

# WIPCO Informer

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## Summer Help Wanted

Western Iowa Power Cooperative is looking for summer help to assist our line crews in Denison and Onawa. The applicant must be at least 18 years old. The job is only for the summer months of 2024. Call 712-263-2943 or email michael.akers@wipco.com to request an application or for more information.



## What is a Capital Credit Allocation Certificate?

### Example of a Capital Credit Allocation Certificate

**WIPCO** WESTERN IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE 800-253-5189 | 712-263-2943  
809 HWY. 39 N | PO BOX 428 | DENISON, IA 51442 FAX 712-263-8655

THIS IS FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY.  
PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE.

### CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION CERTIFICATE

CAPITAL CREDIT NUMBER

XXXX

JOHN DOE  
230 200TH STREET  
DENISON IA 51442

YEAR	AMOUNT
2023	36.10

NON-NEGOTIABLE CANNOT BE CASHED  
OR APPLIED TO YOUR BILL.

WIPCO members who received electric service during the year 2023 will be mailed a Capital Credit Allocation Certificate like the example shown above. Why are you receiving this? 41-06-1000503

Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities. As a consumer and a member, you own a portion of the business. One benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits. Electric co-ops operate at a cost--collecting enough revenue to run and expand the business--but not to generate profits for shareholders.

When WIPCO has money left over, it's allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. When the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op pays the capital credits to members in cash or as a bill credit.

The Capital Credit Allocation Certificate informs you of the amount that has been credited to your patronage account and is in proportion to the amount you paid the Cooperative for electric service in 2023.

**At the present time, the patronage shown on the allocation certificate has no cash value and cannot be used in payment of electric bills or any other bill owed the Cooperative.**

Your Capital Credits are retained by WIPCO until directed to be paid by the Board of Directors. Upon approval each year, a percentage of past allocations is retired and checks are issued to members. Those checks will be mailed out to present and former members sometime during the year.

The only time Capital Credits can be refunded, other than with the Board of Director's approval, is upon a member's death. When a member becomes deceased, the member's estate requests the required paperwork. Estates are usually refunded once in the spring and once in the fall when approved by the Board of Directors.

Please keep the Cooperative informed when you have a change of address. This will ensure that any Capital Credit checks which may be mailed in the future will come directly to you.



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



**Marcus Rihner**  
General Manager

## Your Cooperative's Democratic Process

On p. 7 of this newsletter, you will find information on WIPCO's director election procedures. Details include preliminary information on our 2024 District and Annual Meetings as well as information from WIPCO's by-laws on cooperative membership, board representation and nomination, and election procedures. These notices are listed to inform you, our members, on these very critical processes. Here are a few reminders as to why these processes are so important to your Cooperative.

## Membership

Your membership with WIPCO makes you an owner of the Cooperative, providing a level of democratic control not available to customers of other types of utilities. Benefits of cooperative membership include access to our services for energy efficiency and other programs, a portion of cooperative profits being returned to you in the form of patronage dividends, and the ability and right to vote in director elections. This democratic member control is one of our core principles and truly gives the power of governing the Cooperative to our members.

## District and Annual Meetings

Our district and annual meetings are events which we strive to improve for our members each year. In addition to the previously mentioned director elections, these evening meetings allow WIPCO employees and directors to serve you in many ways, and to be available for any questions or topics you may wish to discuss. We also have activities for kids and serve a catered meal, in addition to the director election processes which culminate in the announcement of results at the conclusion of the annual meeting. From the meal to the activities to the business meetings and elections, these events are an excellent way for you, our members, to connect with your Cooperative.

## Board Representation, Nomination, and Election Procedures

The notice on p. 7 of this newsletter also provides information on the requirements listed in WIPCO's by-laws for candidacy for our Board of Directors. Timelines, processes, and the districts with seats up for election this year are laid out in detail. This information helps to educate our members each year on how these processes take shape.

If you would have interest in serving on your WIPCO district's nominating committee or becoming a candidate for election to the WIPCO Board of Directors, we would encourage you to contact the WIPCO director elected from your district. Furthermore, we would absolutely encourage each of our members to vote in our 2024 director election, either in person at our district or annual meetings or via the mail-in ballot each of our members will receive in advance of the meetings. The democratic process is one of the primary factors that make cooperatives unique among electric utilities, and one of the most effective ways to exercise your rights as a member of your local electric cooperative!

## Democratic Member Control



**What it means to you:** You help call the shots by electing a board of directors. One member equals one vote. This is local democracy in action.

**Cooperative Principle #2:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

## Congratulations to Justin Van Houten, Master Electrician!

We're excited to announce that Justin Van Houten, an electrician at Western Iowa Power Cooperative, has obtained his Master Electrician License. Achieving this milestone requires meeting rigorous criteria set by the Iowa Electrical Examining Board, including education, experience, passing an exam, and a background check. Justin's accomplishment reflects his dedication and expertise in the field. Join us in congratulating Justin on this significant achievement!

*Pictured is Marcus Rihner, General Manager, presenting a certificate of achievement to Justin Van Houten.*



## Prepare for power outages with a Briggs & Stratton generator.

### SPECIAL GENERATOR PRICING

on purchases made by June 1, 2024.

1-800-253-5189 [wipco@wipco.com](mailto:wipco@wipco.com) [wipco.com](http://wipco.com)



## MANAGE YOUR PAYMENTS

Take control of your payments with Western Iowa Power Cooperative. Discover six convenient methods to settle your energy bills. Utilize our mobile app or opt for online payment. Explore further details on our website.

 712-263-2943

 [WWW.WIPCO.COM](http://WWW.WIPCO.COM)



## Winter Moratorium ends April 1st

Iowa's winter home heating moratorium protects customers certified for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), from electric service disconnection from November 1 through April 1. This year, the winter energy assistance disconnection moratorium ends on April 1. Western Iowa Power Cooperative members who are behind on their utility payments are urged to contact us at 712-263-2943 or 800-253-5189 to work out payment options to avoid disconnection. Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives are willing to work with member-owners who have fallen behind on payments to find an agreeable solution; disconnection of service is always a last resort.

**Budget Billing** - For member-owners with tight budgets, seasonally high electric bills can cause financial strife. WIPCO's "budget billing" payment option ensures consistent electric bills month-to-month, making it easier to budget. If your home utilizes electric heat and/or air-conditioning, this is a great way to avoid those larger seasonal bills that can fluctuate with changes in the weather. To enroll in this billing option, contact WIPCO's billing department or speak to a customer service representative.

**State of Iowa Resources** - We also encourage anyone who has fallen behind on payments to contact the Iowa Department of Human Rights at (515) 281-3861 regarding eligibility for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time per year payment to assist with household heating costs for eligible households. LIHEAP funds are limited, but applications are still being accepted through April 30, 2024. A federally funded Weatherization Assistance Program is also available, which provides long-term financial relief by improving energy efficiency in homes and educating consumers about energy consumption.

Contact your local community action agency outreach office for assistance.

### Crawford County

#### (LIHEAP and Weatherization information)

*West Central Community Action*

145 N 7th Street

Denison, IA 51442

Phone: 712-263-3538

Website: [www.westcentralca.org](http://www.westcentralca.org)

### Monona County

#### (LIHEAP and Weatherization information)

*West Central Community Action*

801-B 10th Street

Onawa, IA 51040

Phone: 712-423-2603

Website: [www.westcentralca.org](http://www.westcentralca.org)

## RECare - Members Helping Members

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of Members helping Members.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. You may also make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others!

## Member Authorization Form

*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.*

*\_\_\_ My fund is a matching fund gift.*

*The matching fund is \_\_\_\_\_*

*Name: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Account No. \_\_\_\_\_*

*Mail to: Western Iowa Power Cooperative, PO Box 428, Denison, IA 51442-2705*

## Thank a lineworker on Lineworker Appreciation Day

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.31-04-2860

### Safety comes first

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.

## WHAT DOES A LINEWORKER DO?

On any given day or night, in all kinds of weather conditions, lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems.

Entrust our lineworkers with your safety, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

## SAFETY COMES FIRST

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members, and themselves. They spend thousands of hours in safety trainings each year and must learn and apply numerous safety regulations.

## THEY ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED TO:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Install and service underground lines.



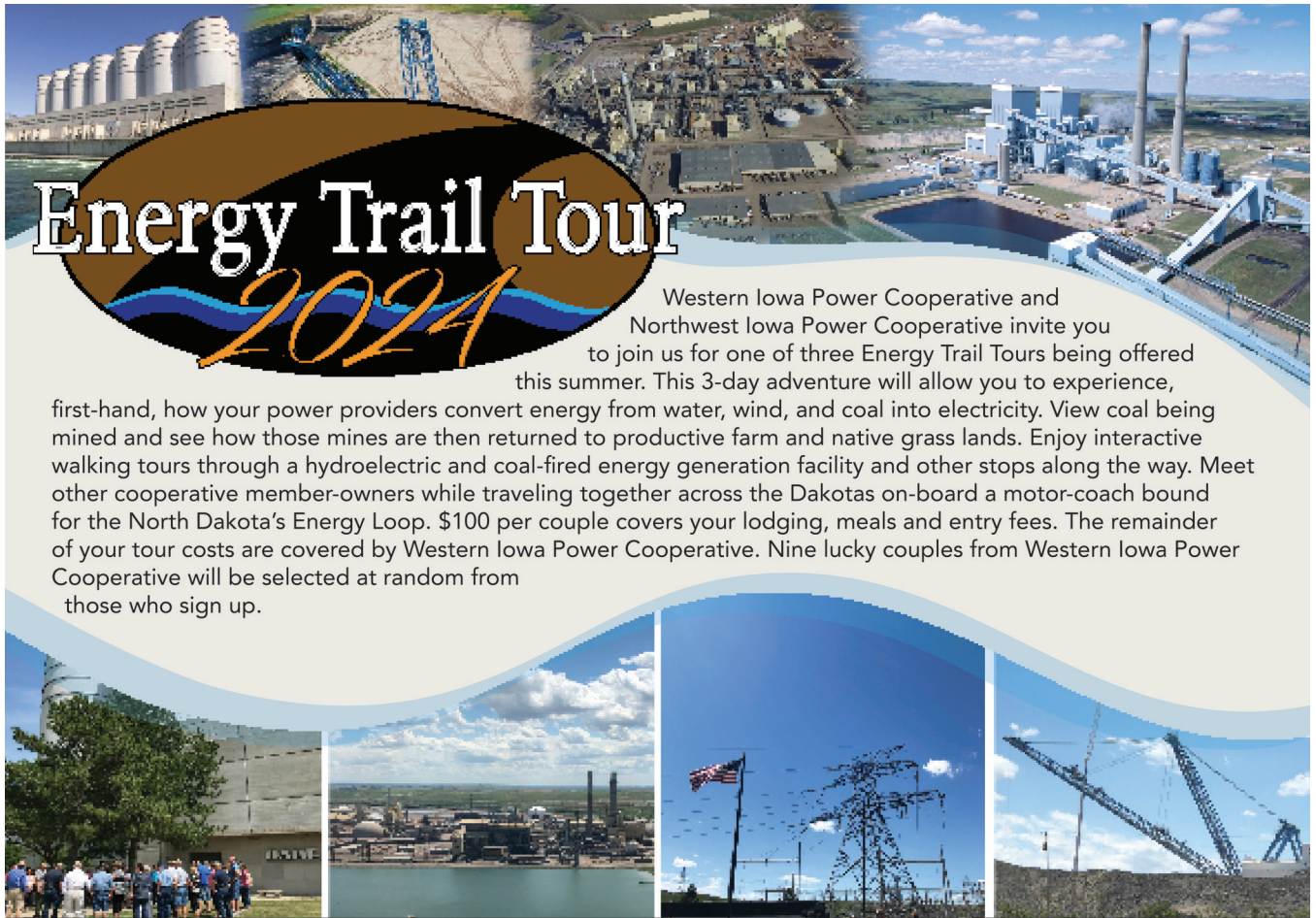
# 6 Your Source of Power and Information

## Ready to Hit the Road, Energy Trail Tours 2024

Flip a switch, and the lights come on. Behind this simple action lies a complex network of people, power plants, and transmission lines working around the clock. Their mission is to ensure safe, affordable, and reliable electricity flows to more than 140 member cooperatives in nine states.

This summer, WIPCO members will join members from thirteen other Western and North Central Iowa electric cooperatives on a three-day excursion through the Dakotas to learn about where their electricity comes from and have some fun along the journey. The tours are part of WIPCO's commitment to providing education for directors, employees, and members.

If you would like to be a part of this experience this year, please find more information below, on our website, or on our Facebook!



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 experience, 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. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the 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 Western Iowa Power Cooperative 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 26-28    1st   2nd   3rd   (please circle)  
July 10-12    1st   2nd   3rd  
July 24-26    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 1, 2024.*

## Western Iowa Power Cooperative Prepares for Annual Meeting Director Elections

Western Iowa Power Cooperative will hold a District Meeting in Denison, Iowa on Tuesday, August 27 and the Annual Meeting in Onawa, Iowa on Thursday, August 29.

This year's Annual Meeting will be WIPCO's 26th meeting at which Directors will be elected. One Director will be elected from each of three districts, and the Directors must reside and receive service in the District they represent.

In compliance with the Cooperative By-Laws, the Board of Directors will appoint Members to act as the Nominating Committee for the selection of nominees for Directors of the Cooperative to be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

### Membership

Any individual may become a member in this Cooperative by (a) requesting to become a Member, (b) agreeing to purchase all their electric energy from the Cooperative; and (c) agreeing to comply with and be bound by Western Iowa Power Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held on such date and time as set by the Board of Directors.

### Board Representation and Nomination

More details on the 2024 District Meeting, Annual Meeting and Director elections will be printed in the May Informer newsletter along with instructions on voting by mail-in-ballot for the election of Directors. A mail-in-ballot will be mailed to each Member. Each voting Member is entitled to cast one (1) vote for each Director to be elected.

Directors must be Members of the Cooperative. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected as a Director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications for the office of Director.

Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee, which Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Said Nominating Committee members so appointed shall nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of Members. Any twenty (20) or more Members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which Directors are to be elected.

The Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations by the committee is posted; such nominations so made by such Members to be subject to the same District and residence requirements as nominations by the Nominating Committee heretofore prescribed.

### Election Procedures

The election of the Directors shall be by ballot. Each voting Member shall be entitled to cast one ballot for each Director to be elected. To the extent the same is specifically authorized by the Board of Directors, members may vote by mail-in ballot. The election of all directors shall be subject to ratification by a majority of all members present at the Annual Meeting of Members, and directors elected shall qualify and take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of Members.

The Secretary shall also mail a Notice of the Meeting, including a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and nominations made by petition.

In June, the Nominating Committee will meet to name the nominees to WIPCO's Board of Directors. This year, three Directors are up for reelection.

The following is a list of those eligible incumbent Directors and the Districts they would represent if nominated and elected:

District: 3  
Monona County      Craig Riesberg

District: 5  
Monona County      Dave Carlson

District: 6  
Crawford County      Ross Wood

The Board of Directors will approve appointment of the Nominating Committee at their April Board Meeting.

Contact information for the Nominating Committee will be mailed out to each Member on May 6 with their electric bill. Or, call our office at 800-253-5189, and we can provide you with the names and phone numbers of the Nominating Committee.

## Western Iowa Power Cooperative



### Annual Meeting

August 29th, 2024

Onawa Community Center

Onawa, Iowa

### District Meeting

August 27th, 2024

The Stables

Denison, Iowa



(USPS 9340)

**Contact Us**

*Denison Office*  
809 Highway 39 North - P.O. Box 428  
Denison, Iowa 51442  
712-263-2943 OR 800-253-5189  
FAX 712-263-8655  
wipco@wipco.com

*Onawa Office*  
418 East Iowa Avenue - P.O. Box 115  
Onawa, Iowa 51040  
712-433-1622 OR 800-253-5189  
FAX 712-433-2725  
wipco@wipco.com

**wipco.com**



@westerniowapowercoop

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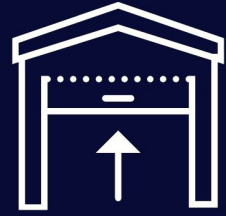
Marcus Rihner, Executive V.P./General  
Manager

Sadie Reisz, Editor

**“This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and  
employer”**

**Safety Tip**

Know how to open your powered garage door manually after a power outage. Refer to manufacturer’s instructions and teach other drivers and older kids in your home how to operate an electric garage door during a power outage, especially if there is an emergency.



Safe  
Electricity.org



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 March newsletter belonged to Gil Carstens and Brad Bothwell.

**SAVE  
\$25**

