

WIPCOinformer

What's inside...

Message for Our Members.....2
What's Happening.....3
Energy Assistance.....4
Legislative Spotlight.....5
Energy Trail Tour.....6

Hiring Summer Help for 2025

Do you know a high school or college student interested in pursuing a career in line work or attending power line school? Western Iowa Power Cooperative is hiring summer help for our operation teams in Onawa! This is a hands-on opportunity to gain valuable experience, learn the ropes from our skilled professionals, and kick-start your future in the electric cooperative industry. Applicants must be 18+. Contact our offices for more information. More information can be found on our website www.wipco.com.



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

WIPCO Welcomes New General Manager

The Western Iowa Power Cooperative's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of Stephanie Wiese to serve as its next General Manager. Stephanie succeeds Marcus Rihner, who resigned last fall.



Stephanie has been a dedicated employee of the Cooperative since 2013, starting as Customer Service Manager, then advancing to Director of Member Services and Economic Development, and most recently serving as Assistant Manager. Her prior experience includes roles as a Supervisor and Financial Analyst at American Home Shield.

In her tenure at the Cooperative, Stephanie has collaborated with all departments, fostering strong relationships with employees. She holds an associate's degree in professional office careers from Iowa Western Community College and has completed the NRECA's Management Internship Program (MIP), Gettysburg Leadership Experience, and is a Certified Key Accounts Executive.

Residing outside of Denison with her husband and three daughters, Stephanie is eager to continue her journey with the Cooperative. She is deeply committed to the Cooperative, its members, and the local community.

The Board of Directors is delighted to promote someone from within who is well-acquainted with the Cooperative's employees, members, power supplier, and strategic direction.

Schedule your pivot inspections today!

Did you know you're required to complete an annual inspection on your pivot system? Make sure everything is running safely and efficiently before the season kicks off.

Contact our Member Services Team to get on the schedule — our skilled electricians will take care of the rest!



What is a Capital Credit Allocation Certificate?

WIPCO members who received electric service during the year 2024 will be mailed a Capital Credit Allocation Certificate, like the one shown.

Why are you receiving this?

Electric cooperative aren't like other utilities. As a consumer and a member, you own a portion of the business. One benefit of that membership involved the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits. Electric cooperatives 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 is allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. When the cooperative's financial position permits, the cooperative pays the capital credits to members in cash or as a bill credit. 53-07-21587

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 2024.

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 to 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 allocation 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.

7 Cooperative Principles

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community



CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION CERTIFICATE

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

CAPITAL CREDIT NUMBER

XXXX

YEAR

AMOUNT

2023

36.10

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

JOHN DOE
230 200TH STREET

DENISON IA 51442



Congratulations to Dany Aguilar on Earning His Journeyman Electrician License



Join us in congratulating Dany Aguilar on earning his Journeyman Electrician license. This significant achievement is the result of years of hands-on experience, classroom instruction, and successful completion of the state licensing exam.

Earning a journeyman license demonstrates a high level of skill, knowledge, and commitment to safety and professionalism in the electrical trade. We're proud to have Dany on the WIPCO team and applaud his dedication to continued growth and excellence in his work. 10-06-10298



Stephanie Wiese, General Manager, attends Indoor Ag-Con with Iowa Area Development Group



Stephanie Wiese, General Manager of Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO), recently attended the Indoor Ag-Con in Las Vegas alongside representatives from the Iowa Area Development Group (IADG). Indoor Ag-Con is the premier

event for indoor and vertical farming, bringing together growers, suppliers, tech companies, and ag industry leaders from across the country. The convention featured keynote speakers, educational sessions, and an expansive expo showcasing the latest innovations in controlled environment agriculture. Wiese's attendance provided valuable insight into emerging agricultural technologies and how cooperatives like WIPCO can support economic development and innovation in rural communities.

6 Ways to Pay your Electric Bill with WIPCO!

WIPCO offers several convenient options for members to pay their electric bills. You can pay online through our secure payment portal using a debit or credit card, or set up automatic bank drafts to ensure your bill is paid on time each month. Payments can also be made over the phone, by mail, or in person at our Denison or Onawa office locations. Whether you prefer to pay electronically or with a traditional method, we strive to make the process as easy and flexible as possible for our members.



Be Prepared for Storm Season with a Standby Generator

With storm season approaching, it's important to make sure you're prepared for potential power outages. WIPCO offers Briggs & Stratton standby generators that automatically provide backup power to your home or business within seconds of an outage. These reliable systems are permanently installed and powered by natural gas or propane, making them a convenient and efficient solution during emergencies. Don't wait until severe weather hits—contact WIPCO today to learn more about our generator options and how you can stay safe and powered year-round.

Winter Moratorium Ends April 1, 2025

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, 2025. 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

**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

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 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 may your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Your contribution is tax deductible. Even a one dollar a month pledge will help others!

Visit our website <https://www.wipco.com/payment-options> to contribute to RECare.

WIN \$25 OFF YOUR NEXT ENERGY BILL

Hidden somewhere within the pages of each Western Iowa Power Cooperative Informer are two member's location numbers. Find your location number in a monthly newsletter and call our offices by the 20th of that month, and you will receive a \$25.00 credit on your energy bill the following month!

The location numbers in March's newsletter belonged to Matt Brotherson and Cynthia Laupsa.

Thank a lineworker on Lineworker Appreciation Day

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.



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.

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.

Show your Appreciation for our linemen!

April is Linemen Appreciation Month in Iowa, and we invite our members to help us show gratitude to the hardworking men and women who keep the lights on!

To celebrate, we've created special lineman-themed coloring pages for children (or adults!) to color and include a thank you note to our lineman. These pages are available on our Facebook page and our website at www.wipco.com/thankalineman.

Once completed, you can: Email the picture of the artwork to wipco@wipco.com, mail the artwork, or submit it online on our website.

We'll be sharing these submission to spread appreciation! Join us in making Lineman Appreciation Month extra special.



Western Iowa Power Cooperative offers a unique and educational experience with its Energy Trail Tour, a hands-on opportunity for members to learn more about the cooperative's services and energy efficiency initiatives. The tour provides an inside look at the technology and infrastructure that power the region, including renewable energy sources, system upgrades, and smart grid technology. Participants can engage with knowledgeable staff, who explain how energy is generated, transmitted, and delivered to homes and businesses. The Energy Trail Tour is designed to help members better understand the cooperative's efforts to improve energy reliability, reduce costs, and support sustainable practices. It's an informative and interactive experience for anyone interested in the future of energy in western Iowa.

Find more information below, and enter for a chance to go on the Energy Trail Tour by clipping the coupon below or by filling out the form on our website.



Energy Trail Tour 2025

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 18-20 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | (please circle) |
| June 25-27 | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | |
| July 9-11 | 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 April 25, 2025.

WIPCO Announces Upcoming District and Annual Meetings

Western Iowa Power Cooperative will hold a District Meeting in Onawa on Tuesday, August 26th and the Annual Meeting in Denison on Thursday, August 29.

Annual Meeting and Director Elections

The 2025 Annual Meeting will mark WIPCO's 27th Annual Meeting, during which three Directors will be elected - one from each of three Districts up for re-election. To be eligible, Directors must reside in and receive service from the district they represent.

As outlined in the Cooperative's By-Laws, the Board of Directors will appoint Members to serve on the Nominating Committee. This committee is responsible for selecting nominees for Director positions to be voted on at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Membership Requirements

To become a members of the Cooperative, individuals must (a) request membership, (b) agree to purchase all electric energy from the Cooperative, (c) comply with the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Annual Meeting Details

The Annual Meeting of Members will take place on the date and time established by the Board of Directors.

Board Representation and Nomination Process

Further details about the 2025 District Meeting, Annual Meeting, and Director elections will be provided in the May edition of The Informer newsletter. This will include instructions on voting by mail-in ballot. Each WIPCO Member will receive a mail-in ballot and will be entitled to one vote per Director position.

To serve as a Director, individuals must be Members of the Cooperative. If a membership is held jointly by spouses, only one of them may be elected to the Board. Both individuals must meet the necessary qualifications to be eligible.

Candidates for the Board of Directors will be selected by a Nominating Committee, which is appointed by the Board. The Committee will nominate candidates for election at the Annual Meeting. Additionally, any group of twenty (20) or more Members may submit other nominations in writing, at least 15 days before the election.

The secretary will post all nominations, including those from the Nominating Committee and Member submitted nominations, in the designated location. All nominees must meet the district and residency requirements as stated in WIPCO's By-Laws.

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 4: Monona County, Peter Alexander

District 9: Crawford County, Janet Iversen

District 10: Crawford County, Mike Blum

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.





Download the WIPCO App

Take control of your energy account with the Western Iowa Power Cooperative app! With just a few taps, you can easily view and pay your bill, monitor your energy usage, and stay updated with important notifications and news from WIPCO. The app is free, user-friendly, and available for download on both iOS and Android devices. It's a convenient way to manage your account anytime, anywhere. 52-01-22765

Search for "Western Iowa Power Cooperative" in your app store and experience the ease of staying connected to your cooperative. Download it today and simplify your energy management!

Leadership

Stephanie Wiese, General Manager

Board of Directors

Janet Iversen, Ross Wood, Craig Riesberg, Gary Volkert, Brian Lundell, Louis Reed, Mike Blum, Bart Heisterkamp, Peter Alexander, Ken Smith

Informer Editor

Sadie Reisz, Communications & Benefits Coordinator

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Spring Into Energy Savings: Tips for a More Efficient Home

As warmer weather arrives, spring is a great time to refresh your home's energy efficiency. Start by sealing any air leaks around windows and doors to keep cool air in and reduce the strain on your air conditioner. Switching to LED light bulbs and using ceiling fans can also help lower energy use. Don't forget to schedule a tune-up for your cooling system to ensure it's running efficiently before the heat of summer sets in. Small changes now can lead to big savings on your energy bill all season long.

Contact Us

WIPCO Office Hours

📍 809 Highway 39 North, Denison, Iowa
Monday - Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

📍 413 East Iowa Avenue, Onawa, Iowa
Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Give Us a Call!

Toll Free: 800-253-5189

Find Us Online!

wipco.com
wipco@wipco.com
@WesternIowaPowerCoop