

Patronage returned to members

Prairie Energy Cooperative has always been not-for-profit. That means that when you became a member of the co-op, you share in the excess revenue and the return of that excess revenue to members, called patronage. As new funds continue to come in, the original funds can be paid back to members in the form of patronage retirement.

This year, members who purchased electricity from the co-op for a portion of 2002 and all of 2003-2004 are receiving a refund (patronage) for those years, totaling \$577,077.67. This retirement will be returned in the form of a check, which you should receive this month.

If you receive a check and notice that the name and/or address need to be updated, or the check is in the name of a deceased member, please call the office immediately at 515-532-2805.

New representation for District 4

Prairie Energy would like to welcome Scott Hasty to the board of directors. Scott has been a member of the cooperative for 12 years. He farms near Kanawha and also has his own farm equipment repair shop, where he works primarily on John Deere equipment, mostly combines. He and his wife Dina have four children: Mackenna, Clarissa, Kayla, and Ethan.

Scott is a member of the Kanawha Lutheran Church and also serves on the board for the Liberty School Museum in Kanawha. He enjoyed being a Cub Scout leader while his son was in Cub Scouts and enjoys camping.

Hasty commented, "My goal as a director is to communicate and work with the other directors of this board to keep this cooperative running as effectively and efficiently as possible, while continuing the success of the past."



Scott Hasty

Scholarship applications now accepted

Dependents of co-op members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. Contact Sarah Olson-McLaughlin (solson@prairieenergy.coop) at Prairie Energy for an application or with any questions.

Applications are due by Feb. 19, 2021.



We will be closed on the following dates:

December 11th: All day safety meeting

December 24-25th: Christmas

January 1st: New Year's Day

To report an outage call 1-800-728-0013

Phones are answered 24/7

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop

The holiday season is upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. Santa uses LED holiday light strands, so he's able to save on his energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.
2. Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!
3. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.
4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms, and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's follow Santa's lead and remember to save energy when possible.



SMART TIPS

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.



Review and follow all manufacturer directions.



Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.



Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.



Plug them directly into outlets. Avoid using an extension cord.



Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](#)



LED holiday lighting rebate

When you purchase new LED holiday lights and decorations, you are eligible for a rebate of up to \$2 per each item (not to exceed purchase price).

Contact us for more information and a rebate form.

Scholarships Available



- Dependents of cooperative members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 **Basin Electric Power Cooperative** scholarship for tuition at a two-year or four-year college. Contact your electric cooperative for an application form.
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with **Northwest Iowa Community College** (NCC) in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients must be students at NCC studying Electrical Technology, Powerline, or Powerline Technology. Contact Sheila Van Engen, 800-352-4907 ext. 246 or svanengen@nwicc.edu.
- Corn Belt Power also partners with **Iowa Lakes Community College** to offer one \$500 scholarship for students enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program. For more information, contact Alison Mason, 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or amason@iowlakes.edu.

Stay safe as you go over the river and through the woods this holiday season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual, which can mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow, or other debris that could be hiding one.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can— at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground, or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season!



Need a recipe?

Looking for a new recipe for the holidays? Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at livingwithenergyiniowa.com and click on Recipe Archive at the top and search by main ingredient and/or category.



Have a recipe everyone loves? *Living with Energy in Iowa* is always looking for recipes for the magazine. If yours is chosen, you will earn a \$25 power bill credit! Take a look at Page 9 in any issue of the magazine to learn how to submit your recipe either by email or by mailing to the magazine's headquarters.



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!



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