electric cooperatives is the Right of First Refusal (ROFR). ROFR grants Iowa-based electric utilities the first opportunity to construct and maintain regional transmission projects within the state. Electric cooperatives support ROFR, as it enables Iowa's utilities to continue working together on critical

infrastructure projects that help maintain reliable electricity service.

Iowa's electric utilities employ thousands of Iowans to design, maintain and repair power lines in the state to ensure power continues to flow during our most extreme weather conditions. They invest in our communities and utilize Iowa companies as suppliers while working with landowners to protect Iowans' interests. Learn more at www.IowaElectricHomeTeam.com.

Staying engaged in the legislative process

As the legislative session progresses, your local electric cooperative directors and staff are actively engaging with lawmakers to advocate for policies that protect and strengthen rural Iowa's energy future.

For more information on these issues or to stay updated on legislative developments, please contact your local cooperative.

Haley Moon is the senior manager of policy and advocacy for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD FOR LANDSCAPING!

Planting season will soon be here! Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a typical household's energy use, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To help with your spring landscaping projects, we're giving away a \$100 gift card from a local garden center or nursery.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than March 31. 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 stainless steel bread machine from the January issue was **Lisa Liles**, an **Access Energy Cooperative** member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY MARCH 31!

FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Members of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative Headquarters, in Hampton, Iowa, at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees;
2. The election of three directors for a term of three years each;
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of three 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

District 1, Two to be Elected: David Keninger, John Snyder
District 2, One to be Elected: Gordon Greimann

You are urged to attend the meeting, hear the reports of the officers, cast your vote for directors, and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

DATED this 1st day of February 2025.



Darwin Van Horn, Secretary

2025 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DAVID KENINGER — DISTRICT 1 INCUMBENT



David Keninger has been a member of Franklin REC since 1988 and has served on the board of directors for 15 years. He holds a Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, showcasing his dedication to cooperative leadership. Additionally, David represents Iowa cooperatives on the board of the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative, demonstrating his commitment to strengthening the cooperative network.

David and his wife Barb have three children and seven grandchildren. When he's not attending his grandchildren's activities, David is busy managing his agriculture operation. A seasoned farmer since eighth grade, he also operated a small business from 1994 to 2008. Traveling to Australia or New Zealand remains a top goal on his bucket list.

David earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy and a master's degree in soils from Iowa State University, combining his academic expertise with hands-on agricultural experience. He is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ackley, where he has contributed to numerous committees. David has also participated in various community committees throughout Franklin County.

As a board director, David is committed to ensuring Franklin REC remains financially sound. His vision includes creating more jobs in rural Iowa, contributing to the prosperity and sustainability of the cooperative and the communities it serves.

JOHN SNYDER — DISTRICT 1 INCUMBENT



John Snyder and his wife LeAnn have been proud members of Franklin REC since 1985. John has dedicated 12 years to serving on the board of directors and has achieved Director Gold certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He has also completed the Board Leadership Program, reflecting his commitment to strong and effective governance.

John and LeAnn are the proud parents of two children and grandparents to six. When the weather is pleasant, John enjoys taking part in tractor rides and showcasing his restored cars at car shows, hobbies that reflect his passion for preserving history and celebrating rural life.

Professionally, John is a crop agent with Farm Bureau Financial Services. He holds bachelor's degrees in management, finance and insurance from Northwest Missouri State University. Beyond his professional and cooperative involvement, John has served on the Franklin County Fair board and is an active member of Alden United Methodist Church.

As a board director, John is focused on fostering growth and opportunity for the cooperative and its members. His goals include expanding industrial parks, increasing kilowatt-hour sales, and creating new jobs and housing to support vibrant rural communities across Iowa.

GORDON GREIMANN — DISTRICT 2 INCUMBENT



Gordon Greimann has been a valued member of Franklin REC since 1993 and has dedicated 30 years of service as a board member. Currently serving as board president, Gordon also represents Franklin REC and five other cooperatives from District 6 as the board vice president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. He holds a Credentialed

Cooperative Director Certificate and has completed the Board Leadership Program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Gordon and his wife Laurie treasure their growing family and enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. In the warmer months, Gordon's passion for hot rods takes center stage, as he participates in car shows and enjoys scenic countryside drives.

As a board member, Gordon is focused on the future of Franklin REC. His goals include continuing to explore energy alternatives while maintaining the cooperative's "all-of-the-above" approach to energy generation, ensuring reliable and sustainable power for the members and communities served by Franklin REC.

FINANCIALS

INCOME STATEMENT

2024

2023

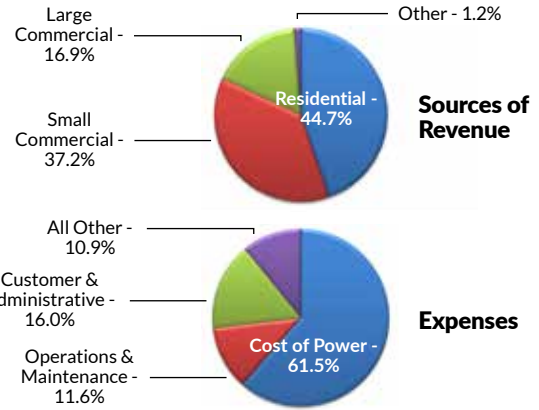
Revenues

Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	\$8,501,864	\$8,288,758
-----------------------------------------	-------------	-------------

Expenses

Cost of Power	\$5,133,235	\$5,000,820
Operations and Maintenance	\$969,883	\$853,226
Consumer Account Expense	\$156,558	\$128,174
Customer Service & Sales Expense	\$202,739	\$178,589
Administrative & General Expense	\$977,816	\$997,010
Depreciation	\$574,312	\$568,968
Interest and Other	\$335,871	\$316,654
Total Expenses	\$8,350,414	\$8,043,441

Operating Margins	\$151,450	\$245,317
Generation & Transmission Capital	\$551,935	\$636,360
Other Capital Credits	\$52,957	\$54,161
Non Operating Margins	\$35,770	\$15,128
Total Operating and Non-Operating Margins	\$792,112	\$950,966



BALANCE SHEET

2024

2023

Assets

Net Utility Plant	\$13,050,304	\$12,559,849
Other Property and Investments	\$7,180,412	\$6,425,563
Current Assets/Deferred Credits	\$2,937,925	\$3,291,623
Total Assets	\$23,168,641	\$22,277,035

Liabilities & Equity

Margins & Equities	\$9,961,332	\$9,522,093
Total Long-Term Debt	\$11,636,635	\$11,212,450
Current & Accrued Liabilities/Deferred Credits	\$1,570,674	\$1,542,492
Total Liabilities	\$23,168,641	\$22,277,035

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRANKLIN REC SERVICE TERRITORY



- District 1
- District 2
- District 3



DISTRICT 1

DAVID
KENINGERDISTRICT 1
MATTHEW
ROELFSDISTRICT 1
JOHN
SNYDER

DISTRICT 2

DON
GREIMANN

DISTRICT 2

GORDON
GREIMANN

DISTRICT 3

DALE
SCHAEFFER

DISTRICT 3

DARWIN
VAN HORN

POLITICS AND THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



In previous annual reports, we've used our executive message to reflect on Franklin REC's accomplishments over the past year. While we still highlight those achievements,

this year we'd like to take a moment to look toward the future. With significant political changes happening around the electric industry, we feel it is important to make the membership aware of proposed changes.

Federal level

As with most industries in the U.S., politics play a critical role in shaping the present and future landscape of the electric sector.

A key similarity electric cooperatives share with agriculture is the perspective on long-term investments. Consider a farmer building a new four-strand barbed wire fence around their 80-acre corn field. They must account for several factors such as what is the payoff or breakeven of the investment, designing with the mindset of "doing it right the first time around," and how is this going to benefit the farm for 5, 10 or even 20 years.

The electrical grid is much the same way. When considering a new power plant, we calculate the costs, design it to be built right the first time and plan for an operational lifespan of at least 20 years.

The recent presidential administration change brought substantial shifts in policy almost overnight. Just months ago, cooperatives were trying to understand and calculate the successful integration of electric vehicles, an influx of wind and solar generation, and the early retirement of established coal and natural gas plants. Now, we are looking to navigate a different political environment of moratoriums on wind generation build outs and the elimination of strict electric vehicle sales by 2030. A complete 180-degree change makes it more difficult to plan for the future of the electric grid.

State government

Iowa's new legislative session began on Jan. 13, and discussions on electric industry issues are underway. During Gov. Reynolds' Condition of the State address, she outlined her energy priorities for an omnibus bill aimed at shaping Iowa's energy future. Other energy-focused legislation also has been introduced. While some of these efforts could bring opportunities for electric cooperatives, some proposed changes raise concerns.

As with any session, electric cooperatives' top priority is preserving electric service territory protections. These defined service areas, established nearly 50 years ago, provide stability that allows electric cooperatives to invest in local economic development, maintain affordable rates and ensure reliable service for member-consumers. Any effort to remove these protections – such as allowing businesses to choose providers outside of assigned territories – would create uncertainty and undermine the cooperative model that has successfully served rural Iowa for decades.

The realities of eroding electric service territory protections are sobering. In other states where service territories have been eliminated, consumers have experienced **higher** electric rates and **decreased** reliability.

According to a 2023 *New York Times* investigation, electric rates have **increased** in deregulated states. The report concludes, "Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/fees in every state where it has been introduced." And, "On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity ..." Referencing an American Public Power Association 2021 report, "The average electric rate is **28% higher** in deregulated states, as compared to traditionally regulated states."

Iowa's electric cooperatives are actively engaging with legislators to reinforce the importance of service territory protections. By working closely with policymakers, co-ops are ensuring that rural communities are not left vulnerable to instability, higher costs or reduced reliability.

Through direct discussions with lawmakers and advocacy efforts, electric cooperatives are making it clear that maintaining these service areas is critical to providing consistent, affordable electricity to member-consumers.

Additionally, electric cooperatives are sharing concerns with proposals related to third-party community solar programs. These third-party arrangements are different from the member-centric community solar program offered by Franklin REC. While co-ops support renewable energy, there are concerns about consumer protections and the potential disruption to established service territories. Members are encouraged to consult with their legal counsel and Franklin REC before signing any solar agreements to ensure they understand the long-term impacts.

Another legislative priority is the Right of First Refusal (ROFR), which provides Iowa-based utilities with the first option to construct and maintain regional transmission projects sited in the state. This ensures that cooperatives can continue working with other utilities that have a strong presence in Iowa on critical infrastructure while maintaining a reliable power grid. Supporting ROFR helps electric providers respond more efficiently to emergencies, particularly during extreme weather events.

As these legislative discussions progress, Iowa's electric cooperatives will remain proactive in advocating for policies that protect rural communities and ensure a stable energy future. To stay informed or get involved, visit www.ProtectRuralIowa.com or contact me.

Summary

Franklin REC remains committed to providing the best value to our membership by advocating for, adapting to and investing in solutions to provide reliable, affordable electricity for our members.

Garrett Thompson is the general manager/CEO of Franklin REC.



Scan the QR code
to register today!



Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us on an Energy Trail Tour being offered this summer. The three-day adventure will allow you to have a firsthand experience on 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. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on board a motor coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop.

There is no fee for you to participate in this trip. Franklin REC provides a hotel in Le Mars, Iowa, the evening prior to the trip. Meals and snacks during the Energy Trail Tours are also provided. **Participants must be able to stand for long periods of time and navigate stairs.** The trip winner will be announced on Monday, April 21.



YOUR 2025 FRANKLIN REC BALLOT IS ON THE WAY

Your voting ballot and official return envelope are on the way to your mailbox! Cast your vote by **March 31** to earn a \$10 bill credit for participating and to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 gift card. Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard and enjoy some great rewards!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: SATISFACTION SURVEY

This month, Franklin REC is launching our satisfaction survey, hosted by an independent third-party organization. If you are randomly selected to participate, we kindly ask for your help in completing the survey. You will receive instructions by mail on how to complete the survey online. Your feedback is important to us as we continuously strive to improve our services.





MAINE BAKED FISH

- 4-6 white fish fillets, any type
- 1 can cream of shrimp soup
milk
- 1 can small shrimp, drained and rinsed
buttered breadcrumbs

Place fish in a buttered, flat baking dish. Thin the shrimp soup with milk and pour over fish. Add canned shrimp over soup layer. Cover lightly with breadcrumbs. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes. Serves 4-6

Jane Person • Batavia
Access Energy Cooperative

BLACKENED WALLEYE

- 2-4 walleye fillets
- 1 stick butter
Zatarain's blackened seasoning, to taste

Rinse the walleye fillets in cold water, pat dry. Place in plastic or metal bowl in the refrigerator. Melt butter in a small pan, then remove from heat and let cool briefly. Pour melted butter over the chilled fillets. Toss with tongs to ensure they are coated entirely. Shake Zatarain's blackened fish spice over the fillets, stir and add spice until the fillets are coated well. Outside, heat a cast iron skillet over a propane fish fryer until smoking hot. Use tongs to put a few fillets into the hot pan. Leave room between fillets. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side. Remove and enjoy. Serves 2-4

Allyson Bailey • Hamilton
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

CAROL'S MOCK LOBSTER

- 3 quarts water
- 1 tablespoon mixed pickling spices
- 2 bay leaves
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vinegar
- 1 pound frozen haddock or cod fillets, thawed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon paprika
- lemon butter, as desired

Bring water to boil on high heat. Place pickling spices in a cheesecloth bag and place in boiling water. Add bay leaves and vinegar. Reduce heat to medium and add fillets. Cook for 2-3 minutes, until the fish turns white. Remove and place fillets on oven broiler rack. Brush with butter and sprinkle with paprika. Broil 3 inches from broiler unit for 7-8 minutes. Don't turn over. Serve with lemon butter. Serves 4

Nancy Pelzer • Ames
Consumers Energy

"NORWEGIAN" FISH BOIL

- 8-10 6-ounce haddock fillets, or any white fish
- 3-5 pounds small red potatoes
- 1 bag pearl onions

Rinse fish and tie fillets in cheesecloth. In a large pot, boil potatoes and onions for approximately 20 minutes. Add fish and boil for an additional 10 minutes. Remove and serve on a large platter. This goes well with coleslaw and lefse. Serves 8-10

Janmarie Olson • Holland
Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative

SALMON WITH TOMATOES AND FETA

- 4 4-ounce salmon fillets
- Old Bay seasoning, to taste
- 1½ cups cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- ¾ cup crumbled feta cheese
- ¾ cup lemon juice
- ¾ cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes

Place salmon fillets on individual pieces of foil, pulling the foil up around the sides to form a boat. Sprinkle salmon with Old Bay seasoning. Mix the remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Spoon mixture over the salmon in the foil. Wrap the foil around the salmon and topping, closing the edges. Place in baking dish and bake at 350 degrees F for 30-35 minutes. Serves 4

MacKenzie Dreeszen Rutter • Ankeny
Consumers Energy

OYSTERS BURGUNDY

- 10-15 medium oysters
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon green onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons parsley, chopped
- ½ teaspoon garlic, minced
- breadcrumbs
- Parmesan cheese
- paprika

Place oysters and lemon juice in a casserole dish; add salt and pepper to taste. Blend butter, green onion, parsley and garlic. Spread mixture over oysters. Sprinkle top with breadcrumbs, cheese and paprika. Bake at 350 degrees F for about 10 minutes or until crumbs are brown. Serves 4

Cheryl Schiller • Donnellson
Access Energy Cooperative

SALMON LOAF

- 1 15.5-ounce can salmon
- ¾ cup milk
- ¾ cup soft breadcrumbs
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons onion
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon parsley
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- dash pepper

Drain salmon, reserving liquid. Pour milk over breadcrumbs and let stand for 5 minutes. Then add salmon, liquid reserved from salmon, eggs, onion, lemon juice, parsley and seasonings. Spread in greased pan and bake at 350 degrees F for 40-50 minutes, until firm. Serve plain or with sauce of your choice.

Ardine Dillingham • Hartley
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Visit www.ieclmagazine.com and search our online archive of hundreds of recipes in various categories.



SHRIMP TACOS

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ¼ cup cilantro, chopped
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 cup green cabbage
- ½ cup red cabbage
- 1 pound shrimp, raw
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 6-8 medium tortillas
- avocado, optional
- tomatoes, optional

In a bowl, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, garlic, cilantro and lime juice for a cilantro lime sauce. Finely shred cabbage and add cilantro lime sauce. Mix well and set aside. Season the shrimp with taco seasoning. Heat oil and butter in a skillet. Once hot, add shrimp and cook for 2 minutes per side until opaque. Warm the tortillas, add a bed of slaw mix and top with shrimp. Add any other ingredients to your liking such as avocado or tomatoes. You can also substitute hoagie buns for tortilla shells and make a po'boy sandwich. Serves 4-5

Crystal Hammes • Libertyville
Access Energy Cooperative

WANTED:

FIRECRACKER FAVORITES

THE REWARD:
\$25 FOR EVERY ONE
WE PUBLISH!

Deadline is March 31

Submit your favorite firecracker (spicy!) recipes. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name, recipe category and number of servings on all submissions.



EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48
Des Moines, IA 50322

IOWA'S REA POWER PLANT MUSEUM RECEIVES NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

BY MADISON ALERT



The history of electric cooperatives is woven into the fabric of rural America, where a shared sense of purpose has always united individuals in pursuit of a brighter future. Before electrification, rural life was defined by darkness, isolation and relentless challenges. Yet, even in the most trying times, these communities possessed a determined spirit – a vision that would forever change the course of American history. Fueled by grit and willpower, that spirit laid the foundation for one of the most profound and transformative movements in our nation's past: rural electrification.

On May 11, 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 7037, establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). This pivotal moment in history created the Rural Electrification Act, a federal loan program that sought to bring the power of electricity to

rural America. While investor-owned utilities resisted, farmers of rural America saw an opportunity and flooded the newly formed program with applications, signaling the dawn of the electric cooperative movement.

Embracing the call for rural electrification

Northern Iowa embraced the call for electrification. Newspapers like the *Hampton Chronicle* served as champions for electrification, urging community support with articles like the March 12, 1936, piece, "Are You Interested in Rural Electrification?" It was a call for unity to bring light to the countryside. And so, Iowa farmers gathered, forming cooperatives that would forever change the landscape of rural life.

The cost of this dream was shared among farmers committing to pay a monthly fee, roughly \$5, for 100 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

It was a leap of faith for many as skepticism and doubt lingered. However, the cooperative spirit ran deep, and farmers' collective perseverance soon proved naysayers wrong.

On Feb. 10, 1937, northern Iowa farmers joined together to incorporate the generation cooperative Federated REA. Days later, REA Deputy Administrator John Carmody announced the decision to fund Federated REA to serve Franklin, Hardin, Wright, Butler, Grundy and Hancock counties in Iowa. The \$222,000 loan laid the groundwork for Iowa's Reeve Power Plant south of Hampton.

A dream becomes reality

The Reeve Power Plant is situated on six acres next to the Rock Island Railroad, which helped ensure that construction materials and fuel could be easily transported to the site. The

winning construction bid of \$51,875 by a local contractor allowed work to begin on Sept. 1, 1937, signifying construction of the power plant was full steam ahead. Concrete was mixed and poured by hand; innovative methods of steam and tarps helped overcome the freezing temperatures of Iowa's winter.

By January 1938, the Reeve Power Plant was fully enclosed, and in mid-March, the first two engines – massive Nordberg powerhouses – were tested and successfully fired up. Then, on March 23, 1938, at 8:30 a.m., the dream became a reality. The Reeve Power Plant began operations, delivering 24-hour electric service to its six rural counties. With that, Federated REA became the first cooperative west of the Mississippi River to generate and distribute farmer-owned electricity, marking the beginning of a new era. In less than seven months, rural electrification had arrived. In the years that followed, two additional engines were added, and crews

braved challenging weather and the struggles that came with expanding.

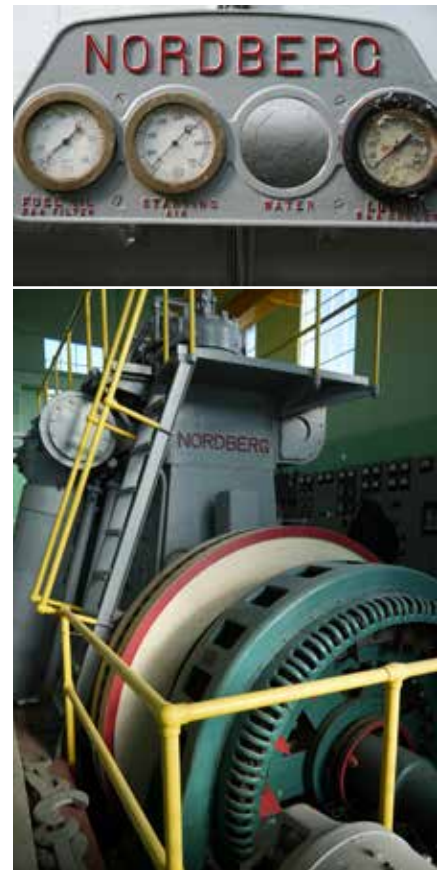
In 1947, Federated REA merged with the Central Electric Federated Cooperative Association in Pocahontas to form Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Corn Belt Power). This new cooperative structure responded to the soaring demand for electricity, utilizing the Reeve Power Plant to manage overflow from its primary generation facility. During this period of peak demand, energy brownouts became a common occurrence, with sections of the service territory experiencing reduced electricity usage to balance the grid. Concurrently, rural electrification had reached over 90% of U.S. farms, a remarkable achievement that underscored the success of the cooperative business model.

In 1950, Corn Belt Power transitioned the Reeve Power Plant to standby mode after a new generation source was commissioned to meet the grid's growing needs. Despite this change, the site continued to house a substation, providing vital support to the cooperative's members in the region and maintaining its role in the legacy of rural electrification. After serving its membership for decades, the generation plant was finally taken out of commission in 1974.

Maintaining historical significance

In 1988, the plant was donated to the Franklin County Historical Society, and through the efforts of countless volunteers, the REA Power Plant Museum was born. The museum, which opened to the public in 1990 as a Historic Place on the National Register, stands as a powerful reminder of the hard work, sacrifice and unity that made rural electrification possible. In 2002, the museum earned recognition as a point of interest within the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area.

In December 2024, the Reeve Power Plant was designated as a National Historic Landmark, honoring its legacy as the last remaining original plant built following the 1936 Rural Electrification Act. This recognition commemorates the plant's physical



structure and celebrates the remarkable spirit of innovation and perseverance it represents.

With many thanks to the Franklin County Historical Society and volunteers like Rick Whalen of Hampton, the historic site remains a testament to rural America's transformation. This dedication helps to preserve the spirit of hope, resilience, and effort that made electrification possible, ensuring the story continues to inspire future generations.

Museum exhibits showcase the challenges and triumphs of a bygone era, while displays highlight life before and after electrification. Visitors can also see artifacts like the original three-cylinder engine, circuit panels, transformers and the iconic concrete blocks engraved with "REA." The museum offers a living history of rural America's transformation, powered by the cooperative spirit and the collective will of those who dared to dream of a brighter future.

Madison Alert is the communications specialist/key accounts representative for Franklin REC.



REA POWER PLANT MUSEUM

TIMELINE

March 12, 1936

The *Hampton Chronicle* newspaper published the first article encouraging local farmers to form an electric cooperative

Early 1937

Federated REA received \$222,000 in the Rural Electrification Act's federal funding for the construction of the Reeve Power Plant

Winter 1937-1938

Construction of the plant continued through harsh winter weather conditions

February 1938

The second 4-cylinder engine was delivered and installed

March 19, 1938

The 4-cylinder engine underwent its first successful trial run

1940

The third engine was installed into the power plant

1947

Federated REA merged with neighboring cooperative Central Electric Federated Cooperative Association to create Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Corn Belt Power) – a generation and transmission cooperative

1951

The Reeve Power Plant was put on standby generation, but still operated as a substation for Corn Belt Power

1988

The Reeve Power Plant was donated to the Franklin County Historical Society and became the REA Power Plant Museum

2002

The Reeve Power Plant was recognized as a point of interest by the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area

December 2024

The REA Power Plant Museum registered as a National Historic Landmark

May 11, 1935

Executive Order No. 7037 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA)

Feb. 10, 1937

Eighteen farmers met in Fort Dodge to incorporate Federated REA

Sept. 1, 1937

Groundbreaking of the Reeve Power Plant began

January 1938

The Reeve Power Plant was enclosed, and the first 3-cylinder engine was installed

March 15, 1938

The 3-cylinder engine underwent its first successful trial

March 23, 1938

The Reeve Power Plant began supplying 24-hour electricity to rural homes in six counties

Winter 1941

The fourth, and final, engine was installed during the historic 1941 blizzard

1948-1950

The Reeve Power Plant operated as an overflow demand facility, as peak rural electrification expanded across the U.S.

1974

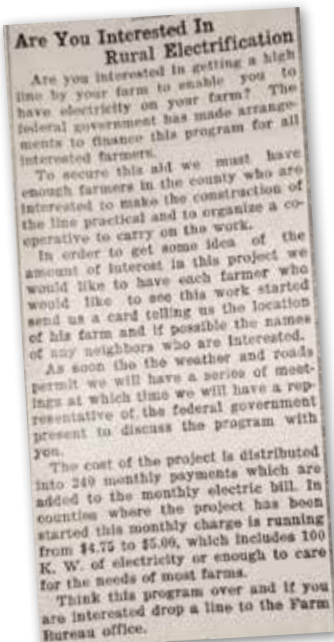
Corn Belt Power phased out and retired the Reeve Power Plant

1990

Renovations to the power plant began to transition to a museum and placed on the National Register of Historic Places

2017

The beginning of the process to recognize the museum as a National Historic Landmark



FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

APRIL 2, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative was held at the Franklin County Convention Center in Hampton, Iowa on April 2, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Central Time.

The meeting was called to order by Gordon Greimann, President of the cooperative, who presided. Darwin Van Horn, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

An invocation was offered by Darwin Van Horn.

The Chairman introduced guests and Board members.

The Chairman stated that the presence of the members indicated that Notice of Meeting had been given to the Members in accord with the By-Laws. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to waive the reading of the Notice. A copy of the Notice and the Proof of Mailing will be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The Chairman stated that the number of members who had registered at the door had been checked, and that a quorum was present for the transaction of business. A list of the members who registered in attendance at the meeting is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof by reference.

The Chairman offered to read the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the members held on April 4, 2023. A motion was made, seconded and carried to waive the reading of the minutes and they were declared approved as distributed.

The annual Financial Report was presented by Secretary-Treasurer Darwin Van Horn and, after full discussion, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, the report was approved and ordered to be filed in records of the cooperative.

The Chairman introduced General Manager Garrett Thompson for his report on the activities of the Cooperative and on issues of current interest in the electric utility industry.

General Manager Garrett Thompson then introduced Lily Strother and Mitchell Roelfs who both spoke and showed slides relaying their experience as last year's Youth Tour winners.

Chairman Greimann then announced the scholarship winners, Kiera Dodd, Ali Ackerson, Kacie Fessler, and the Youth Tour winner for the trip this summer, Stephanie Terrones.

Chairman Greimann then introduced Lauren Koehler, a Family & Consumer Sciences Education and Studies major at Iowa State University, who gave a presentation on the history of Rural Electrification and the impact that is had on domestic chores in the home.

The Chairman introduced attorney Kyle Kruidenier and stated that the next order of business was the election of three Directors for a term of three years. Mr. Kruidenier reported that, in accordance with the By-Laws, the Board of Directors had appointed from the Members of the Cooperative a Nominating Committee, consisting of Verlynn Mensing, Alan Brown, and Larry Doane. The committee had nominated the following members as candidates for Director:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 1, One to be Elected:

Matthew Roelfs

District 2, One to be Elected:

Don Greimann

District 3, One to be Elected:

Dale Schaefer

The report of the Nominating Committee was ordered to be identified by the

Secretary and annexed to the minutes of the meeting.

The Chairman then appointed Alan Brown, Larry Doane, and Verlynn Mensing as inspectors of election. A vote was then taken by ballot on the election of Directors for District 1, District 2, & District 3. The ballots were delivered to the inspectors, who proceeded to count them.

A Certificate of Inspectors of Election was then presented and read, certifying that the following members, having received the highest number of votes case, had been duly elected as Director of the Cooperative to hold office for the term specified, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified:

THREE-YEAR TERM

District 1, Matthew Roelfs

District 2, Don Greimann

District 3, Dale Schaefer

The Chairman directed the Secretary be directed to annex the Certificates of the Inspectors of Election to the minutes of this meeting, and thereupon declared such member duly elected Directors of the Cooperative to hold office for the term specified, and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

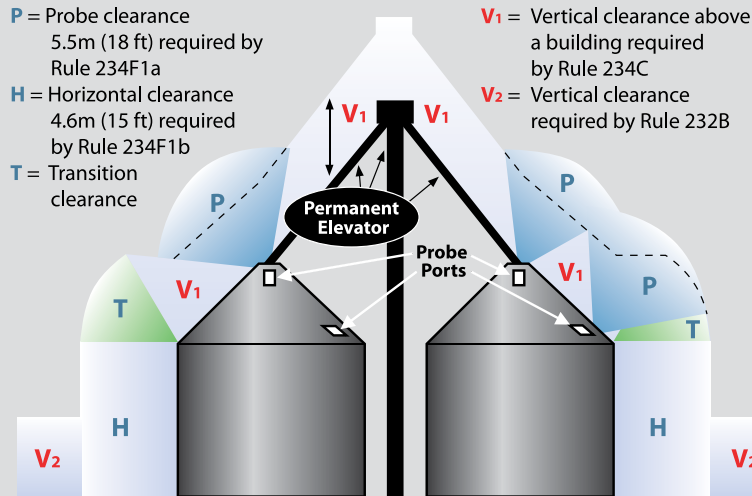
The Chairman asked for any old or new business and there was none.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

MINUTES FROM THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING



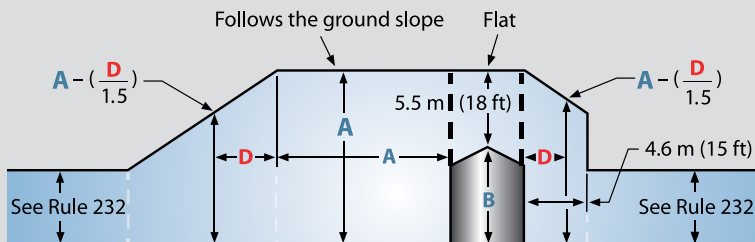
Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators



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Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators

ELEVATION



B = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
A = $B + 5.5\text{m (18 ft)}$
D = Variable horizontal dimension

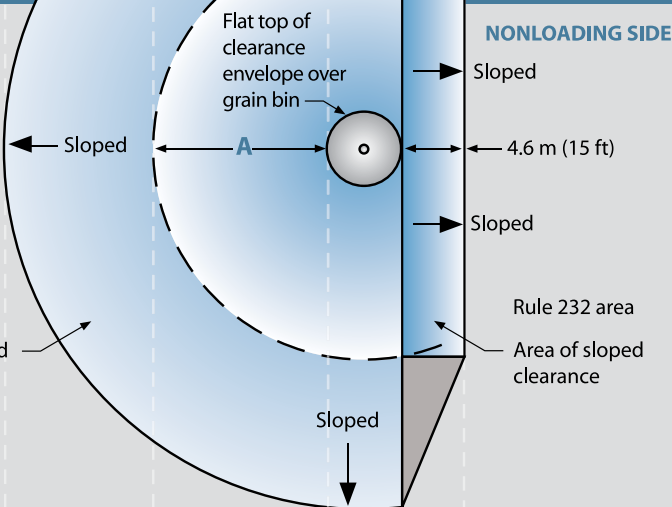
In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

PLAN VIEW

LOADING SIDE

See Rule 232

Area of sloped clearance



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MAINTAIN PROPER CLEARANCE AROUND GRAIN BINS

The state of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators. According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b: An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after Sept. 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after Dec. 24, 1997. The Iowa Utilities Commission has adopted this language.

Your local electric cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Commission to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants and city and county zoning officials. The drawings on this page show the required clearances, but your co-op's policies may be more restrictive. If you have any questions concerning these regulations – or what needs to be done before you begin placing a new grain bin or moving an existing one – please call your electric co-op for help.

These drawings are provided as part of the Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication.

Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents of these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.

THE POWER OF THE ASSIST

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

Any March Madness fans out there? While it's easy to focus on the superstars in these big games, a talented volleyball player at our local high school got me thinking about teamwork in a different way.

Norah Riedesel is an 18-year-old senior at South Central Calhoun (SCC) High School. This fall, she reached a major milestone of 1,500 career assists. Her accomplishment reminded me of a morning last July when I was in Ames for Iowa Swine Day. (Stick with me – you'd be amazed at what you can learn at farm meetings.)

The keynote speaker, Ross Bernstein, presented "The Champion's Code: Building Relationships Through Life Lessons from the Sports World to the Business World." One of his stories revolved around his youth in southern Minnesota and his passion for hockey. He mentioned his favorite player, Wayne Gretzky, who racked up 894 regular-season goals and 1,963 assists during his storied career.

"When you make a goal, you make one person happy. But an assist makes two people happy," Bernstein said. "Wayne understood the power of the assist."

That wisdom popped back into my head when I decided I should reach out to Norah. "Here's someone who really understands the power of the assist," I thought.

We win or lose together

Norah told me she started playing volleyball in fourth grade. She played right back (a defensive position) during her freshman and sophomore years of high school and became a setter during her junior and senior years.

"There are a lot of things that go into setting," Norah explained. "The biggest skill you need is the ability to make quick decisions on the spot. The first thing I think about is the other team's defense. Every team

has their weakness, so it's important to get the ball to hitters who can put the ball in that weak spot."

Assists are an integral element of teamwork, she added. "The phrase 'bump, set, spike' didn't come from nowhere. Without a good pass, there's probably not a good set. Without a good set, hitters aren't in the position to score."

That's exactly the mindset that led Norah and her fellow SCC Titans to the regional final game last fall. Had they won, they would have competed in the state volleyball tournament.

While Norah's high school volleyball career has ended, the power of the assist is a lesson that will serve her well in life. (She's headed to college to earn her doctorate of physical therapy degree and specialize in sports physical therapy.)

Success beyond sports

Norah is a real-life example of how the power of the assist reflects the talent and heart of a person. The assist combines skill and intention. It embodies your willingness to intentionally give up a chance for personal gain to create the possibility for a teammate to shine.

The assist doesn't just exist in sports. Ever heard of Reggie Young? This



Norah Riedesel (front row, third from the right), a senior at South Central Calhoun (SCC) High School, has played a key role on the SCC volleyball team.



American guitarist (1936-2019) was a leading session musician who performed on various recordings back in the day. His power of the assist made countless artists, including Elvis Presley, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Merle Haggard, sound even better.

The power of the assist also influences the arts. Think of the director who guides the actors in a movie or theater production to excellence. In the publishing world, there's the detail-oriented editor who polishes writers' prose to make these stories more clear, concise and compelling.

The power of the assist is a big responsibility, as Norah reminded me, but it can unleash exceptional results. Even better, it's a mindset that anyone can cultivate. What will your next great assist look like?

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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for members of
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