



IOWA LAKES
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

ILEC NEWS

Quarterly publication for member-owners

SUMMER 2026

WWW.ILEC.COOP



2026 “REC Day on the Hill” Advocacy Event

Green was the dominant color at the Iowa State Capitol on March 17, but it wasn’t only for St. Patrick’s Day. Nearly 200 advocates were wearing green in support of Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives during their 2026 “REC Day on the Hill” advocacy event.

“Our annual advocacy day at the state house is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact the members and communities we serve,” remarked Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

Above (l to r): Zach Dieken, Representative; Katie Harris, communications specialist, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (ILEC); Amy Howard, administrative assistant, ILEC; and Bruce Amundson, director, ILEC.

[Read the story on page 3.](#)

Well-Attended Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting at the Clay County Regional Events Center was attended by 287 member-owners and guests. Breakfast was a well-received spread, featuring fruit, yogurt parfaits, pancakes and sausage served by Chris Cakes, while the Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative employee team prepared fresh eggs generously donated by Rembrandt Foods. Adding to the spirit of service and engagement, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative’s Youth Tour students assisted member-owners throughout the morning, helping ensure a welcoming and smooth experience for all attendees. Following the meal, member-owners participated in the business session, which included reports, updates, and cooperative business matters.

[Read the full story on page 4.](#)



PRESIDENT/CEO, RYAN CRAIG

BIG ENERGY DEMANDS, **SMART PROTECTIONS** FOR OUR MEMBERS

Across the country, electric cooperatives are seeing increased interest from large, nontraditional energy users including data centers, artificial intelligence operations and cryptocurrency facilities. These projects can bring economic opportunity, but they also require enormous amounts of electricity and substantial investment in infrastructure.

At Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, our responsibility remains clear. We have an obligation to serve, an obligation we take seriously. We want to support responsible growth and new opportunities in the communities we serve, but never at the expense of the families, farms and businesses that rely on us every day.

That is why Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, in partnership with our power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, has developed a Large Load Program designed to protect our existing members from the costs and risks associated with serving these new, energy intensive operations.

Large loads are fundamentally different from traditional growth. A single data center or cryptocurrency operation can require as much electricity as thousands of homes. Meeting that level of demand often requires additional generation resources, transmission upgrades and long term infrastructure investment. Without proper safeguards in place, those costs could ultimately be spread across all cooperative members through higher electric rates.

Our Large Load Program is designed to prevent that from happening. Under the program, those requesting service for large, nontraditional loads are responsible for the financial investment required to serve them. Simply put, the costs associated with these projects are assigned to the large load member, not shifted onto all Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative member-owners.

Why is this important?

These types of projects can sometimes be unpredictable. Markets change, technologies evolve and facilities can reduce operations or shut down much faster than traditional businesses. Without careful planning, utilities can be left with stranded infrastructure investments that still must be paid for, even if the original member is no longer operating. This program helps ensure our member-owners are protected from that risk.

At the same time, the program does not close the door on growth. In fact, it creates a responsible framework that allows Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative to evaluate and serve large load opportunities while maintaining system reliability, financial strength and fairness for all member-owners.

The program also provides transparency and consistency by ensuring every large load request is reviewed through the same disciplined process, one that prioritizes reliability, affordability and the long term interests of the cooperative membership.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's mission has not changed. We are here to provide safe, reliable and cost effective power to our member-owners, not just today, but for generations to come. As new industries and technologies emerge, we will continue to adapt and plan for the future while keeping our commitment to our member-owners at the center of every decision we make.

Growth is coming, and Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is prepared for it. Most importantly, we are making sure our member-owners remain protected every step of the way.



TREDWAY RE-ELECTED TO NISC

We are pleased to share that Shelly Tredway, vice president of finance/CFO has been re-elected to the Finance Subcommittee of the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) Member Advisory Committee (MAC). Her new term will begin July 1, 2026.

The NISC MAC is an important component of NISC’s cooperative governance model, bringing together member representatives from across the country to provide feedback, share best practices, and help guide the ongoing development of NISC’s software solutions and financial platforms.

Within the MAC, specialized subcommittees focus on key operational areas. The Finance Subcommittee plays a critical role in shaping accounting, billing, and financial system functionality, particularly as NISC continues its work to modernize and enhance its financial software suite.

Through this role, Tredway will continue to collaborate with peers from other member organizations to provide insight, offer feedback, and help influence the direction of future enhancements that support the evolving needs of cooperatives.

REC DAY ON THE HILL

Iowa’s rural electric cooperatives advocate for lineworker protections during 2026 “REC Day on the Hill”



Rural electric cooperative advocates were in full force on the rotunda floor to discuss utility worker protections as outlined in SF 2400. Through this legislation, those who harass, threaten or assault utility workers out on the job would face stronger penalties. Lineworkers are required by law to enter dangerous situations and work in hazardous conditions and should be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

Additionally, electric cooperative representatives talked with their legislators about concerns with third-party solar provisions outlined in HF 2672. Iowa’s electric cooperatives support solar development when it

makes sense locally, but allowing third-party programs sets a concerning precedent statewide. Third-party solar developers would not be held to the same consumer protection standards or regulatory oversight as Iowa’s public utilities.

During the event, cooperative advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model including local ownership, member governance and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, investments in technology, electric safety, reliable power generation and student programs.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa’s electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at www.iaruralpower.org.



**EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES
FOR 40 YEARS!**



DAN MEERS, SPEAKER

2026 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting was held April 11, 2026, at the Clay County Regional Events Center, bringing together member-owners, employees, directors, and community partners to celebrate the cooperative's accomplishments and look ahead to the future. Centered around the theme "EmPowering Communities for 40 years," the meeting highlighted the cooperative's continued commitment to reliable service, financial strength, youth development, and community investment.

Board Chair Dan Winterhof welcomed member-owners and guests and recognized retiring Director Craig Deim for his 19 years of dedicated service on the Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Since joining the board in 2007, Deim earned multiple leadership certifications and served as Vice Chair

from 2015 to 2021. He was honored for his thoughtful leadership, commitment to cooperative principles, and years of service to the membership.

Members also heard updates from the cooperative's nominating committee, which successfully facilitated contested races in three of four districts, reinforcing Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's commitment to a strong democratic election process.

Education and youth engagement remained a major focus during the meeting as Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative reaffirmed its commitment to the seventh Cooperative Principle — Commitment to Community. Through the Community Commitment Scholarship Program, the cooperative proudly invested in the future of its young member-owners by awarding scholarships to students across all four cooperative districts.

As Director Boysen shared during the meeting, the scholarship program is funded through patronage disbursements deemed abandoned under Iowa Code 556.5. Rather than allowing those funds to go unused, they are retained in a reversion fund authorized under Iowa Code 499.30 and reinvested into educational opportunities for local students — helping support and develop the next generation of community and cooperative leaders.

Scholarships included one \$2,000 scholarship and one \$1,000 scholarship in each district, while all remaining registered scholarship applicants attending the annual meeting received a \$750 scholarship. In total, 60 scholarships totaling \$51,000 were awarded to deserving students throughout the Cooperative's service area.



Above: Board member Craig Deim (third from left) was recognized for his years of dedicated service to Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative. Joining him for the presentation were family members Greg, Janet, and Justin Deim. Top right: Board Chair Dan Winterhof welcomes member-owners.

Member-owners also heard from the Cooperative's 2025 Youth Tour participants, who shared highlights from their trip to Washington, D.C. Sponsored by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, the Youth Tour provides students with the opportunity to experience government firsthand, develop leadership skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the cooperative difference. The students' presentations reflected the strong future of rural communities and the value of investing in youth leadership opportunities.

Member-owners received the Cooperative's 2025 Annual Report, which included audited financial statements and confirmation of a clean audit opinion. Board Treasurer Pluth reported that 2025 was another strong financial year for the cooperative, with residential energy sales increasing approximately 6 percent and overall sales rising nearly 1.5 percent. Due to strong sales and lower interest rates, the cooperative deferred \$800,000 in revenue to help stabilize future rates. Additionally, member-owners participating in the load management program directly benefited from a \$225,000 rebate. As part of this initiative, water heater program participants received a \$45 bill credit, reflecting savings generated through

effective energy management and the cooperative's commitment to returning value to participating member-owners.

In addition, member-owners were informed that nearly \$3.3 million in capital credits and patronage refunds would be returned in July. This includes funds received from Corn Belt Power Cooperative and retirements related to prior years' business. After accounting for rebates and refunds, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's average residential rate decreased to 12.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, ranking among the lowest electric rates in Iowa cooperatives.

President/CEO Craig reflected on the cooperative's 40th anniversary in 2026 and emphasized the cooperative's long-standing mission of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while supporting local communities. He discussed industry challenges including rising wholesale power costs, increasing demand, and aging infrastructure, while reaffirming the cooperative's commitment to maintaining reliability through strategic planning and infrastructure investment.

Craig also highlighted the importance of protecting the Cooperative's service territory, supporting economic development, and maintaining a balanced "all-of-

the-above" energy strategy that includes renewable energy alongside dependable traditional resources such as natural gas, coal, hydropower, and biofuels.

Community support through Operation Round Up and the Iowa Lakes Electric Members Charitable Foundation was another key topic. Foundation Chair Jarrett Smith shared that the independent nonprofit organization awarded more than \$73,000 in grants to 21 organizations during 2025. The program continues to demonstrate the cooperative principle of Commitment to Community by supporting local projects and organizations throughout the service area.

Member-owners also enjoyed a presentation from special guest speaker Dan Meers, who shared stories from his 35-year career as KC Wolf, mascot for the Kansas City Chiefs. Meers spoke about leadership, perseverance, and community engagement, entertaining attendees with humor and inspiration.

As Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative celebrates 40 years of service, cooperative leadership reaffirmed its commitment to EmPowering Communities, supporting local growth, maintaining reliable infrastructure, and delivering long-term value to its member-owners.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS RESULTS

Director elections were held across all four of your Cooperative's districts during the 2026 Annual Meeting.

- **District I:** Incumbent Ben Ashland of Spirit Lake was re-elected to a four-year term, defeating challengers Tamara Hamlin of Spirit Lake and C. Peter Maisenbach of Spencer.
- **District II:** Incumbent Daniel Winterhof was re-elected, defeating challenger Russell Camerer of Alta.
- **District III:** The election was uncontested, and incumbent Chad Boysen of Pocahontas was re-elected to a four-year term.
- **District IV:** Jared Larsen of Armstrong was elected, defeating Colleen Gerdeman of Dickens and Josh Oleson of Armstrong.



District I
Ben Ashland



District II
Daniel Winterhof



District III
Chad Boysen



District IV
Jared Larsen



CHAIR

Daniel Winterhof



VICE CHAIR

Chad Boysen



SECRETARY

Trent Will



TREASURER

Crystal Pluth

REORGANIZATION MEETING

Following the Annual Meeting, the Cooperative's Board of Directors held its reorganization meeting. The board leadership remains unchanged, with all officers re-elected to serve another year:

- **Board Chair:** Daniel Winterhof
- **Vice Chair:** Chad Boysen
- **Secretary:** Trent Will
- **Treasurer:** Crystal Pluth

2027 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members elected to serve on the 2027 Nominating Committee are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| District I (1-yr term) | District III (2-yr term) |
| Dan Bockman | Lori Baade |
| John Boettcher | John Banwart |
| Jim Hemphill | Alan Hauswirth |
| Doug Schwaller | Lisa Siebrecht |
| District II (1-yr term) | District IV (2-yr term) |
| Adam Glienke | Tony Brown |
| Kevin Jesse | Chad Preston |
| Mitch Sievers | Jared Preston |
| Charles Wiemold | David Solberg |

\$50 BILL CREDIT WINNERS:

Swenson Farms, Milford; Naomi Pelisek, Spirit Lake; Arthur Hamrick, Spencer; Ross Packebush, Milford; Vernon Winterhof, Aurelia; Dan Sievers, Storm Lake; Joe Schlenger, Cleghorn; Steven Swanson, Rembrandt; Michele Hogrefe, Linn Grove;

Sean Casey, Sioux Rapids; Dale Siebrecht, Curlew; Carl Hatteberg, Fonda; Laurel Peterson, Swea City; Jaylin Dahlhauser, Newell; Virgil Meyer, Armstrong; Larry Hoffman, Graettinger

THANK YOU MESSAGES FROM MEMBER-OWNERS

Thank you very much for a wonderful Saturday. We pay close attention to your Annual Meetings as we learn so much about our ILEC. We love your delicious breakfast and all your helpers are so appreciative! The keynote speaker was fun and also added some heartfelt moments that most don't think about but he opened many eyes about precious life events. The scholarship awards are absolutely heaven for many of our young people. Thank you! Our ILEC employees are priceless! Thank you for the \$50 towards our next bill. We want to also thank you for the best gift ever, my 9x13 dish! I love it. Actually needed this! Colleen & Steven Swanson

"Hats off" to the ILEC Board of Directors and Staff for a well-organized and informative annual meeting. It was obvious that the staff enjoys working together and is there to serve the members! We also express our appreciation for the cash door prize. Vernon and Suzanne Winterhof

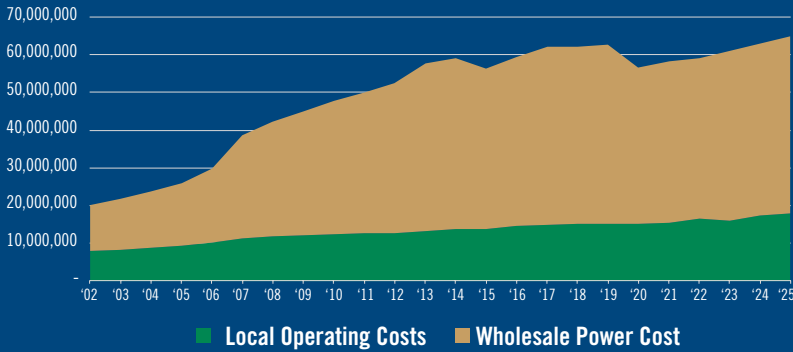
Thank you Iowa Lakes Electric for the great annual meeting this year. Also, thanks for drawing my name for the \$50 electric credit. Laurel Peterson

Your Cooperative's 2025 Annual Report contains a complete set financial statements and the Notes to the Financial Statements. A copy of this report can be found online at www.ilec.coop or by contacting your Cooperative at 800-225-4532 for a complimentary copy.

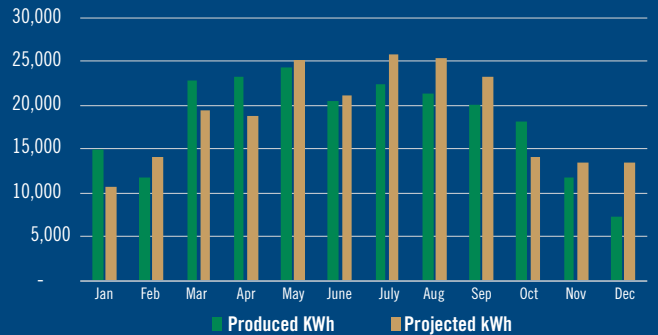


2025 STATISTICS

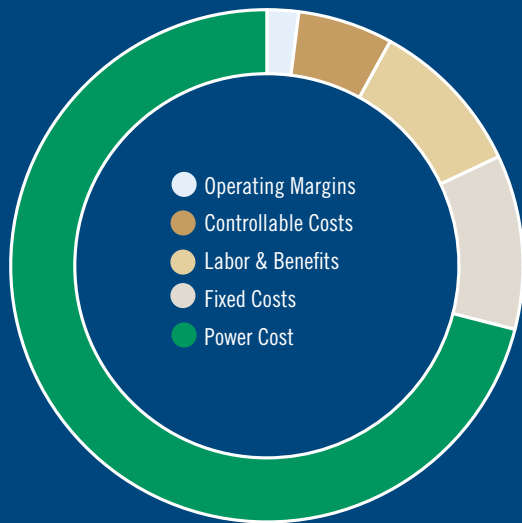
2025 WHOLESALE POWER AND LOCAL OPERATING COSTS



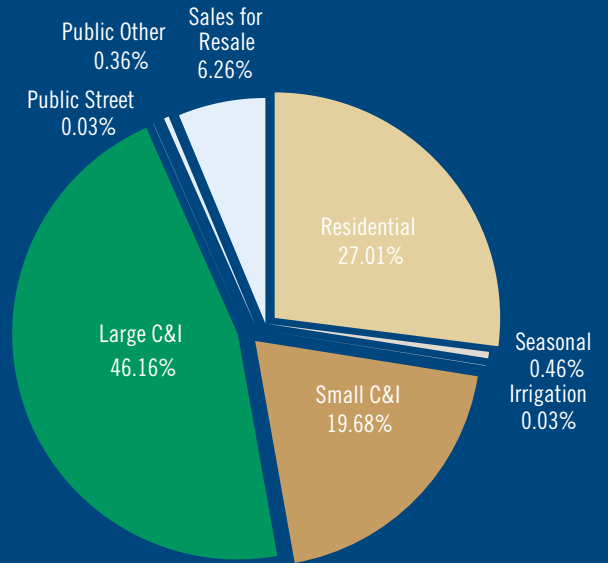
ENERGY KWH PRODUCTION SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT JANUARY-DECEMBER 2025



2025 COST COMPONENTS AS A % OF REVENUE

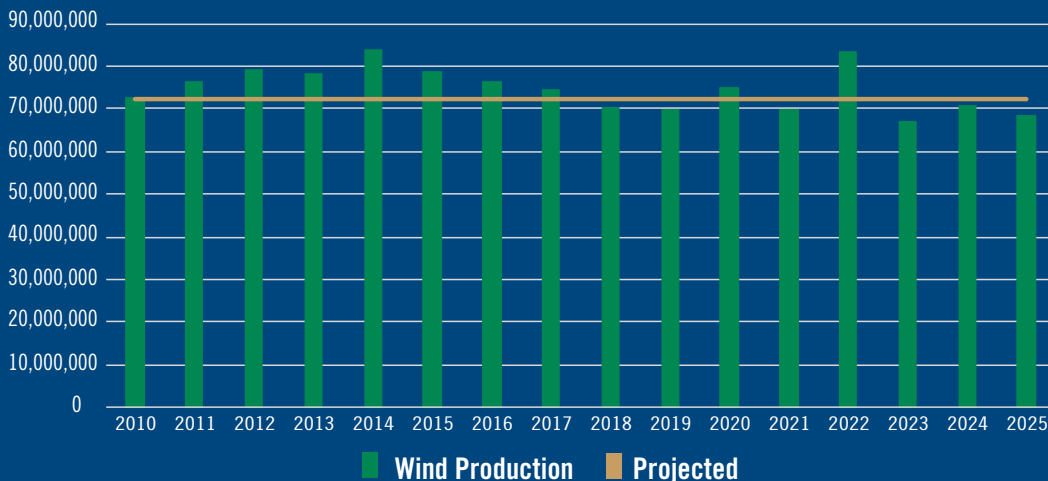


2025 KWH SOLD BY REVENUE CLASS



2025 ANNUAL WIND GENERATION ANALYSIS

Kilowatt-Hours Generated vs. Projected (JAN. - DEC. 2010 - 2025)





LUNCH & LEARN

Lunch and Learn event highlights funding opportunities for local economic development

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative recently hosted a Lunch and Learn at its headquarters in partnership with the Estherville Area Chamber of Commerce, Iowa Area Development Group, Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, and Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

The session brought together community leaders, business owners, hospital administrators, bankers and lenders, and representatives from emergency response services, including fire departments and EMS. Participants explored a variety of funding resources designed to support community and economic growth.

Topics included cooperative Revolving Loan Funds (RLF),



USDA programs, and other local economic development tools that can help move projects forward. Attendees gained practical insights on how to connect local initiatives with the right funding opportunities to support development across the region.

The event, held April 21, provided both lunch and learning, encouraging collaboration and conversation among partners committed to strengthening local communities.



IOWA LAKES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S MEMBER SATISFACTION IS STRONG

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is honored to have earned a 2026 Customer Satisfaction Award* from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results. Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with us, how well we lived up to their expectations, and how well we measured up to their ideal cooperative experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, we included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's ACSI score substantially outperforms the

industry average score earned by publicly measured utilities reported in the 2026 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This Award is a testament to Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience.

The 2026 Customer Satisfaction Award affirms that Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's hard work has been noticed by its members. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is grateful for its members and will continue to strive for excellence through constant dedication to improvement.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

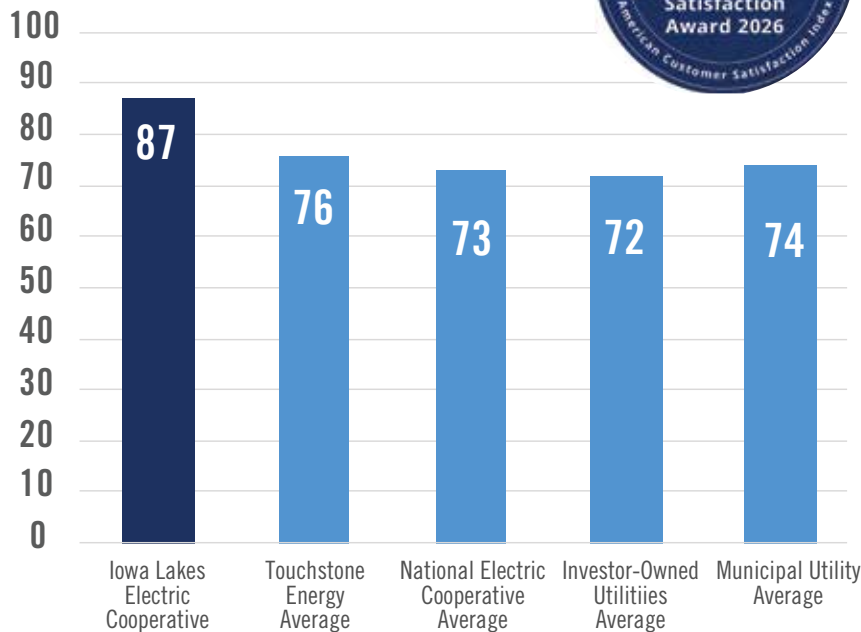
We're proud to share that Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative received an 87 overall satisfaction rating in our annual member satisfaction survey conducted in March. This strong vote of confidence from you—our member-owners—means a great deal to us.

Your feedback helps guide our efforts as we work to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and for being an essential part of our Cooperative family.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative completed its annual member-wide customer satisfaction survey, where over 7,141 members were asked to participate. The member responses were sent to the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®), a company that measures customer satisfaction across multiple industries throughout the entire United States.

For 2026, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative received an ACSI score of "87", on a 100-point scale. ¹Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's score is higher when compared to publicly measured investor-owned utility scores//cooperative utility scores//municipal utility scores reported in the syndicated 2026 ACSI Energy Utility Study and places Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative 15 points higher than the average investor-owned utility 72, as well as 13 points higher than the municipal utilities score of 74, per the industry ratings. Please visit www.theacsi.org for more information.

COMPARISON OF ACSI SCORES IN THE UTILITY SECTOR



¹Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in the ACSI® survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data provided by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, collected between March 3 and March 26. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size.

*Award criteria are determined by the ACSI® and are based on customers rating their satisfaction in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

Badge Disclaimer: Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative earns this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2026. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customers rating their satisfaction with Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

2026 SYSTEM INVESTMENTS: CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING & MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Clear communication is an important part of how we serve you, our member-owners. As Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative continues investing in the electric system that powers your homes, farms, and businesses, we want to keep you informed about the work taking place across our service territory.



SPRING MAINTENANCE AND TREE TRIMMING

This spring, Cooperative crews completed essential tree trimming and preventative maintenance throughout the region. These proactive efforts help reduce outages, improve safety, and strengthen system reliability year-round.

2026 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative currently maintains approximately 3,424 miles of overhead distribution line. Of those miles, approximately 1,080 miles remain of aging copper conductor lines originally installed between the 1940s and 1960s. For decades, the Cooperative has followed a long-term replacement strategy to upgrade this aging infrastructure with more durable and cost-effective aluminum conductor. Replacing all remaining copper line in a single year would exceed an estimated \$50 million investment, so the Cooperative continues a phased approach targeting approximately 40–60 miles annually to maximize reliability improvements while responsibly managing costs.



AARON RUSCHY, VICE PRESIDENT
OF OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

“As we all understand at Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, maintaining a capital-intensive utility system requires careful planning and responsible stewardship of member resources,” stated Aaron Ruschy, vice president of operations and engineering. “The Operations Department recognizes that every dollar invested in our system comes directly from our member-owners through their rates, and we take that responsibility seriously. Through our annual Construction Work Plans, we take a consistent and strategic approach to maintaining and improving infrastructure across our service territory. These investments are carefully prioritized to ensure continued reliability while keeping the safety of our employees, member-owners, and the public at the forefront of every decision.”



These continued investments reflect Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative’s commitment to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electric service today—and well into the future. Thank you for your continued support as we work to keep your Cooperative strong and future-ready.

CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2026

This summer, Cooperative crews are scheduled to construct approximately 41.25 miles of new overhead distribution facilities, including:

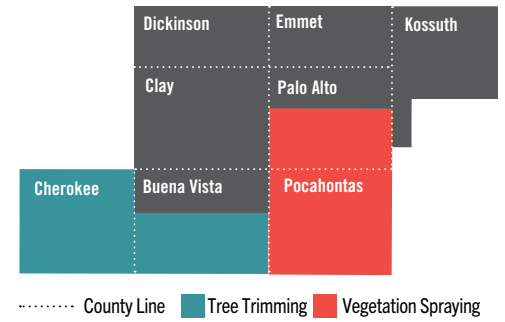
- 40.75 miles of copper line replacement
- 2.0 miles of overhead-to-underground conversion
- Replacement and interset of 259 poles in Kossuth County, representing an investment of approximately \$606,300

These projects represent a total planned investment of approximately \$2.6 million in the Cooperative’s distribution system. In addition, crews will conduct pole testing and treatment activities in Dickinson County as part of the Cooperative’s ongoing pole maintenance program.

OVERHEAD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Existing Miles of Aluminum Conductor Lines | 2,356 |
| Remaining Miles of Copper Conductor for Future Replacement | 1,043 |
| Total Miles of Overhead Distribution Lines | 3,424 |

2026 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES



2026 ENGINEERING UPGRADES

In addition to system construction, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative will complete several key engineering projects in 2026 designed to improve system performance, increase capacity, and prepare for future growth and reliability needs.

These upgrades include:

- 15 miles of engineering-driven overhead-to-underground conversions totaling approximately \$2,080,750
- Installation of URD fault indicators during inspections across 22.75 miles of underground residential distribution line, totaling approximately \$188,000
- Completion of a five-year rotational review of sectionalizing and coordination studies to improve system reliability and safety
- Upgrades to the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system to enhance monitoring capabilities and improve response times during outages and system events

Together, these projects strengthen the Cooperative’s infrastructure and support our long-term commitment to providing dependable electric service to all member-owners.

\$51,000

IN COMMUNITY COMMITMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 60 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative has granted \$51,000 in scholarships to dependents of cooperative member-owners through its Community Commitment Scholarship program. At the annual meeting held on April 11, 60 recipients were awarded scholarships through a random drawing. Each district received \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$750 scholarships.

The program is funded using unclaimed capital credits that would otherwise be surrendered to the state. This initiative not only supports the education of member-owners families but also demonstrates the cooperative's dedication to reinvesting in the community.

DISTRICT I



ALEXANDRIA PALMER
Spencer High School
\$2,000



BLAINE ERDMAN
Spencer High School
\$1,000



DREW EARLY
Okoboji High School
\$750



**BREKKEN
PACKEBUSH**
Okoboji High School
\$750



RAY KAISER
Okoboji High School
\$750

DISTRICT I



HAILEY GRAVERT
Okoboji High School
\$750



AYDEN JABLONSKI
Okoboji High School
\$750



BODEN BRIGHT
Sioux Central
High School
\$2,000



NORA CHRISTIAN
Sioux Central
High School
\$1,000



ASHTON SNYDER
Alta Aurelia
High School
\$750

DISTRICT II

DISTRICT II



ANDREW KUENY
Alta Aurelia
High School
\$750



TAYLOR SHERWOOD
Alta Aurelia
High School
\$750



PEYTON KIES
Alta Aurelia
High School
\$750



KAYLEE MATTSON
Alta Aurelia
High School
\$750



DAYN SIMONSEN
Alta Aurelia
High School
\$750

DISTRICT II



GABRIEL OLSEN
Alta Aurelia
High School
\$750



SOPHIE THORSON
Cherokee Washington
High School
\$750



LANA BUSSE
Cherokee Washington
High School
\$750



ELI SCHLENGER
MMCURU
High School
\$750.00



**JACK
BRAUNSCHWEIG**
Ridgeview High School
\$750

DISTRICT II



AVERY WILSON
Sioux Central
High School
\$750



JACK CHRISTIAN
Sioux Central
High School
\$750



**MAGDALENE
DAHLHAUSER**
Storm Lake
High School
\$750



BRYSON HARDER
Storm Lake
High School
\$750

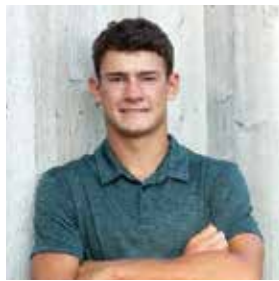


STEPHANIE MURRAY
Storm Lake
St Marys High School
\$750

DISTRICT III



ELLA AUTEN
Emmetsburg
High School
\$2,000



LEYDAN GRIMM
West Bend Mallard
High School
\$1,000



ETHAN MARSO
Bishop Garigan
High School
\$750



KYLIE HOFFMAN
Emmetsburg
High School
\$750



KRAYTON RUTLEDGE
Emmetsburg
High School
\$750

DISTRICT III



RACHEL SCHANY
Emmetsburg
High School
\$750



ZOANNE KERNS
Pocahontas Area
Comm. High School
\$750



KHLOE MEFFERD
Pocahontas Area
Comm. High School
\$750



COLLIN DREITH
Pocahontas Area
Comm. High School
\$750



FELIX THORKILDSEN
Pocahontas Area
Comm. High School
\$750

DISTRICT III



ADDISON SHIMON
Pocahontas Area
Comm. High School
\$750



SIGRID ADAMS
Sioux Central
High School
\$750



OWEN MILLS
Sioux Central
High School
\$750



AUSTIN KOLB
Sioux Central
High School
\$750



REATA AYERS
Sioux Central
High School
\$750

DISTRICT III



GAVIN CASEY
Sioux Central
High School
\$750



LILLY MOREY
West Bend Mallard
High School
\$750



JAXSON SCHNELL
Graettinger Terril
High School
\$2,000



MEGAN LAUSEN
Lausen Homeschool
\$1,000



**BRAXTON
DAHLHAUSER**
Algona High School
\$750

DISTRICT IV

DISTRICT IV



NORA NELSON
Emmetsburg
High School
\$750



**CASSANDRA
GRAU WEST**
Emmetsburg
High School
\$750



CADEN HOFFMAN
Estherville Lincoln
Central High School
\$750



LUKE KNUDSEN
Estherville Lincoln
Central High School
\$750



BRADY INGVALL
Estherville Lincoln
Central High School
\$750

DISTRICT IV



HANNA PAULSON
Estherville Lincoln
Central High School
\$750



CECILIA MIELKE
Graettinger Terril
High School
\$750



EMMA HOFFMAN
Mount Vernon
High School
\$750



NEELY JENSEN
North Iowa
Community
High School
\$750



KYLA IRMITER
North Union
High School
\$750

DISTRICT IV



KADE MADDEN
North Union
High School
\$750



BRYLIE DEIM
North Union
High School
\$750



CARLY OLESON
North Union
High School
\$750



KADE DODGE
Okoboji High School
\$750



SHANE MORAN
Ruthven Ayrshire
High School
\$750

NIPCO SCHOLARSHIPS



SOPHIE THORSON



HILLARY RUSCHY

In 2026, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), one of your Cooperative's wholesale power suppliers, awarded multiple \$600 academic scholarships to member cooperative employee dependents. Two of the scholarship recipients were Sophie Thorson and Hillary Ruschy, both dependents of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative employees.

Sophie Thorson is the daughter of foreman Jason Thorson and his wife Amber. Sophie will be a freshman at Wayne State College in the fall and plans to study Interior Design.

Hillary Ruschy is the daughter of marketing assistant Bobbi Jo Ruschy and her husband Neal. Hillary will be a sophomore at Iowa State University and is majoring in Kinesiology-Pre Physical Therapy. Hillary plans to attend a graduate program for physical therapy and work toward earning her doctorate's degree.

THANK YOU MESSAGES

- I was grateful to receive a scholarship from Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative at the annual meeting. Thanks again! Emma Hoffman
- Thank you for your generous scholarship of \$750. I will be applying it towards my tuition at Iowa State University. In the fall I will be majoring in Ag Studies. I thought it was very interesting to learn the financials of the company. Dan Meers was very entertaining and had a great story to share at the meeting. I found the meeting very informative and inspiring. Thank you, Ray Kaiser
- Thank you so much for the very generous scholarship you awarded Drew at the meeting on Saturday. Very nice of ILEC to do this for all these seniors. Connie Early
- Thanks again for the great speaker, the glass pan and the scholarship! Wendi Crawford
- I am very appreciative of the opportunity provided. Ella Auten
- Many thanks to making this scholarship a possibility for members of Iowa Lakes Electric

Cooperative. The annual event you hosted on Saturday, April 11, was a great experience from start to finish. The speaker was fantastic. Thanks again! Jennifer Wilson

■ Thank you so much for the opportunity to receive this scholarship from Iowa Lakes Electric. I greatly appreciate it! Taylor Sherwood

■ Thank you for sponsoring the scholarship. I will be using the money next year when I attend the farm and diesel technology program at Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg. Thank you, Kade Dodge

■ Thank you for the generous scholarship I received at the annual meeting. It will be very helpful as I continue my education at Iowa Western Community College. Jaxson Schnell

■ Thank you so much for the Basin Scholarship, Washington trip, and local scholarship. College is possible through your support! I truly appreciate the opportunities your cooperative has given me! The life lessons, memories, and aid I have received is truly outstanding. Nora Nelson

■ Thank you so much for selecting me to receive one of your scholarships and sending me on the Youth Tour last summer. The trip to Washington D.C. was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity and I will forever cherish the friendships and memories I made. Your investment in me will help me tremendously next year as I begin my studies at Northwestern College in Orange City! Thanks again, Rachel Schany

■ Thank you so much for your very thoughtful gift. I really appreciate it as I start school at SDSU. Thanks again, Drew

■ Thank you so very much for awarding me the Youth Tour and the ILEC scholarships. I am very grateful for all of your support. Also, for being selected as the Basin Electric Scholarship winner. It is very much appreciated. Hanna Paulson

■ Thank you for your generous scholarship! I truly appreciate your support and the opportunity it provides me as I continue my education. Your kindness means a great deal to me. Neely Jensen



Thank You

Thank you so much for participating in our inaugural Build My Future event!

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Team



Your Cooperative Participates in

“BUILD MY FUTURE” EVENT



Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative took part in the first year of the Corridor Region Build My Future event held April 23 at the Clay County Regional Events Center, which drew more than 800 students from Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, and Emmet counties.

Build My Future is a hands-on career exploration event designed to introduce students to opportunities in the building and skilled trades industries. Through interactive exhibits and demonstrations, students were able to connect directly with employers and try job-specific skills in real-world settings.

Your Cooperative’s participation reflects ongoing support for workforce development and the skilled trades, helping introduce young people to career pathways that are vital to the future of our region.



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE

Morgan Prantner joined the Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative team as a Customer Care and Billing Representative in March. Prantner has a diverse background in customer service. She has an Agriculture Science degree from South Dakota State University.



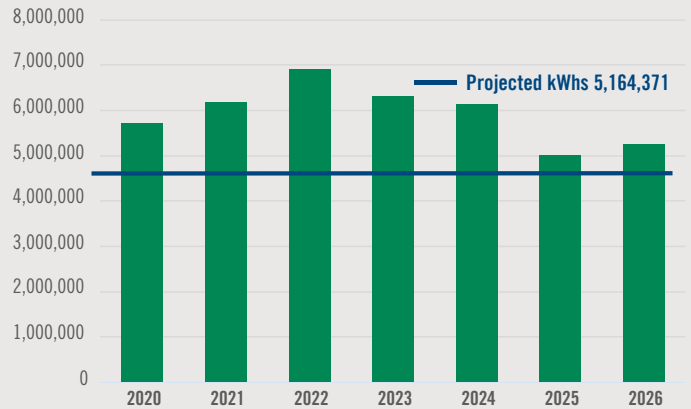
SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is offering a hands-on learning opportunity this summer through an internship within the electric utility department. This internship is designed to give valuable, real-world experience in the electric utility industry, with a focus on fieldwork, system maintenance, and operational support. Interns will work alongside experienced lineworkers, gaining insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of line crews and support staff while developing practical skills in safety, equipment handling, and cooperative operations.

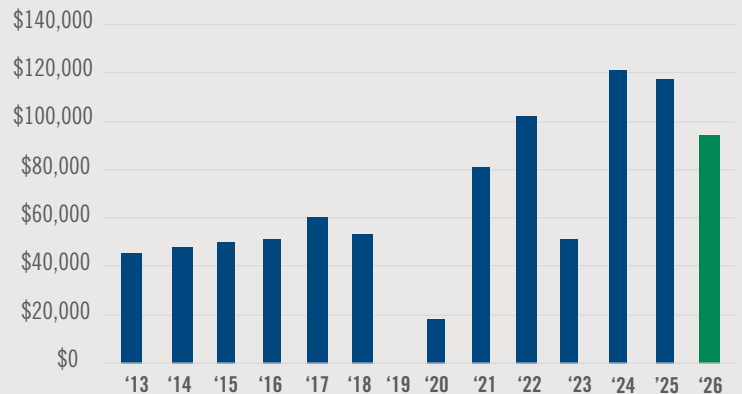
Landon Hagedorn will be working with the Swea City line crew this summer. Hagedorn graduated from Northwest Iowa Community College line school in May 2026.

COOPERATIVE STATISTICS

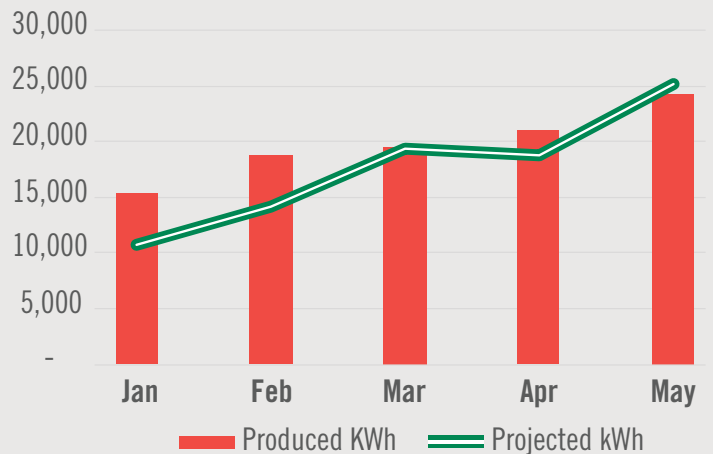
WIND TURBINES
KILOWATT-HOURS GENERATED VS. PROJECTED
MAY 2020 - MAY 2026



CORN BELT ESTIMATED CONTROLLED LOAD
MAY 2013 - MAY 2026



ENERGY KWH PRODUCTION VS PROJECTED
SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
JANUARY-MAY 2026





QUARTERLY REPORT

Directors of the Iowa Lakes Electric Member-Owner Charitable Foundation reviewed six grant applications and awarded \$22,700 to six organizations during its quarterly grant review process in April. Following a review and discussion of each grant application led by Chair Jarrett Smith, the directors approved the following grants shown here.

Following the annual meeting, the board voted to retain the current slate of officers: Jarrett Smith, chair; Janet Deim, vice chair; Sheila Borchers, treasurer; and Ruth Brown, secretary.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors meets quarterly to review the grant applications. The grant applications are available at www.ilec.coop or at our headquarters office in Estherville.

Operation Round Up is a strictly voluntary program where member-owners round up their electric bills to the next nearest dollar and those monies are used to assist worthy causes and organizations in your local communities. Donations are tax deductible and both monthly and year-to-date donations are printed on the member’s monthly billing statement.



\$5,000 CITY OF POCAHONTAS

The City of Pocahontas was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to assist with the replacement of doors at the Pocahontas Pool. The pool serves residents of all ages and continues to be an important community gathering place during the summer months, attracting families and visitors from throughout the area. Improvements such as these help ensure the facility remains safe, welcoming and enjoyable for years to come. Accepting the grant award on behalf of the City of Pocahontas was Laura Holmes (l), presented by Robin Hauswirth, Iowa Lakes Charitable Member-Owner Foundation.



\$1,000 CLAY COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER

The Clay County Heritage Center was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to support the “Clay County Celebrating 175 Years” exhibition. Funding will help finance the research, development and implementation of the county-wide historical exhibit, which will highlight the rich history and heritage of Clay County’s 11 communities and one unincorporated area. Accepting the grant award on behalf of the Clay County Heritage Center were Carrie Nelson, Kay Lamport and Susan Christensen, presented by Jarrett Smith, Iowa Lakes Charitable Member-Owner Foundation.



\$5,000 EMMET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Emmet County Historical Society was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to support the Bemis Store Project. The project’s purpose is to recreate and showcase the historic Bemis Store while preserving an important piece of local history for future generations. Pictured left to right: Sue Tostenson, Emmet County Historical Society; Sheila Borchers, Iowa Lakes Charitable Member-Owner Foundation, presenting the check; and Steve Erickson, Ron Sabby, Roy Gage, and Chuck Tostenson, Emmet County Historical Society, accepting the grant award.



\$1,700

FOSTORIA FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The Fostoria Fire and Rescue Association was recently awarded a \$1,700 grant to assist with the purchase of a foam pak. The new equipment will enhance the department’s emergency response capabilities and provide firefighters with additional tools to help protect the community and respond safely and effectively during fire emergencies. Pictured left to right: Eric Chinn and Branningan Johnson of the Fostoria Fire and Rescue Association; Jarrett Smith, presenting the check; and Dustin Quinn and Dylan Mills accepting the grant award on behalf of the Fostoria Fire and Rescue Association.



\$5,000

RIVER’S EDGE CHILDCARE CENTER

The River’s Edge Childcare Center was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to assist with the launch of the River’s Edge Childcare Center. The project was created to help address the severe shortage of childcare services in the rural community and provide families with safe, reliable and developmentally supportive care for their children. Pictured: Allen Batschelet, Gracie Dammann, Amanda Frerk accepting the grant award on behalf of River’s Edge Childcare Center presented by Katie Harris (r), Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, communications specialist.



\$5,000

TIGER SPORTS ACADEMY, INC

The Tiger Sports Academy, Inc., was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to support the Tiger Sports Academy Start-Up Campaign. The organization’s mission is to bring the community together by providing a year-round, high-quality indoor softball and baseball training environment that nurtures athletic skill development. Pictured left to right: Jason Warren, Tiger Sports Academy; Jarrett Smith, Iowa Lakes Charitable Member-Owner Foundation, presenting the check; Tara Hauschen, and Mike Koenecke accepting the award on behalf of Tiger Sports Academy, Inc.

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS RECare PARTICIPATION FORM

What is RECare? RECare is a voluntary energy assistance program that provides local community action agencies with funds to help low-income families weatherize and heat their homes.

Where will my contribution go? Your monetary contribution stays in our service area and is disbursed to low-income member-owners. Your contribution can help local families in need!

How do I give? Through RECare, you may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will automatically be added to your monthly electric bill. Even \$1 a month will help others.

Yes, I want to be part of “members helping members” and contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \$_____per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

ACCT. #: _____

Please return reply form with your Iowa Lakes billing statement.





Family Summer Safety Night

Emmet County Public Health and Emmet County Wellness Coalition partnered to host a bicycle safety event for children on June 18. The event continued a successful tradition of promoting bicycle safety and healthy habits for local youth.

During the event, staff and volunteers provided bicycle safety education and proper helmet fittings. A donation from Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative helped purchase bike helmets for local youth participating in the event.

Pictured: Doug Vlasman, manager of business and community development, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; Kathy Johnson, administrator, Emmet County Public Health; and Sharon Hooge, maternal/child health nurse, Emmet County Public Health.



American Cancer Society Sponsorship

At Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative commitment to community is a core principle. One way we demonstrate this is by sponsoring Relay for Life events across our service area. Understanding the far-reaching impact of cancer, we proudly support the American Cancer Society in the pursuit of a future free from its threat. Rosie Harvey (right), customer care and collections representative, had the privilege of presenting a donation check to Robin Enerson (left), highlighting our continued dedication to the fight against cancer.



STRONG KIDS CAMPAIGN

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is proud to partner with the YMCA of the Okobojis in support of its Strong Kids initiatives. Together, we are committed to empowering youth, promoting healthy lifestyles, and strengthening community engagement.

This partnership helps sustain and expand essential programs, including childcare services, youth sports, swim safety instruction, day camp experiences, resident camp opportunities at Camp Foster, reading mentorship programs, and financial assistance memberships that increase access to YMCA facilities.

Katie Harris, communications specialist, presented the sponsorship check to Andrew Fisher, CEO of the YMCA of the Okobojis.

.....
 Thank you so much for all of your amazing support of the YMCA of the Okoboji's! We're so grateful for your partnership in making MORE possible for our community. Andrew Fisher



BRAXTON JOHNSON



TRU TIMMERMAN



Students Awarded Corn Belt Power Cooperative Scholarships

The Corn Belt Power Cooperative Scholarship was established at Iowa Lakes Community College in 2006. Applicants for the scholarship must be full-time students in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program. Corn Belt Power Cooperative is proud to offer this scholarship opportunity to help students pursue careers in the renewable energy industry.

This year, Braxton Johnson and Tru Timmerman were each awarded a \$500 Corn Belt Power Cooperative scholarship. Congratulations!

Basin Electric Scholarships Awarded

Hanna Paulson and Nora Nelson were the recipients of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative’s member-owner dependent scholarships provided by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Hanna Paulson of Graettinger was the recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship. Paulson is an Estherville Lincoln Central High School graduate and plans to study ag education at Iowa State University this fall. During high school, Paulson was involved in choir, band, swim team, golf, volleyball, key club, purple cord volunteer program and a member of the National Honor Society. She excelled in the classroom and was a leader in her 4-H club and FFA Chapter. Hanna is the daughter of Greg and Lesa Paulson.

Nora Nelson, a graduate of Emmetsburg High School was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. Throughout high school, Nelson participated in softball, volleyball, track, golf, basketball, and choir. She was an exceptional student, a member of the National Honor Society and a leader in her FFA Chapter. She completed several mission trips to Honduras and spent many hours volunteering through her church and school. Nora is the daughter of Bruce and Jana Nelson of Emmetsburg and plans to attend Iowa State University in the fall to pursue a business degree.

Basin Electric and Iowa Lakes Electric are proud to support the outstanding academic, extra-curricular and leadership achievements of our area youth through this scholarship program.



HANNAH PAULSON



NORA NELSON



Letters from Our Member-Owners

■ A big shout out to the two linemen who came and topped the evergreens down to below the high lines for us. Once they were under the lines, we were able to take them down the rest of the way. It was a two-way win. We appreciate you! Thanks so much, Lance and Linda Kruse

■ Thank you for the donation to the Emmet County 4-H Foundation. Donations like yours make scholarships available and funds available to 4-H'ers needs help to attend college or participate in youth programs. The Emmet County 4-H Endowment Fund was launched with the mission to support a strong, vital 4-H program in Emmet County. Every gift to the 4-H Foundation helps the many young people who participate in Emmet County's 4-H youth program. 4-H makes a positive difference in the lives of so many youth. Through more than 100 project areas, 4-H develops skills that last a lifetime and friendships that stand the test of time. Thank you for helping young people find success through 4-H. Amy Walter, Emmet County 4-H Foundation President

■ Thank you for the load management rebate. I appreciate it. Cindy

■ Thank you for the \$25 quiz corner credit. Randy & Teresa Kauffman

■ Thank you so much for your generous donation to our Pocahontas County 4-H. Your support directly supports our youth programming bringing new opportunities to youth in our community. Ashlie Jergens, Pocahontas County Youth Coordinator

■ On behalf of Friends of Lakeside Lab, I would like to thank you. Your contribution makes it possible to support environmental education, research, and water quality monitoring at Iowa Lakeside Lab. Each year the Friends continue to advance its mission of supporting the Lab as a community resource. From K-12 and collegiate students to life-long learners, your support allows us to impact many lives. We appreciate your advocacy of the Friends of the Lab! Lori Eich, Interim Executive Director, Friends of Lakeside Lab

■ Thank you for your donation to Kings & Queens Local. Your donation allows us to continue providing necessities and resources for children and their families through our Kings & Queens Local Community.

■ I am not able to attend the REC Annual Meeting this weekend! We always enjoyed the delicious food and visiting with all the members as we enjoyed your program! Keep up the great work! Lazetta VanDenTop

■ Thank you for your recent donation to the Buena Vista County Endowment. This endowment has been established to provide perpetual support to the 4-H'ers in this county, helping them to reach their full potential by developing their leadership, citizenship and communication skills through 4-H. Because of your support this county 4-H program will have a stronger future, and 4-H can continue to grow with new projects, activities, and lots of opportunities for Iowa's youth. Thank you! Emily Saveraid, Executive Director



AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Experience the convenience of securely automating your monthly bill. Our SmartHub Auto Pay option is a simple, easy to use solution to manage your monthly bill.



Visit www.ilec.coop for more information!

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES OF IOWA GOLF OUTING



Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative participated in Touchstone Energy Invitational in June.

Top left photo (l to r): Jessica Murray, Travis Grange, Jordan Garbers, Darin Cook, Green Plains Renewable Energy, Superior; DJ Christofferson, Russ Heinrichs, Redwood Farms; Cody Hantelman, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (ILEC); Trevor Smith, Iowa Lakes Corridor. **Top right photo:** Adrian Hagebock, Mike Wodtke, Jeff Soper, Moveero; Kristin Hanson, Dave Grothaus, ILEC; Herb Simpson, Valero, Albert City; Chase Flaherty, Tim Flaherty, Flaherty Farms. **Bottom left photo:** Curt Strouth, Iowa Lakes Corridor; Matt Beaver, KILR; Joel Taylor, Moveero; Chris Wies, Valero, Albert City; Josh Flaherty, Flaherty Farms; Mat Kilgore, ILEC; Jack Flaherty, Flaherty Farms; Jeremy Madden, ILEC. **Bottom right photo:** Doug Vlasman, ILEC; Brett Pickar, Daybreak Foods; Greg Walstrom, Jeff Almond, Calcium Products; Chace Doyle, Rembrandt Enterprises; Taylor Doyle; Brandon Berg, Rembrandt Enterprises; Anna Berg.



2026 YOUTH TOUR DELEGATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:



**Alyssa
Welbig
Armstrong**



**Cassie
Kakacek
Pocahontas**



**Jennifer
Resch
Spirit Lake**



**Olivia
Jones
Spencer**



**Thomas
Beaver
Estherville**



**Madilyn Morey
West Bend
Youth At-Large
Representative**

QUIZ CORNER

Congratulations winners: David and Janet Magnussen of Alta; Pat Morgan of Storm Lake; Jolene Hart of Dickens; and Farrell Sirvoy of Ruthven. Send in your completed Quiz and Iowa Lakes will draw four lucky members each quarter who will receive \$25 credits towards their electric bills.

1. At the annual meeting, member-owners were informed that nearly \$_____ in capital credits and patronage refunds would be returned in July.
2. During the annual meeting, member-owners elected _____ of Armstrong as the new District IV director.
3. Directors of the Iowa Lakes Electric Member-Owner Charitable Foundation reviewed six grant applications and awarded \$_____ to six organizations during its quarterly grant review process in April.
4. _____ joined the Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative team as a Customer Care and Billing Representative in March.

Name: _____

Account #: _____



Energy Efficiency Tip

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks.

Source: energy.gov

Reach Us

OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Mon- Fri)
Contact Iowa Lakes
24 hours/day, 7 days/ week
with the following toll-free
number:

General Phone:

(800) 225-4532 (24 hr.)
(Primary and Emergency)

Fax: (712) 362-2819

Visit Us Online:

www.ilec.coop

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Newsletter Editor:

Jen Sievert

Iowa Lakes Electric
Cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider
and employer.



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SmartHub: Access through
www.ilec.coop or via the
SmartHub app to pay online
24/7.

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from your bank account.
Sign-up through SmartHub
or call 800-225-4532.

Pay Now: Access at
www.ilec.coop to pay
online 24/7.

Automated Phone System:
Call ILEC at 800-225-4532
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a payment 24/7.

CheckFreePay: Pay with
cash or debit card at: Hy-Vee:
Storm Lake, Walmart: Spencer,
Spirit Lake and Storm Lake

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