


WIPCO Informer

from your member-owned Western Iowa Power Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



May 2023
Volume 1, No. 111

What's inside...

Message from the Manager	2
2023 Scholarship Winners	3
Reed Re-elected to NIPCO Board	4
Employees Go Above & Beyond	5
Consider an Air-Source Heat Pump	6
Energy Trail Tours are Back	7
\$25 Credit--Find Your Location #	8

Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

**Nominate a
local volunteer
and they could
win \$2,500 for
their charity!**

Contest entries accepted at
IowaShineTheLight.com
during the month of June



**Western Iowa
Power Cooperative's
offices in Denison
and Onawa will
be closed on
Monday, May 29,
in observance of
Memorial Day.**

**Call 800-253-5189
for outages or other
emergencies.**

*Western Iowa Power
Cooperative's mission is
to enhance our members'
quality of life by providing
safe and reliable electric
services.*

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Iowa's electric co-ops are excited to once again participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$2,500 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We've been truly inspired by the contest entries we received in our first two years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're increasing our three charity donations from \$2,000 to \$2,500 each this year to encourage even more participation across the state."

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Western Iowa Power Cooperative, you're a co-op member-consumer and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination. 53-22-25049



Marcus Rihner,
Executive Vice President
& General Manager

Building on a Culture of Safety

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and safety is ingrained into our culture at WIPCO. This culture can be seen directly in our mission statement, which states the very reason we do what we do each day: "The mission of Western Iowa Power Cooperative is to enhance our members' quality of life

by providing safe and reliable electric services." At WIPCO, this is not just a phrase hanging on a wall, but a way of life when it comes to what we do on the job or away from work.

One of the core ways we promote a culture of safety at WIPCO is through our monthly safety meetings. Through focused training, learning from local or regional subject matter experts, and partnerships with organizations such as the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and Federated Rural Insurance Exchange, WIPCO employees and directors are able to broaden our safety knowledge and keep safety at the forefront of our minds. From overhead power lines to wiring within a member's home, working with electric energy can be dangerous work, and these safety meetings help to give each WIPCO employee the information they need to continue to keep themselves and those around them safe.

WIPCO also participates in ongoing programs with our industry partners that help us to improve our safety culture. These programs may include facility tours or onsite visits from industry experts who can help to advise us on what is going well and areas where improvements can be made to work even more safely. The electric industry is constantly changing, and these programs help us to adapt and improve our safety culture in step with these changes. 19-01-2146

Beyond our organization, WIPCO has consistently strived to have a large presence in our communities. One of the prominent ways we do this when it comes to safety is through our annual safety demonstrations for local school districts (featured in the April 2023 issue of this

newsletter). These fourth-grade students come to one of our office/warehouse locations and learn about many ways they can stay safe when it comes to electricity. We greatly enjoy seeing these students each spring and helping them to learn more about our industry and safety!

Safety will continue to be a central component of our mission and culture at WIPCO. Our families and communities are of great importance to us, and working safely is a way we can continue to help both to thrive!

Learning about conductors of electricity, and watching a hot dog cook from the inside out is always a hit at the safety demonstrations!



A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home



May is National Electrical Safety Month.



Lawson Haveman - \$1,000

Lawson is the son of Lee and Lisa of Sloan and is a senior at Westwood High School. After graduation, he plans to attend Buena Vista University to double major in agricultural business and business accounting with a goal of owning an accounting business.



Maggie Ragaller - \$1,000

Maggie is the daughter of Mark and Denise of Vail and is a senior at Ar-We-Va High School. She plans to attend Iowa State University to major in biology with a goal of a career in the medical field--possibly the lab and research area.



Brady Melby - \$500

Brady is the son of John and Nikki of Moorhead and is a senior at West Harrison High School. He plans to attend Northeast Community College to study in their Utility Line program with a goal of becoming an electrical line worker.



Kallie Bromert - \$500

Kallie is the daughter of Justin and Ann of Vail and is a senior at Ar-We-Va High School. She plans to attend Des Moines Area Community College and obtain an associates degree. Her goal is to become a dental hygienist and return to work in the Denison area.



Eile Meseck - \$500

Eile is the daughter of Joshua and Amy of Charter Oak and is a senior at Denison High School. She plans to attend the University of South Dakota to study in the medical field and achieve her lifelong dream to work as a physician's assistant.



Kaitlyn Bruhn - \$500

Kaitlyn is the daughter of Derick and Amanda of Schleswig and is a senior at Denison High School. She plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to major in elementary education with potential coaching, math and reading endorsements.

4 What's happening at your Cooperative?

Reed Re-elected to Lead NIPCO Board



The board of directors of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) elected officers at its annual meeting April

11 in Sioux City.

Louis Reed was re-elected president of the NIPCO board.

Reed, a member of NIPCO's Board since 1999, represents Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) and served as NIPCO's treasurer from 2003 to 2013. He was elected president in 2013.

Louis has been a director on WIPCO's Board since 1995 and served as president of the WIPCO Board for 23 years. Congratulations, Louis!



Planning a landscaping or terracing project? Planting trees or shrubs? Installing a fence or deck? Make sure to call Iowa One Call at 800-292-8989 or 811 at least 48 hours before each job to have underground utility lines properly marked.

One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. It's the law!

WIPCO Board Plans for 2023 District Meeting & Annual Meeting

WIPCO is again making plans to host two member events this year. The District Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 29 at the Onawa Community Center in Onawa and the Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, August 31 at The Stables at Copper Ridge in Denison. Please watch for more details on the events. Plans will be shared in future newsletters, bill stuffers, and on our Facebook page.

As an electric cooperative, WIPCO is guided by an elected board of directors. The Board is responsible for setting policies and approving programs that are the basis for operating your Cooperative. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, special meetings, and continuing education--all things necessary to keep directors informed of cooperative business and the issues of the electric utility industry.

Are you interested in serving as a board director for your Cooperative? The 2023 Nominating Committee of WIPCO will meet in June, to select candidates for Districts 1, 2, 7, and 8. The upcoming elections will be held as part of WIPCO's Annual Meeting on August 31. If you are interested in serving as a director and meet the criteria of a nominee as printed in the procedures for director elections in the April 2023 issue of our newsletter,

please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, whose information is printed below.

Once the slate of candidates is approved, a mail-in-ballot for the election will be sent to each member. Instructions on the mail-in ballot procedure will be included in the June WIPCO *Informer* newsletter.

2023 Nominating Committee Appointed

In compliance with the bylaws of the Cooperative, the Board of Directors has appointed the following members to act as the Nominating Committee for the selection of nominees for directors of the Cooperative to be elected at the 2023 Annual Meeting:

District 1

Roger McCandless - 712-458-2322
Wray Wright - 712-212-1976

District 2

Michelle Kane - 712-420-2495
Bob Otto - 712-883-2374

District 7

Matt Bieret - 712-660-0317
Loretta Reimers - 712-676-3595

District 8

Craig Dozark - 712-269-2667
Todd Brus - 712-269-7442

If you have someone you would like to be considered as a candidate for nomination to the Board of Directors, and they reside and receive service in one of the districts listed above, contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Please refer to the April 2023 WIPCO *Informer* newsletter or call our office for information on the director nominating and election process.

WIPCO Employees Go Above and Beyond in Their Service to Others

Thank you to all volunteer fire fighters for helping fight the recent grass and timber fires in the Monona County area April 12 and 13. WIPCO Foreman, Wade Pitt, is a member of the Blencoe Fire Department and was among the volunteers helping fight the fires.



Congratulations to WIPCO Foreman Chris Merritt on his recent retirement from the 185th Iowa Air National Guard. Chris served for 21 years. Pictured above is Chris in his guard gear and at right is Chris and proud mom, Petrina. Thank you for your service, Chris!



Wednesday, April 12, local volunteer fire departments responded to multiple fire calls, with some fire fighters working at least 4 to 5 hours and others working all day.

Another fire broke out Thursday, April 13, in the Preparation Canyon and Loess Hills Forest areas. All fire departments in Monona County and several from Harrison County plus numerous other agencies were called to assist with many working through the night until approximately

4:00 a.m. Friday morning. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and several assisting fire departments performed controlled burns on Friday to help contain the fire. The fires burned an estimated 4,400 acres.

Thanks to fire departments, volunteers, the DNR, Monona County Conservation, Monona County Roads Department, Monona County Sheriff's Department, area residents and businesses for supplying food and drinks and to area farmers for the use of tractors and discs. Special thanks to our volunteer fire fighters--you are the best!



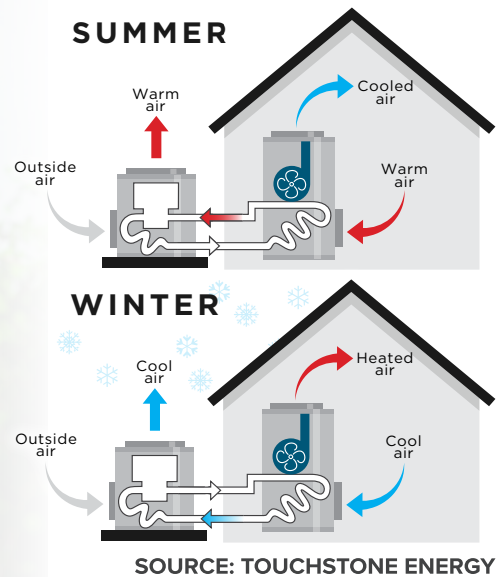
What began as a structure fire on April 13 raged into a timber fire threatening areas in the Preparation Canyon and Loess Hills Forest areas. Pictured is an area of this fire as it burned close to the scenic Preparation Canyon Overlook near Moorhead, Iowa.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT. COST-EFFECTIVE. YEAR-ROUND RELIABILITY.

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

You could receive up to
\$10,000*
in rebates!

*Rebates vary depending upon size of equipment installed



- Pull heat from the outdoor air in the winter and from indoor air in the summer
- Requires little maintenance (when properly installed) and delivers 1.5-3.5 times the energy it uses
- Dehumidify better than standard central air conditioners, resulting in less energy usage and more cooling in summer months
- Easy to convert from a propane or oil system
- More efficient than gas

WIPCO now offers the best rebates ever to install air-to-air heat pumps. Receive rebates as much as **\$700/ton** when you install an air-source heat pump (ASHP) with electric back-up heat (if back-up heat is propane or natural gas, rebate amounts are **\$500/ton**). There has never been a better time for you to consider clean, natural, and affordable energy solutions for your family.

For information about more ways to increase electric efficiency in your home, visit our website at www.wipco.com/rebates or call our office at 800-253-5189.



REDUCE ENERGY USE WITHOUT SACRIFICING PERFORMANCE!

WIPCO is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Energy Trail Tour 2023

Western Iowa Power Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to view, first-hand, how

your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are, then, returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Learn how the energy industry is evolving to become more dependent on renewable power generation and glimpse into the future of carbon capture technology. Enjoy the fellowship of other cooperative member-owners on a comfortable motor coach journey to North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Western Iowa Power Cooperative.

Nine lucky couples from WIPCO will be selected at random from those who sign up.



☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 28-30 1st 2nd 3rd (please circle)

July 12-14 1st 2nd 3rd

July 26-28 1st 2nd 3rd

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by May 15, 2023.



WHAT THE SIGN REALLY SAYS IS - MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN. Iowa law requires motorists to change lanes or slow down when approaching a stationary utility vehicle that has its flashing lights activated. Failure to do so can result in hefty fines or the loss of your driver's license.



Please give our employees the room they need to work safely.

WIPCO Informer

from your member-owned Western Iowa Power Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

(USPS 9340)

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wipco@wipco.com

www.wipco.com

Office & Warehouse Hours

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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Mari Miller, Editor



*"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer"*

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



MORE SAVINGS, MORE SPRINGTIME.



The one card that does it all.
Connections.coop



Save \$25.00 on your REC bill

Read this newsletter carefully. Hidden somewhere within these pages are two Member location numbers. Find your location number in this newsletter, call the REC office by the 20th of the month, and you will receive a \$25.00 credit on your energy bill.

The location numbers in the April newsletter belonged to Jeanne Kuhlmann and Philip & Cheryll Jacobson.

