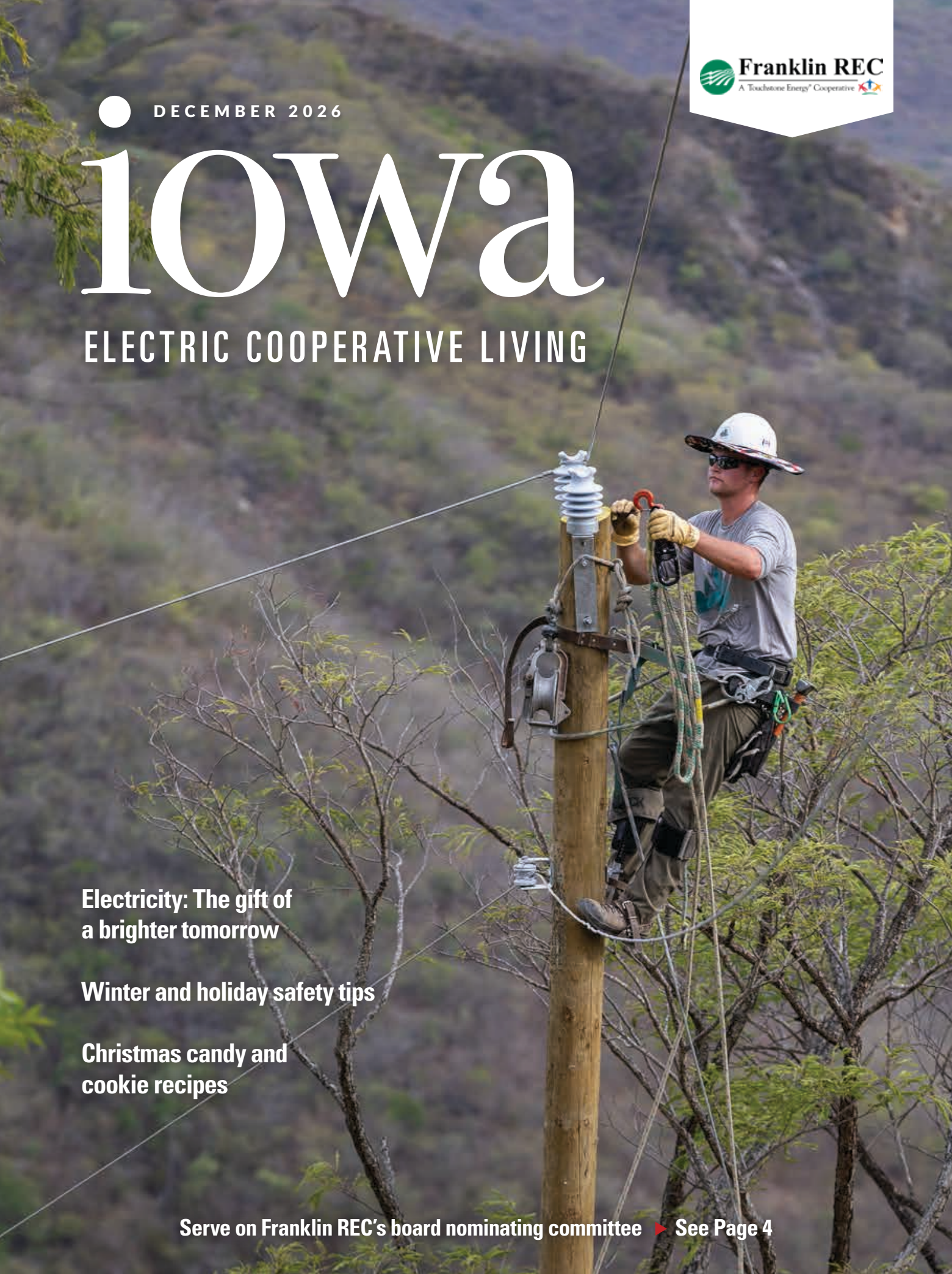
Franklin REC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

DECEMBER 2026

iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



Electricity: The gift of a brighter tomorrow

Winter and holiday safety tips

Christmas candy and cookie recipes

Serve on Franklin REC's board nominating committee ▶ See Page 4

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Electric cooperatives are guided by an elected board of directors, whose members represent the interests of their fellow member-owners. While elections happen just once a year, the process of selecting qualified candidates begins months in advance with the nominating committee.

Responsibility of the nominating committee

The nominating committee consists of at least one member from each of Franklin REC's three districts. These individuals are selected through a nomination process and serve as our vote counters.

Their primary responsibility is to ensure members have strong, capable leadership by identifying and recommending qualified candidates for the board of directors.

Their key responsibilities include:

- Reviewing director and nominating committee qualifications
- Seeking qualified candidates
- Evaluating potential nominees
- Submitting a slate of nominees
- Counting ballots

The time commitment to serve

The nominating committee devotes time to contacting potential director and nominating committee candidates. They meet at the cooperative's headquarters in Hampton only twice a year, but the work they do is critical to the health and success of our cooperative.

- The nominating committee meets each **January** to review the membership lists in their districts. They select and nominate qualified candidates for the board of directors. This meeting lasts 1-2 hours.
- The nominating committee meets on the **day of the Annual Meeting in April**, to count ballots, ensuring an accurate and transparent election process. This meeting lasts about an hour.

Benefits of serving on the nominating committee

- Serving the membership and your community
- Meeting and speaking with other member-owners of Franklin REC
- Per diem and mileage reimbursement

How to serve on the nominating committee
Member-owners interested in serving on the nominating committee, or as a potential board member, can contact Karen Ringleb or Garrett Thompson at 641-456-2557.



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

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m.-3:30 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.

FIVE-YEAR SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

Franklin REC is proud to recognize First Class Lineman Austin Neff for celebrating five years of service with the cooperative. During his time with Franklin REC, Austin has continued to grow in his role and contribute to the safety, reliability and service our members depend on.

His experience, dedication and willingness to take on new challenges have made him a valued member of the Franklin REC team. We appreciate all that Austin brings to the cooperative and the work he does each day to serve our members.



Congratulations, Austin, on five years with Franklin REC!

SCHOLARSHIP AND YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

At Franklin REC, we believe investing in our members and the next generation is one of the most meaningful investments we can make in the future of our communities.

Applications are now open for the 2026-2027 Franklin REC Powered for Success Scholarship Program and the 2027 Youth Tour experience to Washington, D.C.

Whether you're preparing for college, pursuing a career in the trades, continuing your education in agriculture or leadership or looking to restart your education or career journey, there may be an opportunity for you.

Scholarship programs

Franklin REC revamped its scholarship program to recognize the many different paths students and members take after high school. The 2026-2027 scholarship programs include opportunities in skilled trades, agriculture, leadership and a Reignite Your Future scholarship.

The Reignite Your Future scholarship is designed specifically for Franklin REC members who are looking to take the next step in their careers or explore a new opportunity. It is only available to non-high school graduates of the 2026-2027 school year, and it provides financial support to members who paused their education for a year or more and wish to restart their educational journey.

Youth Tour

Applications are also open for the 2027 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. This all-expenses-paid experience gives area high school sophomores, juniors or homeschool equivalents the opportunity to visit national landmarks, learn about the national government and the cooperative industry. Participants have the chance to meet elected officials while also connecting with peers from Iowa. Youth Tour offers students a firsthand look at how cooperatives serve their communities while making connections and creating lasting memories.

From scholarships to Youth Tour, Franklin REC is proud to provide opportunities that encourage our members and young people to learn, grow and build their futures.



Learn more about eligibility requirements and how to apply at www.franklinrec.coop.

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the October meeting, Franklin REC directors considered the following:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of $29,602.65
- Approved estate patronage retirements



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

In observance of Christmas and New Year's Day, the Franklin REC office will be closed Dec. 24 and 25, and Jan. 1.

We hope you have a safe and joyful holiday season and enjoy time with family and friends.

If you experience a power outage or other service disruption while our office is closed, please call 641-456-2557 for assistance.



CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL LIGHT UP THE NIGHT



Light Up the Night 2026 was one to remember! Franklin REC thanks everyone who joined us for an evening of lights, holiday festivities and community. Seeing families, friends and community members come together is what makes this event so special.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make the evening a success and to our members who continue to support this annual tradition. We look forward to celebrating with you again next year!

Light up the Night

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: contact-frec@franklinrec.coop

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

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Service Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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: _____

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

Questions? Call Franklin REC at **641-456-2557**.

SERVING UP ENERGY SAVINGS IN THE KITCHEN

The holidays bring families together and often mean plenty of time spent in the kitchen. Whether you're preparing a favorite family recipe, baking holiday treats or hosting a gathering, your kitchen is often the heart of the celebration.

With a few simple modifications, you can cook up energy savings while still creating memorable meals to share with the people you love.



Make the most of your appliances

When preparing smaller meals or side dishes, consider using smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers, air fryers, toaster ovens and microwaves. These appliances typically use less energy than a full-size oven and can be a convenient option during busy holiday gatherings.

If you're using your oven, maximize its efficiency by baking multiple dishes at once. It takes nearly the same amount of energy to cook one dish as it does several. You can also turn the oven off a few minutes before your recipe's end time and allow the remaining heat to finish cooking your food.

When using the stovetop, match your pan size to the burner size to get the most efficient use of energy. A properly sized burner helps transfer heat more effectively and avoids wasting energy.

Find new holiday favorites

Looking for inspiration for your next family gathering? The Iowa Electric Cooperative Living online recipe archive at www.ieclmagazine.com/recipes/recipearchive offers hundreds of recipes shared by cooperative members from across the state. From comforting soups and casseroles to desserts and holiday favorites, you may discover a new recipe that becomes part of your family's traditions.

Enjoy the season

The holidays are more than the meals we prepare; they're about the memories created around the table. By making a few energy-conscious choices in the kitchen, you can enjoy your favorite traditions while using energy wisely.

From our Franklin REC family to yours, we hope your holiday season is filled with good food, great company and lasting memories.

SAFETY STARTS WITH EVERY DECISION

At Franklin REC, safety isn't just a policy; it's part of who we are. Whether it's a routine task in the office or restoring power after a storm, we believe every job begins and ends with safety.

In 2026, Franklin REC was proud to receive its renewed Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) certification, recognizing our continued commitment to providing a safe workplace for our employees and dependable service for our members.

RESAP is designed to help electric cooperatives build and maintain strong safety programs while encouraging continuous improvement. It's more than a certification; it's an opportunity to take a closer look at how we work and identify ways to become even better.

Every three years, safety coordinators from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives spend time with our team both in the office and out in the field. They observe work practices, review our safety procedures and offer valuable feedback on what's working well and where improvements can be made. That outside perspective helps us continue to build a strong culture of safety.

Franklin REC also participates in the Commitment to Zero Contacts initiative, a nationwide effort focused on preventing serious injuries and fatalities caused by electrical contact. Through this program, our employees have access to additional training, job-planning tools and resources that reinforce safe work habits every day.

RURAL ELECTRIC SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
Creating a culture of safety

Safety isn't something we focus on only during inspections or training sessions. Through monthly safety meetings, regular hands-on training and programs like RESAP and Commitment to Zero Contacts, we're constantly looking for ways to improve. By keeping safety at the center of every conversation and every job, we help ensure our employees return home safely each day while continuing to provide the reliable service our members depend on.

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The magazine for members of Iowa's electric cooperatives

December 2026

Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop

