

● JUNE 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



**Your blueprint for an
energy-efficient new home**

**Operation Round Up makes
a meaningful impact**

Camping recipes

Shine the light on a volunteer or charitable organization ► See Page 14

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the April meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$477,048.01
- Approved Operation Round Up® donation request
- Approved 2024 audit report

OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE

In observance of Independence Day, Franklin REC will be closed on Friday, July 4. We will resume regular business hours on Monday, July 7.

As always, our crews remain on call and ready to respond to any outages or emergencies. If you need to report an outage, please call 641-456-2557.

We wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July!

VAN HORN EARNS CREDENTIALLED COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION



Franklin REC is pleased to announce that our board member, Darwin Van Horn, has earned the prestigious Credentialed

Cooperative Director (CCD) certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

As the electric utility industry continues to evolve, directors of electric cooperatives face new and increasing challenges. To serve member-owners effectively, directors must stay informed on industry trends, enhance their governance skills and remain committed to the core principles of the cooperative model. Franklin REC is dedicated to providing opportunities for board members to expand their knowledge for the betterment of the cooperative and its members.

The NRECA's CCD program equips directors with the essential knowledge needed for effective governance. To earn the certification, directors must complete and demonstrate proficiency in five key areas:

- Director duties and liabilities
- Understanding the electric business
- Board operations and process
- Strategic planning
- Financial decision-making

Darwin has served on Franklin REC's board for several years and has consistently embraced the learning opportunities and responsibilities the role entails. His dedication to advancing the cooperative's mission and his unwavering commitment to its members make him a valuable contributor to the board.

FRANKLIN REC VISITS IOWA CAPITOL

In early April, Franklin REC representatives traveled to the Iowa Capitol to meet with elected officials and discuss key issues impacting the electric utility industry and cooperative members. These conversations focused on ensuring reliable, affordable energy and advocating for the needs of rural Iowans.



Pictured from left: Rep. Shannon Latham, Franklin REC Board President Gordon Greimann, Franklin REC Board Director Dale Schaefer (seated) and Franklin REC General Manager/CEO Garrett Thompson.



Office

1560 Highway 65 • P.O. Box 437
Hampton, IA 50441

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Telephone Number

641-456-2557
Calls answered 24/7

Secure Pay-by-Phone Number

1-855-940-3953

Website

www.franklinrec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

GET TO KNOW YOUR CO-OP

In this edition of our “Get to Know Us” series, we’re excited to spotlight Karen Ringleb, Trey Swaney and Don Greimann, who each play a vital role at Franklin REC. They share what they love about working at the cooperative, the projects they’re most proud of and how they see Franklin REC making a difference in the community.

Plus, they reflect on how the cooperative has evolved and offer advice for those starting their careers. Keep reading to learn more about the people who help keep Franklin REC running smoothly!

KAREN RINGLEB

Office Manager



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC? We work for our members. We are a small family! I am amazed every day by

the changes we have seen in technology and how it can help our members and employees.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC?

We are truly trying to do the best we can for all members, no matter the size of service they need.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Great place to work.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career?

Don't be afraid to look for ways to improve yourself in your job. Don't settle for the norm. Try to be innovative and learn more than you were hired to do. It takes a village.

TREY SWANEY

Lineman



Q: How would you describe Franklin REC's impact on the community? The impact is huge on the community.

We do many things for our community, whether it's hanging Christmas lights, cleaning road ditches, helping out with the fair or keeping the public up to date with electrical safety.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC?

There is always more to learn about safety.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be?

Safe, fun, hardworking.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Always ask questions if you don't understand what's going on.

DON GREIMANN

Board Director



Q: What's your favorite part of being involved with Franklin REC? The challenge of making informed decisions on issues

that affect the other co-op members.

Q: How has Franklin REC changed since you've been on the board? This industry has become more technical.

Q: What's one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? How big the area we serve is and the miles of line we have.

Q: What's a project or initiative at Franklin REC that you're especially proud of? The co-op's solar fields and how they help reduce the cost of electricity for all our members.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE: APRIL WINNER



Franklin REC congratulates Line Superintendent Scott Hagenson for being selected as the April Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner, sponsored by Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

Scott selected the Iowa Firefighters Memorial Wall Expansion in Coralville, Iowa, to receive a \$100 donation.

A lifelong volunteer firefighter, Scott has dedicated years to serving and protecting his community. His commitment to public safety and honoring fellow firefighters makes this cause especially meaningful.

Thank you, Scott, for your service on the line and in your community!

NEED A CHECK-UP? GET A REBATE!

If your air source heat pump, geothermal unit or ductless mini split needs a tune-up, Franklin REC has you covered! Schedule a check-up with your local HVAC contractor, have them complete our checklist, and submit the paperwork to receive a bill credit.

It's that easy. Stay efficient and save money!

FRANKLIN REC GIVES BACK: SPRING COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Franklin REC employees have been on the move this spring, participating in a variety of give-back events throughout our service territory.

One highlight was the annual Farm Bureau Breakfast Battle, a friendly competition supporting local food pantries. Franklin REC employees Karen and Christy joined the shopping race, dashing through the aisles to gather ingredients for pre-selected recipes. Thanks to their efforts – and the strong partnership with fellow community organizations – numerous meals were provided to families in need.

Franklin REC also paid a special visit to a local Hampton preschool, where Member Services Representative Chad Foster led engaging demonstrations on electricity and safety. The preschoolers especially enjoyed soaking up the morning sun while watching Line Superintendent Scott Hagenson and



Crew Chief Chace Klein operate tools and the bucket truck in action.

In celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, every Franklin REC employee joined forces with Franklin County Conservation to plant 325 seedlings at Maynes Grove Park. This tree-planting tradition has become an annual event, with nearly 1,000 seedlings now planted in county parks. It's a



proud example of our commitment to environmental stewardship.

At Franklin REC, we're proud to uphold the cooperative principle of commitment to community. Our team always looks for ways to give back and support our neighbors. We'd love to hear from you if your organization has a project that could use an extra hand. Let's work together to make a positive impact!

WORK ANNIVERSARY



Franklin REC is proud to celebrate Lineman Nicholas Nelson's one-year

anniversary with our cooperative team! Since joining us, Nicholas has shown dedication, skill and a strong work ethic in keeping our power lines safe and reliable. We're grateful for his hard work and commitment to ensuring the lights stay on for our members. Here's to many more years of success and teamwork, Nicholas!

TRANSITIONING NEW POLES

Have you ever driven past a line crew installing new poles and power lines and wondered why they lean the existing pole before setting the new one?

This method helps crews keep the power on while safely transitioning to the new pole! By leaning the old pole, they maintain access to the power lines without interrupting service. Once the transfer is complete, crews follow behind to retire the existing pole. It's all part of Franklin REC's commitment to keeping your lights on while improving our system.

In the photo, Franklin REC's contracted line crew is changing the single-phase pole (pictured on the left) to a new three-phase line (pictured on the right). This new section of line is being constructed to connect two substations at an air switch point.

Connecting substations allows our generation and transmission cooperative and crews to keep energy flowing to members during maintenance work or if outages occur within a substation.



OPERATION ROUND UP SUPPORTS BRIDGE OF HOPE & FRIENDS OF BEEDS LAKE



Through the generosity of Franklin REC members who round up their monthly electric bills,

the Operation Round Up® program continues to make a meaningful impact in our communities. This spring, we are proud to provide funding and support to two deserving local organizations: Bridge of Hope North Central Iowa and Friends of Beeds Lake.

Bridge of Hope North Central Iowa: Lifting up families in crisis

Bridge of Hope North Central Iowa provides long-term support and housing stability for single mothers and their children who are facing homelessness. With the help of local mentors, the organization empowers families to achieve lasting independence through housing assistance, financial planning and emotional support.

The funding from Operation Round Up will help provide basic needs, such as groceries, gas cards and hygiene products, for families participating in the program. These essentials create a stable foundation for women working to build brighter futures for their children.

The support from Franklin REC is a blessing, allowing Bridge of Hope to say “yes” to families who are often told “no.” Every contribution helps restore hope and dignity.

Friends of Beeds Lake: Rebuilding a playground for future generations

Friends of Beeds Lake is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing Beeds Lake State Park, a cherished outdoor destination for local families, visitors and nature enthusiasts. The organization is focused on revitalizing

the park’s playground, which has deteriorated over time.

With community funding and support from Operation Round Up, the group will be able to purchase new playground equipment that will provide safe, enjoyable play for children for years to come. This improvement will enhance the park’s recreational offerings and ensure a safe and welcoming environment for families to enjoy together.

Friends of Beeds Lake is excited to replace the old playground with equipment that will bring joy to generations of children. The support from Franklin REC members makes a lasting impact on the community, and the group is deeply grateful for it.

Thank you, Franklin REC members. Every time you choose to round up your bill, you’re helping fund local projects just like these. Small change truly adds up to a big impact.

Interested in joining? It’s easy to sign up or to learn more. Just call our office or visit our website.

Make a difference with Operation Round Up

Join Operation Round Up and help support local individuals, families, nonprofits and community projects! By opting in, your monthly electric bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra cents making a big impact in our community.

Return this form by clipping and mailing it to:

Franklin REC, PO Box 437
Hampton, IA 50441

Or email to contact-frec@franklinrec.coop

Prefer to sign up online?
Visit www.franklinrec.coop/operation-round-0.

ARE YOU PART OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM OPERATION ROUND UP?

Operation Round Up funds are available to nonprofits, community organizations and individuals in need of financial assistance for projects or initiatives that benefit our local communities. If your organization could use support, we encourage you to apply for funding!

Learn more and apply at
www.franklinrec.coop/operation-round-0.



MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Service Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Yes, I want to participate in Operation Round Up!

By signing below, I authorize Franklin REC to round up my monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. I understand that I can opt-out at any time by contacting Franklin REC.

Signature _____

Date _____



Franklin REC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

June 2025

Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

Join Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in celebrating
the power of human connections.