

● AUGUST 2023

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Caleb and Logan Sinnwell, Butler County REC member-consumers, for supplying this month's cover image of their pig Sunflower Jr. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

YOUTH TOUR INVESTS IN YOUNG LEADERS

BY SHELLEY YORK



In June, 38 Iowa students punched their tickets to the once-in-a-lifetime, whirlwind tour of our nation's capital that's known as Iowa Youth Tour!

The program is

designed for students to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government and walk away with a greater understanding of their roles as American citizens.

Since its beginnings in 1958, Youth Tour has become a longstanding tradition of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives. It's a living example of the cooperative difference – which includes giving back to communities and investing in the next generation of leaders.

We put the “tour” in Youth Tour

When the Iowa Youth Tour group arrived in D.C. on June 18, we hit the ground running. Moving as efficiently as a group of students and co-op chaperones can, we boarded and unloaded the bus at Washington's top stops to see everything possible during our time in the district. Our stops included the National Mall, various memorials and monuments, The White House, Mount Vernon, Ford's Theatre, the U.S. Capitol and many more.

Cooperative business model at work

Students also ran their own cooperative called the D.C. Munchie Cooperative, which sold reasonably priced snacks to its members. All students and chaperones became members of the cooperative. As members, they elected a board of directors, and the directors hired a co-op CEO/manager. The board and CEO met every morning over breakfast to discuss and plan activities related to the co-op.

Prior to the trip, students were asked about what type of snacks they would

like to see the cooperative sell. Based on their feedback, the inventory for the cooperative was determined.

At the end of the week, the cooperative held an annual meeting and reported there was a margin. The membership fee and patronage were returned to each member.

Honoring our heroes

Another highlight of the trip is the opportunity for some of our students to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This year, Tristan Blair (Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association), Owen Bell (Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative), Veronica Schechinger (Nishnabotna Valley REC) and Lizzy Kremer (East-Central Iowa REC) represented the Iowa Youth Tour at this ceremony.

Thankful for the memories

As the trip came to its inevitable end, the group reflected on the fact that we started our adventure as strangers but ended as one Iowa Youth Tour family. We are thankful for our time together and especially for the cooperatives that invested in these young leaders.



Our world is a much better place because we had this experience together!

You can see highlights from the 2023 Iowa Youth Tour by searching for “Iowa Youth Tour” on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and Twitter. We also posted daily updates on www.iowayouthtour.blogspot.com.

Shelly York is the Youth Tour director for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an Amazon Fire TV!

This Amazon Fire 32-inch Smart TV with Fire TV Alexa Voice Remote allows you to stream live TV without cable. Bring movies and shows to life in HD 720p resolution, with support for HDR 10, HLG and Dolby Digital Audio.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Aug. 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 LED String Lights from the June issue was Jennifer Kohorst, Access Energy Cooperative.



ENTER ONLINE BY AUG. 31

BATTERY PROJECT NOW SERVING MEMBER-OWNERS



Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO) and its power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, cut the ribbon on a new 1.425-megawatt Tesla MegaPack battery energy storage system at the Hampton Substation on June 27. Close to 70 cooperative employees, directors and managers attended the event inside the REA

Museum, which is located next to the cooperative's substation.

Ken Kuyper, general manager and executive vice president of Corn Belt Power, spoke of the cooperation among cooperatives that led to this successful project. He also described the project's two-fold goal to offset load during peak demand and allow the co-ops to learn more about battery technology.

"Each one of our cooperatives played a role in getting this project off the ground," Kuyper said in his remarks. "The battery energy storage system is the byproduct of our relationship with our member-cooperatives. I always say that doing things by consensus and as a team will yield good results and position Corn Belt Power well into the future."

The goal with the project is to learn more about battery technology, the process of procuring and installing batteries, how to operate them, and how a battery can benefit a cooperative.

"On a good day, this battery could power around 150 homes for about six hours," explained Kuyper during the event. "It's far from what we need to serve our entire membership.

However, we will see economic benefit to the Corn Belt Power membership by lowering demand charges in times of high use."

PECO CEO Tim Marienau says the battery project will benefit co-op members.

"We worked together as a group to come up with the most cost-effective way to implement a battery energy storage system," says Marienau.

"We value our great partnership with Corn Belt Power and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, our power suppliers, and Tesla. We know this battery won't power our entire service territory, but it does allow us the opportunity to research and study the new technology. Our goal is for the battery to pay for itself in a little more than 11 years."

The event brought together old and new technology, as one of the original 750-kilowatt diesel generators still resides inside the REA Museum. During the event, Darwin Meyer of Franklin County Historical Society, shared a brief history about rural electrification across Corn Belt Power's service territory.

Read more about the REA Museum on Page 15 of this issue.



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LOCAL TEEN ATTENDS NATIONAL TOUR PROGRAM

Luke Royster of Duncombe recently participated in the national electric cooperative Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., sponsored by Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO). He spent June 18-23 in Washington, D.C., with 37 other student leaders from Iowa.

Each year in June, this week-long leadership development program provides high school students opportunities to learn about government, the electric cooperative business model and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students met their elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, toured historic sites and ran their very own Snack Cooperative.

The electric cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of locally owned electric cooperatives, such as PECO,

their statewide trade associations, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for 65 years.

"The Youth Tour was so amazing," Royster says. "It was really cool to meet my senators and representative and learn about politics up-close. Plus, I made friends and experienced history firsthand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American and shows that people my age do care about this country."

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for the Rural Electric Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time

world Wheelchair Basketball champion. Schlappi shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students on Youth Tour for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington.

For more information on how you can participate in PECO's 2024 Youth Tour program, contact the office at 515-532-2805 or www.prairieenergy.coop. Search for "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to see the group's recent adventures from 2023.



EDUCATING AND DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S COOPERATIVE LEADERS

BY ANN FOSTER THELEN

Going on Youth Tour was a great honor. It was fun to meet new friends and better understand cooperatives through the example of our snack co-op. Seeing all the sights of Washington, D.C., provided memories to last a lifetime. It was an eye-opening experience and humbling to see what people have given for our country.

Colton Zupke
Butler County REC

I loved getting to see every part of Iowa represented through Youth Tour participants. The principles, aspirations and attitudes of the students truly showed the beautiful and kind nature of Iowa as a whole. One of my favorite experiences was the boat tour when we saw so many scenic views of the area while connecting with students from other states. It was truly an honor to represent Iowa and our community in the nation's capital!

Olivia Marti
Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative

To discover and experience the heart of our nation at work was amazing. The sights and sounds, the feelings and emotions will be something I will never forget. To do all these things with an amazing group of peers and leaders truly made it a trip of a lifetime.

Shelby Brosh
Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative

I loved the trip so much. It was amazing to meet people from all over Iowa and the nation. I enjoyed learning more about how a cooperative is run and the time and planning that goes into it. We also learned so much about our nation's capital and America's history. Overall, this was an amazing experience, and I'm so thankful that I was given this opportunity.

Rheanne Feilmeier
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

Youth Tour is an awesome opportunity to make new friendships and experience a fun and memorable trip.

Veronica Schechinger
Nishnabotna Valley REC



To learn more about the group's daily adventures, visit the Iowa Youth Tour Blog at iowayouthtour.blogspot.com.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2024 Youth Tour
June 15-21, 2024
www.iowayouthtour.com

The formal Youth Day program included Mat Kilgore, a line foreman at Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and 2019 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International volunteer, and motivational speaker Mike Schlappi, a wheelchair basketball player who has appeared in four consecutive summer Paralympic Games.



2023 PARTICIPANTS

Alexis Wagner – Access Energy Cooperative
Natalie Byrnes – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
Olivia Marti – Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative
Colton Zupke – Butler County REC
Tristan Blair – Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Assn.
Jordyn Hafer – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative
Olivia Hathcock – Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative
Mariah D'Attilio – Clarke Electric Cooperative
Jaci McMinamen – Consumers Energy
Keelie Curtis – East-Central Iowa REC
Lizzy Kremer – East-Central Iowa REC
Aden Howard – Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative
Megan McCall – Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mitch Roelfs – Franklin REC
Lily Strother – Franklin REC
Maddie Gingery – Grundy County REC
Isabelle Brumm – Heartland Power Cooperative
Shelby Brosh – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
Parker Duitsman – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
Logan Thorson – Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative
Lauren Geerdes – Lyon REC
Morgan Meyer – Lyon REC
Emma McGuigan – Midland Power Cooperative
Brady Burke – MiEnergy Cooperative
Ava Thronson – MiEnergy Cooperative
Veronica Schechinger – Nishnabotna Valley REC
Chloe Hoftzyer – North West REC
Ellen Hunt – North West REC
Thomas Tangen – Pella Cooperative Electric Association
Luke Royster – Prairie Energy Cooperative
Rheanne Feilmeier – Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Owen Bell – Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
Hayden Brinegar – Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
Aubrey Reed – Southwest Iowa REC
Clay Morse – TIP REC
Silas Walston – United Electric Cooperative
Shay Hamblen – Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Lauren Jones – Western Iowa Power Cooperative

Who knew you could get so close in just one week! My favorite memory is when we were all together and we would all just laugh. And if you've never been out of the state of Iowa this is your chance!

Isabelle Brumm
Heartland Power Cooperative



Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending high school students to Washington, D.C., since 1958! This year, 38 high school students and six chaperones representing Iowa's electric cooperatives journeyed to the nation's capital in June for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2023 National Electric Youth Tour.

On the weeklong tour, students learned about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government and walked away with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. They participated in National Youth Day, visited with their elected legislators and explored the sights around the nation's capital.

Earlier in the year, students applied for the trip through their local electric cooperatives. The Iowa students joined students from co-ops around the country for the national Youth Tour.

SOME OF THE THINGS STUDENTS DID AND SAW ON THIS YEAR'S YOUTH TOUR:

- » Washington Monument
- » World War II Memorial
- » Albert Einstein Memorial
- » Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- » The National Mall
- » Holocaust Memorial
- » Ford's Theater
- » Korean War Veterans Memorial
- » Lincoln Memorial
- » Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
- » Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- » Boat cruise on the Potomac River
- » Mount Vernon
- » Iwo Jima Sunset Parade
- » White House
- » U.S. Capitol



TASTY CHERRY PIE

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 9-inch pie crust
- 2 eggs, beaten
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flaked coconut

Place cherry pie filling in unbaked 9-inch pie crust. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes and remove from oven. Combine remaining ingredients and pour evenly over pie. Return to oven and bake 25-30 minutes until topping is golden brown.

Dee Ann Paulsrud • Danbury
North West Rural Electric Cooperative

BANANA CREAM DESSERT

- 16 graham cracker squares, crushed finely
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cold milk
- 1 3.4-ounce package vanilla instant pudding
- 1 12-ounce container whipped topping, thawed
- 3 medium bananas, sliced

In medium bowl, mix graham cracker crumbs, melted butter and sugar. Pat into bottom of an 8- or 9-inch square dish. Whisk sour cream and milk together. Sour cream can be substituted with plain Greek yogurt. Add pudding mix and whisk until pudding is dissolved. Fold in whipped topping. Spread half the pudding mixture over graham cracker crust. Cover with sliced bananas and spread remaining pudding mixture on top of bananas. Chill. Serves 9

Richard Claeys • Belle Plaine
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

FIVE-MINUTE BROWNIE

- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cocoa
- 4 tablespoons hot chocolate mix
- frosting, optional
- vanilla ice cream

Place butter in glass pan and microwave until melted. Mix sugar, eggs, vanilla, baking powder, cocoa and hot chocolate mix together, then pour into glass pan. Microwave for 5 minutes. Cool and frost, if desired, and serve with ice cream.

Shirley Mattson • Tama
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

GOOSEBERRY OR RHUBARB COBBLER

- 3-4 cups gooseberries or rhubarb, cut
- $1\frac{3}{4}$ cups sugar, divided
- 3 tablespoons butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
- 1 cup flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon corn starch
- 1 cup boiling water

Place cut gooseberries or rhubarb in a greased 9x12-inch baking pan. Cream $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar and butter. Add milk, flour, baking powder and salt to make a batter. Pour over fruit. Combine 1 cup sugar and corn starch. Sprinkle over batter. Pour boiling water over all. Bake at 375 degrees F for 1 hour.

Janice Shepherd • Lenox
Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

CHOCOLATE BROWNIE TRIFLE

- 1 package brownie mix for 8x8-inch pan
- 1 5.1-ounce package chocolate instant pudding mix
- 2 cups milk
- 1 16-ounce container whipped topping, divided
- 1 chocolate bar, optional for garnish

Prepare brownies according to package directions (you can substitute brownies made from scratch). Cool completely. Split the prepared brownies into thirds. Cut one third into little squares and set aside. Crumble the remaining two thirds but keep separate for the layers.

Mix instant pudding according to package directions using only 2 cups milk. Carefully fold in half of the whipped topping into prepared pudding. Layer a third of the crumbled brownie into the bottom of a trifle dish. Next, layer half of the pudding mixture over the brownie. Then, layer half of the remaining cool whip over the pudding mixture. Repeat the layers once more. Top the trifle with the little brownie squares.

Using a vegetable peeler, peel chocolate shavings over the top of the trifle. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

Serves 15-20

**Joyce Maassen • Boyden
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

FRESH STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM CAKE

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2½ cups sugar, divided
- 3 large eggs
- 3 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon lemon juice, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups cake flour
- 2 tablespoons strawberry Jell-O mix
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1½ cup fresh strawberries, chopped, divided
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1½ cups heavy cream

Beat butter and 2 cups sugar together for 4-5 minutes, until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Add 1 teaspoon lemon juice and vanilla. Beat together and set aside. Mix cake flour, Jell-O, baking soda and salt. Mix the flour mixture into the butter and egg mixture, alternating with the buttermilk. Begin and end with flour. Beat on low until blended. Stir in ¾ cup strawberries. Pour into a greased and floured 9x13-inch cake pan (or 2 10-inch cake pans lined with sprayed parchment paper). Bake at 350 degrees F for 30-40 minutes until done and let cool.

Make a frosting by beating cream cheese and ½ cup sugar until smooth. Add ¾ cup strawberries and set aside. Beat heavy cream and 3 tablespoons lemon juice. Add ½ cup sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture and frost cake. Refrigerate cake.

**Dode Westendorf • Waverly
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative**

SUPER MOIST RHUBARB SPICE CAKE

- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2½ cups flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 4 cups rhubarb, cut
- sugar cinnamon mixture (¾ sugar to ¼ cinnamon)

Mix sour cream, sugar and eggs. Add flour and baking soda. Mix well, then stir in rhubarb. Spread mixture into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle sugar cinnamon over top. Bake at 350 degrees F for 25 minutes or until done.

**Marilyn Halbur • Carroll
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative**

MIXED FRUIT COBBLER

- 4 medium ripe apricots
- 2 large ripe nectarines
- 2 large ripe peaches
- ¾ cup sugar, divided
- 2 tablespoons corn starch
- 1 tablespoon cold butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cornmeal
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup milk
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

Peel and slice apricots, nectarines and peaches. In bowl, combine fruit with ½ cup sugar and cornstarch. Spoon into a greased 8-inch square baking dish and dot with butter. In another bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and remaining sugar. Stir in milk and oil just until moistened. Spread over fruit mixture. Bake at 375 degrees F for 35-40 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown.

**Morgan Lyon • Garwin
Consumers Energy**

WANTED:

HOLIDAY DINNER RECIPES

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

Deadline is Aug. 31

Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. **Also provide the number of servings per recipe.**

EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com

(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes

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SHINE THE LIGHT CONTEST NOMINEES ANNOUNCED



The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa are driven by our commitment to community.

To celebrate local volunteers, the Shine the Light contest returned for a third year and received 126 volunteer nominations during June, an 85% increase from last year! Employees and member-consumers of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community.

Three winners will be awarded a \$2,500 donation to their charity or community organization of choice and will be featured in next month's issue. Please join us in celebrating these nominees for their outstanding commitment to community. Learn more at www.iowaShineTheLight.com.

2023 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES

Rodney Anderson from New Sharon was nominated by **Susan Anderson of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for his work with **Friends of Mahaska County Conservation**.

Marcia Bachmann from Denison was nominated by **Richard Meyer and Clayton Ullerich of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **CCHappycats, Inc.**

Darron Baker from Eagle Grove was nominated by **Donavon Baker of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with **Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight**.

Diane Bales from Bloomfield was nominated by **Joye Lore-Lawson of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Davis County Tourism Corporation**.

Sherry Bousk from Decorah was nominated by **Holly Kanengietter of MiEnergy Cooperative** for her work with **WinnMed Foundation**.

Shirley Bowman from Webster City was nominated by **Joe Sherman of Webster City Municipal** for her work with **Christians in Action**.

Caroline Bredekamp from Spragueville was nominated by **Don Wentworth of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Northbend Community Center**.

Dale Breuer from Estherville was nominated by **Brooke Henriksen of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Kiwanis Club of Estherville**.

The Butler County Fair Board from Allison was nominated by **Rhonda Marshall of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Butler County Fair Association**.

Raejean Chapman from Clarion was nominated by **Erin Baker and Heather Evje of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Dirt Diggers**.

Kirby Christensen from McCallsburg was nominated by **Kathy Nelson of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **American Legion Post #334**.

Greg Christianson from Baxter was nominated by **Natalie Moorman of Consumers Energy** for his work with **Baxter American Legion**.

Larry Daft from Colfax was nominated by **Kevin Williams of Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Colfax Historical Society**.

Jim Danzl from Humboldt was nominated by **Jaclyn Lerdal of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry**.

Michele Dettmann from Sac City was nominated by **Pat Laursen of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Swaddling Clothes**.

Randy Dunfee from Murray was nominated by **Venita Escher of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for his work with **Murray Church of Christ**.

Gail Eischeid from Lake View was nominated by **Rhonda McQuigg of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **East Sac County Food Pantry**.

Megan Farrell from Grinnell was nominated by **Lindsey Starrett of Pella Cooperative Electric Association** for her work with **Read 2 Lead**.

Jarrod Fischer from Wallingford was nominated by **Connie Hopper of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Wallingford Fire and Ambulance**.

Ann Gemberling from Lohrville was nominated by **Linda Schmitt of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Sue Gradoville from Boone was nominated by **Joann Utke of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with **Boone Hope Foundation**.

Ron Halbur from Manning was nominated by **Karen Kienast of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for his work with **Manning Community Foundation**.

Jane Hasek from Harpers Ferry was nominated by **Marita Clark of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Harpers Ferry Area Heritage Society**.

Nancy Hering from Oakland was nominated by **Doris Bane, Layna Bentley, Julie Hering Kent and Brenda Windmuller** of **Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Bidwell Riverside Food Pantry**.

Theresa Hildreth from Rockwell City was nominated by **Julie Clayton** of **Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Stewart Memorial Community Hospital Foundation**.

Samantha Holm from Sumner was nominated by **Amanda Petersen** of **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Royal Family Kids' Camp Northeast Iowa**.

Betty Hoogendoorn from Rock Valley was nominated by **Jody Folkens** of **Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative** and by **Mike Haverhals, Tamara Haverhals, Darwin Hoogendoorn, Kyle Hoogendoorn, Cierra Overweg and Kristi Tiedeman** of **North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Hope Haven**.

Joyce Hornstein from Huxley was nominated by **Jean Saveraid** of **Greenfield Municipal Utilities** for her work with **Ballard Community Performing Arts Association**.

Ruth Jennings from Williamsburg was nominated by **Michelle Jennings** of **T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Mount Mercy Dance Marathon**.

Angie Johnson from Rockford was nominated by **Larry Hicok** of **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Grow Rockford Together Association**.

Geri Johnson from Onawa was nominated by **Arthur Weston** of **Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **Food 4 You, Inc.**

Judith Johnson from Estherville was nominated by **Elizabeth Harris** of **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **VFW Post 3388**.

Kathryn Johnson from Afton was nominated by **Retta Ripperger** of **Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Afton Development Corporation**.

Jerry Jors from Ricketts was nominated by **Randy Bohlmann** of **Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for his work with **Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight**.

Bonnie Kauzlarich from Centerville was nominated by **Mary Sue Zaputil** of **Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **The Lord's Cupboard**.

Danielle Kruse from Hartley was nominated by **Jamie Stoll** of **North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Kids Kampus**.

Katie Kruse from Carroll was nominated by **David Onken** of **Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Carroll High School Foundation**.

Sally Kuhrts from Galva was nominated by **Cindy Glienke** of **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Orphan Grain Train**.

Jim Langhus from Monona was nominated by **Mildred Stewart** of **Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Monona Butterfly Gardens & Trails**.

Bobbie Lieser from Tipton was nominated by **Alice Whitlatch** of **Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative** for her work with **Big Creek Missions**.

Erica Lindaman from Clarion was nominated by **Troy and Jenny Askelsen, Emily Bernhardt, Mark Bernhardt, Janet Blackman, Mitchell Brandt, Chad Chapman, Tim and Becky Chipman, Gina Cleveland, Mary Davis, Kathy Deimerly, Robert Deimerly, Belva German, Brittany Howieson, Mary Kallem, Roger Kallem, Mary Lager, Dennis Mraz, Jo Olson, Sarah Olson, Brian Ring, Knuton Severson, Darla Tweeten and Kathy Whitver** of **Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Gift of Giving**; and by **Matthew Cook** of **Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **Riding for a Reason** in memory of **Brandon Lee**.

Charlotte Lungsford from Spirit Lake was nominated by **Nola Jensen** of **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Cherished Again**.

Lisa and Mike McCarty from Ames were nominated by **Sean Dowling and Frederick Gulden** of **Midland Power Cooperative** for their work with **All Aboard for Kids**.

Mike McCarty from Carroll was nominated by **Brian and Tricia Wolterman** of **Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Mission Honduras**.

Jeriann McLaughlin from Huxley was nominated by **Steve Quick** of **Consumers Energy** for her work with **Ballard Community Clothing and Food Pantry**.

Elizabeth McOllough from Clarion was nominated by **Barbara Moore** of **Prairie Energy Cooperative** for her work with **CGD Community Corral**.

Bill Meyer from Fredericksburg was nominated by **Nancy Meyer** of **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Fredericksburg Lions Club**.

Caleb Meyer from Aplington was nominated by **Katie LaBree** of **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Feed My Starving Children**.

Carolyn Mohlis from Tripoli was nominated by **Anita Destival, Jodi Risse, Barb Schwake, Ken Shonka, Sandy Tagtow & Joanna VanDeBerg** of **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Helping Hands Clothing Closet**.

Mike Moran from Churdan was nominated by **Wade Gemberling** of **Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association** for his work with **Lohrville Visions**.

Leon Muhlbauer from Glidden was nominated by **Denise Muhlbauer** of **Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Carroll Lions Club**.

Cindy Murphy from Pocahontas was nominated by **JoAnn Poduska** of **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Pocahontas Community Foundation**.

Shannon Neff-Muell from Guthrie Center was nominated by **Laura Robson** of **Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association** for her work with **Little Charger Early Learning Center**.

Bev Nielsen from Columbus Junction was nominated by **Ken Purdy** of **Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative** for her work with **Columbus United Fund**.

Sandra Olesen from Graettinger was nominated by **Barbara Brennan** of **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Unity Lutheran Ministries Food Pantry**.

Ruth Pickle from Moorhead was nominated by **ToNetta Englehardt** of **Onawa Municipal** for her work with **Moorhead Cultural Center**.

Teresa Poland from Clarksville was nominated by **Paula Hoodjer** of **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Clarksville Food Pantry**.

Linda Price was nominated by **Brett Fuelberth** of **Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Food Bank of Iowa**.

Mike and Sandy Ralya from Afton were nominated by **Laura Tallmon** of **Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for their work with **Afton Development Corporation**.

Mady Reed from Sumner was nominated by **Sumner Dental Care** of **Sumner Municipal** for her work with **Sumner Daycare and Learning Center, Inc.**

Matt Riedell from Carroll was nominated by **Sean Kleespies** of **Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Lake View Blackhawk Men's Club**.

Dianne Riley from Osceola was nominated by **Joan Peterson** of **Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Toys for Christmas**.

Mary Sauter from Albia was nominated by **Brian Lindberg** of **Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Pay It Forward Christmas Charity**.

Lana Schaefer from Rockwell was nominated by **Bev Peters** of **Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Rockwell Public Library**.

Heather Schmidt from Webster was nominated by **Heather Fischer** of **T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Tri-County Food Bank**.

Caleb Sinnwell from Nashua was nominated by **Heather Sinnwell** of **Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Nashua VFW Post 6792**.

(Continued on Page 14)

FEENSTRA MAKES STOP ON 36-COUNTY TOUR

On June 28, U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra made Prairie Energy Cooperative (PECO) one of the stops on his 36-county tour in Iowa. Rep. Feenstra spoke with employees and directors about cooperative power supply, rural economic issues and biofuels. PECO looks forward to working with Rep. Feenstra in the future to ensure an all-of-the-above generation portfolio and rural economic growth.



PECO MEMBERS WIN CONTESTS; YOU CAN, TOO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Last month, two Prairie Energy Cooperative members were awarded bill credits by entering contests held monthly by *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.

Greg Flugum of Forest City won \$25 because his recipe for eggplant casserole was chosen for the July recipe contest featuring summer vegetables.

Kent Schlawin won \$100 for his submitted photo being chosen as the July issue's cover photo.

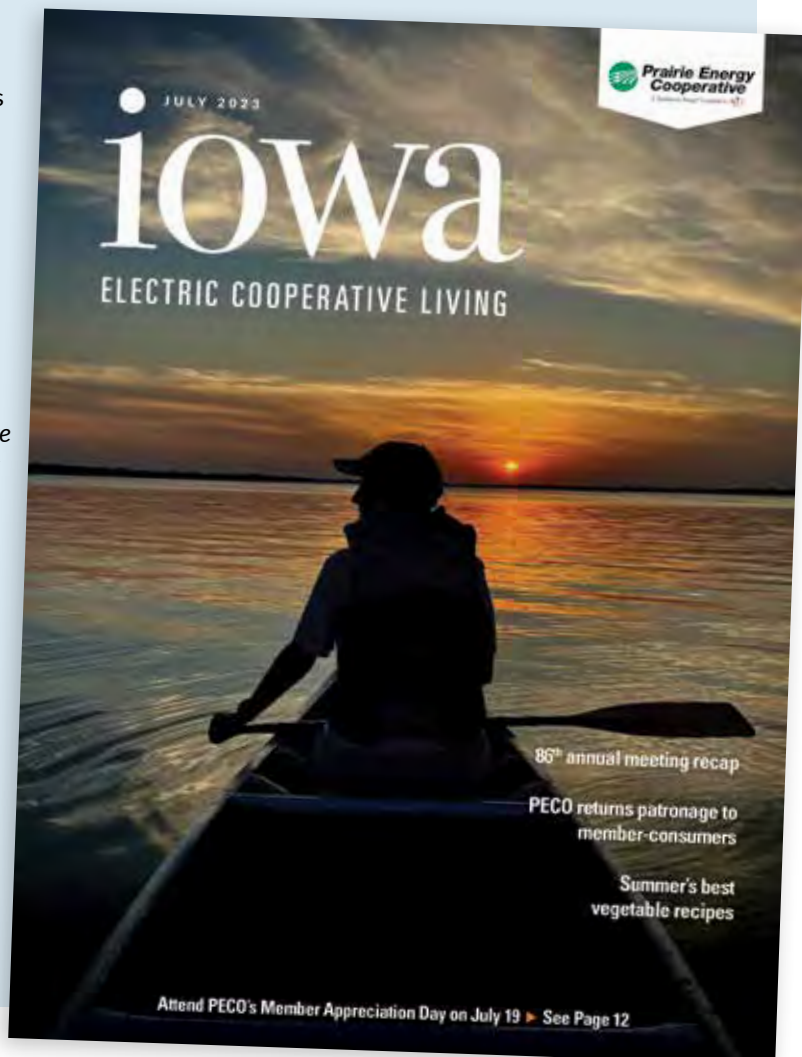
Watch future issues and be sure to follow the co-op Facebook page, as well as the *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* Facebook page to stay up to date with monthly contests and winners.

EGGPLANT CASSEROLE

- 1 small eggplant
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 2 medium tomatoes, sliced medium thickness
- ¼ cup American cheese, grated

Peel eggplant and slice about ¼- to ½-inch thick. Cut slices in half. In a large frying pan, heat oil until starting to smoke. Place eggplant in hot oil and brown each side. Season with salt and pepper to taste. In a 2-quart baking dish, alternate layers of eggplant, onion, green pepper and tomatoes. Cover and bake at 375 degrees F for 50 minutes. Remove cover and sprinkle grated cheese on top. Return to oven and bake uncovered until cheese is melted and browned. Serves 4

Greg Flugum • Forest City
Prairie Energy Cooperative



EV CHARGING SAFETY TIPS

BY JENNAH DENNEY

Charging is a concern among new electric vehicle (EV) owners, whether plug-in hybrid or full electric. Fear of inconvenience is one of the biggest barriers to widespread adoption of EVs. You might be concerned that there aren't enough public charging stations in the area.

An EV charging station at home can solve this challenge of inconvenience. EV charging systems at home are safe as long as they're installed correctly.

Evaluating EV charging options

The first thing EV owners should consider is how they will charge their vehicles. A licensed electrician can evaluate your home's EV charging situation, as well as:

- The vehicle's charging capabilities and requirements, which vary depending on the make, model, and type.
- The potential location of the panel and vehicle, including the distance from the panel to the garage, the degree of difficulty to access and whether the garage is attached or detached.
- The capacity and overall condition of your home electrical system to identify any concerns or additional work.

There are two common types of home charging options. Level 1 charging is a

straightforward plug-in of the EV into any standard 120V electrical outlet. This requires no electrical modification, and it normally takes around 14 to 20 hours to fully charge the EV.

Level 2 charging units are sold separately from the vehicle. A licensed electrician must install these units because they plug into a 240V outlet and charge much more quickly, typically in four to eight hours.

Safety considerations

EV chargers are thought to be extremely safe, but we recommend following these fundamental guidelines to reduce potential hazards.

- 1 Select charging equipment that is certified to meet safety standards. Plug Level 1 EV chargers directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. Never use a multi-plug adapter or extension cord. Charging cables are a tripping hazard, so be aware of the cable's location.
- 2 Purchase a Level 2 charging device that is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. This means the device has gone through rigorous testing and certification by a third-party company with extensive knowledge and pedigree in certifying EV technologies.

3 Check with your electric co-op and a licensed electrician before modifying your electrical system or installing a charging station. An electrician will need to make sure your home's wiring complies with local, state and national codes, and may need to obtain a permit before installation.

4 Place all charging components out of reach of children when not in use.

5 Maintain the components of your charging station according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

6 Cover the EV charging station outlet to prevent water exposure. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.

7 Most charging stations are equipped with safety devices, such as GFCIs, which will identify electrical shorts and stop power to the charger to minimize risks.

Remember to contact your electric co-op before installation. They can answer any questions you have and provide additional information on EV programs and rates.

Jennah Denney writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



2023 SHINE THE LIGHT NOMINEES (CONT.)

(Continued from Page 11)

Dennis Slota from Remsen was nominated by **Judy Bunkers of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Remsen St. Mary's Parish**.

Marsha and John Smeltzer from Spirit Lake were nominated by **Rosie Lundquist of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Spirit Lake Protective Association**.

Jeff and Tracy Spear from Hampton were nominated by **Madison Alert of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Bridge of Hope North Central Iowa**.

Jeann Stadlander from Manning was nominated by **Tim and Joni Kienast of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **IKM-Manning Community School Foundation**.

Jim Stiles (in Memoriam) was nominated by **Ann Williams of Access Energy Cooperative** for his work with **Beyond Limits**.

Kathy Struck from Denison was nominated by **Rita Eggers of Western Iowa Power Cooperative** for her work with **Goodfellows**.

Steve Supple (in Memoriam) from Cascade was nominated by **Al Reiter of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for his work with **Camp Courageous of Iowa**.

Betty Thronson from New Hampton was nominated by **Shirley Hoffman of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Project Flo**.

Vicki Tronchetti from Jefferson was nominated by **Danille Curtis of Midland Power Cooperative** for her work with **Midwest Mission Distribution Center**.

Elsie Van Beek from Maurice was nominated by **Chris Van Beek of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Midwest Honor Flight**.

Dirk van der Linden from Belmond was nominated by **Linda Loux of Prairie Energy Cooperative** for his work with **New Lyric Theater**.

Jackie Wallace from Mount Vernon was nominated by **Sherry Moffit of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center**.

Andrew Webb from Roland was nominated by **James Hassebrock of Midland Power Cooperative** for his work with **Roland IA Kiwanis**.

Heather Weers from Center Junction was nominated by **Megan Ruley of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**.

Teresa Westcott from Cherokee was nominated by **Susan Bakker of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Christian Action, Inc.**

Kimberly Whitaker from Glidden was nominated by **Jeremiah Johnson of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Lil' Wildcat Education Center**.

Jena Wiley from Chariton was nominated by **Tami Adams of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.** for her work with **Almost Home Iowa (Humane Society of North Central Iowa)**.

Diane Wills from Hampton was nominated by **Alice Greimann of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative** for her work with **West Fork Food Pantry**.

Bobbie Wise from Newell was nominated by **Chris Crotty of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative** for her work with **Newell Food Pantry**.

Multiple volunteers from Sheldon were nominated by **Sandra Voss of North West Rural Electric Cooperative** for their work with **Village Treasure Chest**.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY



REA Power Plant Museum near Hampton.

When I heard there was going to be a tour of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Power Plant Museum near Hampton this summer, I was all in. As I explored the displays in the 85-year-old building, the Delco-Light plant exhibit caught my eye.

The Delco-Light plant was the step between kerosene or gas lighting and electrical lighting. The 32-volt batteries had to be periodically charged by the gas engine.

I'd first heard about this light when I was growing up on my family's farm near Lake City. My dad (who was born in 1937) sometimes mentioned that previous generations of our family used a Delco-Light plant, which included a battery system in the basement of our farmhouse.

A precious resource

I recently did some digging in our local museum's newspaper archives and found a large advertisement for Delco-Light plants in the May 28, 1925, issue of the *Rockwell City Advocate* newspaper.

"Everywhere this new Delco-Light has won an instant welcome," noted the ad, which listed A.N. Reed, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, as the contact. "A month ago, we announced a new Delco-Light electric plant – at a new low price – so inexpensive that it could bring the blessings of electricity to every farm home in America.

Thousands of farmers have found, in this new Delco-Light, the thing they've always wanted – a genuine Delco-Light plant that they could have completely installed on their farms. Thousands of farm women have found the Delco-Light that would lighten their burdens and bring new happiness to their families – all at a very economic cost."

The ad described the 600-watt capacity of the "strong, sturdily built" Delco-Light plant – all for only \$195 (equivalent to roughly \$3,400 today). Plus, "The Delco-Light dealer in your community will install your plant and wire your house for five lights to be located wherever you specify. You will receive with the light plant five beautiful, spun-brass lighting fixtures complete with bulbs."

Since I've always had easy access to electricity throughout our house, garage, barn and machine shed, I can't



imagine having to pick and choose where I'd put those five precious lights.

Bringing electricity to farm families

The ad highlights how valuable and rare electricity was to farm families a century ago. Thomas Hubka addresses this in his fascinating book "How the Working-Class Home Became Modern, 1900-1940." He writes, "The electrification of households nationally improved from approximately 3% in 1900 to 80% in 1940. The 1910s and 1920s are considered the decades of mass electrification for non-rural Americans."

"Non-rural" is the key phrase. By 1930, nearly nine in 10 urban and nonfarm, rural homes had access to electricity, but only about one in 10 American farms did. Everything changed, however, after May 1935, when President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order creating the REA.

This order led to the construction of the Hampton-area power plant, which became operational in 1938. That plant was the first to receive a generation-and-transmission loan from the REA and was the first plant west of the Mississippi River to generate electricity for rural areas.

Finally, a major divide between rural and urban (and even small-town) America was closing. As Hubka noted, "Utility networks delivered a product of nearly universal equality. Everyone, rich and poor, is plugged into the same electric network."

No longer would farmers like my family need a Delco-Light plant to power a few lightbulbs. Ironically, the Hampton-area plant (which is now a substation) includes a modern battery system that will kick in during peak usage times. That's the interesting thing about history, isn't it? Sometimes, what's old is new again.

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

Visit our website at www.prairieenergy.coop

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