

● SEPTEMBER 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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Fall apple recipes

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FRANKLIN REC'S SUMMER OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Franklin REC had a jam-packed summer out in the community!

Our traveling basketball gravity wagon made its way across our service territory, bringing fun and friendly competition to all ages. From town celebrations and church picnics to summer camps, library visits, farmers markets, barbeque competitions, car shows, National Night Out and even RAGBRAI – it's been a slam dunk everywhere we've gone!

But the fun didn't stop there. Franklin REC employees have been busy, too. We celebrated the Reeve REA Power Generating Plant's designation as a National Historic Landmark, volunteered at the 4-H Food Stand during the Franklin County Fair and handed out popsicles to RAGBRAI riders to help them beat the heat.

During National Night Out, our office staff helped distribute 300 donated headphones and earbuds to Franklin County students, in partnership with



Franklin County Family Focus. It was a rewarding way to help families prepare for the upcoming school year and strengthen our community connections.

At Franklin REC, community isn't just where we work – it's where we live. We're proud to play a part in making our service territory a place where people want to live, work and play.



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Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

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Calls answered 24/7

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1-855-940-3953

Website
www.franklinrec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CALLING ALL FUTURE LEADERS! JOIN THE 2025 IOWA YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Franklin REC is excited to invite local high school students to be part of something powerful – the 2025 Iowa Youth Leadership Academy! This free, virtual program is your chance to grow as a leader, discover what makes electric cooperatives unique and learn how to speak up for the things that matter most to you.

During this fun and interactive experience, students will:

- Uncover their leadership strengths.
- Connect with peers from across Iowa.
- Hear from inspiring speakers.

- Learn how to make a difference through advocacy.

If you're passionate, curious or ready to explore your potential – this is for you! There are three sessions, and Franklin REC offers a \$100 gift card to students who participate in all three sessions.

Register at www.iowayouthtour.com.

Once students register online for the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy, they can attend the webinars from their own computer or mobile device. Each Zoom session will last around 45-60 minutes.

Questions? Contact Franklin REC at 641-456-2557 or visit www.franklinrec.coop.



GET TO KNOW US

In this edition of our "Get to Know Us" series, we're featuring three valued members of the Franklin REC team: Madison Alert, Jens Hovenga, and Matt Roelfs. They'll share their unique experiences working at the cooperative, the achievements that stand out most to them and how they see Franklin REC positively impacting the community. They'll also offer their insights on the cooperative's journey and provide advice for individuals just beginning their careers.

Read on to learn more about Madison, Jens, and Matt and the important roles they play at Franklin REC!

MADISON ALERT

Communications/Key Accounts Representative



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC? The feeling of family we have here. We have the best interest at heart for our members, employees and community.

Q: How would you describe Franklin REC's impact on the community?

Undeniable. As a core principle, the co-op stays true to itself by providing support and presence in our service territory.

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

Decisions are made in house and are for the best interests of our members and the co-op. We are a not-for-profit organization who plans not only months, but years in advance to project the needs of the cooperative and our members in an ever-changing environment.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? When working as a team, rely on your coworkers. Your strengths may be another's weaknesses, and vice versa. Continue to grow; there is always something more you can do and learn.

JENS HOVENGA

Warehouseman



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC? Doing something different every day.

Q: How would you describe Franklin REC's impact on the community?

It has a huge impact with all the voluntary projects and programs.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? We care about the members and try to quickly accomplish repairs in tough situations to restore their power.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Stay focused and be patient.

MATT ROELFS

Board Director



Q: What's your favorite part of being involved with Franklin REC? I really like the community and the passion to serve not just our consumers, but also the community.

Q: How has Franklin REC changed since you started?

I think Franklin REC has become a lot more sophisticated and savvy in operating a relatively small electric cooperative.

Q: What's one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? I wish more members knew how much all the directors and employees care about providing reliable and efficient power.

Q: What's a project or initiative at Franklin REC that you're especially proud of? Any projects that build up the power grid and decreases outages for our members.

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the July meeting, Franklin REC directors approved the following:

- Approved construction and special equipment work orders of \$65,060.78
- Approved a donation to Franklin REC's Shine the Light nominees
- Approved board meeting date change for September
- Appointed National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Regional Meeting voting delegate
- Approved new tariff model to be filed with Iowa Utility Commission
- Appointed Basin Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting voting delegate
- Approved the Iowa Association Electric Cooperative membership dues
- Approved a donation to the Cooperative Family Fund

JULY SUMMER STORMS PUT OUR LINE CREW TO THE TEST

The month of July brought a series of intense summer storms that caused significant damage across our service territory. High winds swept through the area, toppling whole trees that fell onto power lines, while powerful lightning strikes damaged transformers and utility poles. These storms created numerous outages and posed serious challenges for our line crew as they worked to keep the power flowing for our members.

The damage from the storms varied – from entire trees brought down across lines to lightning strikes that severely impacted key infrastructure like transformers and utility poles. These challenges required careful coordination and extra effort to ensure repairs were completed correctly the first time, minimizing outage times for our members.

Throughout these events, our linemen demonstrated unwavering dedication and professionalism. Despite the long hours and difficult conditions, they worked tirelessly to assess damage, clear debris and make critical repairs to restore electricity safely and efficiently.



Their hard work often took place in hazardous conditions, but thanks to their training and commitment to safety, we are grateful to report that there were no injuries or close calls among our crew or members during these incidents.

We also want to express our sincere appreciation to all members who experienced outages during these storms. We understand how disruptive power interruptions can be, and your patience and understanding during these times is truly appreciated.

CELEBRATING OUR TEAM'S MILESTONES

At Franklin REC, we know our success is powered by the dedicated people behind the scenes. This month, we're proud to celebrate three employee anniversaries and recognize the contributions they make each day.



EMILY RUSH
14 years

As our accountant, Emily's attention to detail and commitment to

excellence are key to our cooperative's success. Her hard work and reliability continue to make a lasting impact. Congratulations on 14 years, Emily!



JENS HOVENGA
11 years

From keeping the warehouse running efficiently to making sure our line crews

have exactly what they need – often on short notice – Jens is a behind-the-scenes hero. Thank you, Jens, for 11 years of dedication!



CHRISTY MASON
9 years

Christy's friendly demeanor and willingness to help have made her a familiar

and trusted voice for our members. Her commitment to service shines through in everything she does. Congrats on nine wonderful years, Christy!

RECOGNIZING LOCAL SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES

Franklin REC is proud to recognize two outstanding individuals nominated for this year's Shine the Light campaign. Our rural communities are made stronger by the dedication of volunteers who give their time, talents and hearts to others. Because of individuals like James Abbas and Roger Kregel, our community truly shines brighter.

As a small token of appreciation and in the spirit of cooperative gratitude, Franklin REC is honored to make a donation to each nominee's chosen organization. Thank you, James and Roger, for the difference you continue to make.

The following are excerpts from the nominees. You can read about this year's Shine the Light winners on Pages 10-11 and 14 of this issue.

James Abbas, AGWSR FFA

James Abbas has a heart for teaching – but more importantly, he has a heart for people. As the ag and FFA teacher at AGWSR Community School District, he's the kind of educator who goes far beyond the classroom. He's passionate about helping students discover who they are, where they fit and how they can use their talents to give back.

To James, FFA is what he calls a "buffet of opportunities." And under his leadership, it truly is. His students get involved in all kinds of hands-on experiences – whether it's planning events, speaking at public functions or volunteering their time in the community. They grow flowers in the school greenhouse to fill planters around town and at the Ackley cemetery. They help the local Lions Club, clean up stretches of highway and step up in big ways at the Franklin County Fair – working behind the scenes at the rodeo and with the Franklin Farmhands at Grandpa's Farm.

But it's not just about staying local. James also wants his students to understand the impact they can have on the world. One of the most meaningful projects he leads is their World Hunger Day effort. With help from a local community member who donates land, students plant and harvest crops. The

money raised from the crops goes to Growing Hope Globally, an organization that supports farming and food security efforts in communities facing hunger. James uses this to show students that what they grow in a small Iowa town can help families across the globe.

What makes James so special is how deeply he cares about his students, his community, and the values he's passing on. He shows up early, stays late and gives every student a reason to believe they can make a difference. He's not in it for recognition – he just wants to help kids grow into people who care about others and their communities.

If James were selected for the Shine the Light award, he wouldn't think twice about what to do with it. He'd give it right back to the AGWSR FFA chapter to create even more opportunities for students to learn, lead and give back. Because for James, that's what it's always been about – making the most of every moment to help others shine.

Roger Kregel, Revitalize Dumont

In every small town, there's someone who believes deeply in what could be – someone who sees possibility where others see decline. In Dumont, that person is Roger Kregel.

Roger's love for Dumont runs deep. He's raised his family here, built relationships here and has never stopped believing in the strength of this close-knit town. So, when the community's once-proud school building sat empty, crumbling for more than a decade, Roger didn't just feel heartbreak, he felt called to act.

The building wasn't just bricks and mortar. It held memories where children laughed, games were played, and generations learned and flourished. Watching the school fall into disrepair was painful, a visible reminder of what had been lost. Roger saw something more, an opportunity to bring Dumont back to life.

In December 2024, Roger formed Revitalize Dumont, an organization built with a team of passionate community members and a simple but powerful message: enough is enough. Under

Roger's leadership, the group created a mission: "Lead and Promote Stewardship and Pride in the Community of Dumont." This mission has grown into something greater than words.

The community's response to Revitalize Dumont was overwhelming. At the first town hall meeting, more than 200 people attended, nearly a quarter of the town's population of 829. It was a powerful moment of hope. Revitalize Dumont set out to purchase the school from private ownership – not only to save a building, but to reignite pride in the place they call home. Neighbors leaned in, felt inspired, and when it came time to clean up, they didn't need to be asked twice.

With Roger's leadership, a multitude of volunteers continue to roll up their sleeves, scraping residue off gym floors, painting over graffiti and making needed repairs. Thus, breathing new life back into the building, what was once forgotten is now the center of something bigger. Whether it becomes a childcare center, job hub or gathering space, Roger is committed to ensuring these next steps serve the town's needs.

This project is just the beginning for Revitalize Dumont; Roger's vision stretches far beyond those walls. Through the organization, he's already laying the groundwork for sidewalk repairs, community clean-up efforts and future initiatives to help Dumont thrive. Every action is guided by a desire to uplift the community, helping people feel connected and proud of where they live.

Roger's leadership reminds residents that change doesn't come from waiting – it starts with someone willing to lead. His belief in Dumont is lighting a spark in others, proving with heart, hard work and hope, a town can be transformed to shine once again.

As the town sign proudly declares, "Small Town with a Big Heart," Dumont isn't just rebuilding, it's believing again.





IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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cooperatives

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Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop

FOCUSED ON YOUR STREET. NOT WALL STREET.

Think of your not-for-profit Touchstone Energy cooperative as your very own local energy advisor. After all, we're owned by you and the other members in our community, which means you'll always have a say in how your co-op runs. To learn more, visit TouchstoneEnergy.com.

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