

CURRENT CONNECTION

June 2016

www.calhounrec.coop

Calhoun County REC

Rockwell City, IA 50579 • (712) 297-7112 • (800) 821-4879

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Bravo Seniors!

Congratulations to the winners of our Calhoun County REC \$500 scholarships!

Mallory Willett is the daughter of Kelly Willett and Carol Collins and is a senior at South Central Calhoun. Mallory plans on attending either the University of Northwestern, Minnesota or Iowa State University in the fall.

Cassandra Zinnel is the daughter of Scott and Annette Zinnel and is a senior at Southeast Valley. Cassandra plans on attending DMACC in Boone in the fall.

Korey Vogel is the son of Mike and Kristy Vogel and is a senior at South Central Calhoun. Korey plans on attending DMACC in Ankeny in the fall.

Julia Seil is the daughter of Randy and Shari Seil and is a senior at South Central Calhoun. Julia plans on attending DMACC in Ankeny in the fall.



Mallory Willett



Cassandra Zinnel



Korey Vogel



Julia Seil

Patronage Dividend Notices

Notice of your 2015 patronage allocation appears on your electric bill inserted with this newsletter. As a Calhoun County REC member, you are part owner of the Cooperative.

You have pooled your money with other members and created equity for your Cooperative to buy electricity, fund plant investment, and provide services at an affordable cost.

As a locally owned business, Calhoun County REC is committed to the people it serves and all of the communities in its service territory. Because we are member-owned, one of the principles your Calhoun County REC follows is a commitment to returning your investment. This is done in the form of patronage dividends.

Since cooperatives are nonprofit, margins remaining each year are allocated to members through the patronage dividend process. The amount returned is in relation to your transactions with Calhoun County REC. 04C15KA

Patronage dividends are currently returned to Calhoun County REC members on a 17-year schedule.

In April, your Board of Directors approved an allocation of patronage dividends to the members in the amount of \$125,000. With this allocation of patronage dividends, members of Calhoun County REC have been allocated over \$4 million in patronage dividends since the Cooperative began in 1936.

To appoint nominating committee

Excerpts from bylaws

The following is the process involved in the nomination of Calhoun County REC members for election to the Board of Directors. Two directors will be elected at the 80th Annual Meeting which will be held on September 7, 2016.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 40 nor more than 90 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations, consisting of three members from each district from which a director is elected. No members of the Board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting, a list of those candidates nominated from each district from which a director is to be elected. **The committee is encouraged, but not required, to nominate at least two candidates for each director to be elected.**

Any fifteen (15) or more members from a district from which a Director is to be elected, acting together, may make other nominations for Director from their district by petition not less than 20 days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

Make a Difference as a Director

A director's responsibilities consists of having the ability and knowledge to set policies and approve programs that are the basis for operating your Cooperative, according to information compiled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA). A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings and educational seminars. These special sessions are necessary in order to keep directors informed on the various aspects of your Cooperative and the electric utility industry. Also, new directors are strongly encouraged to obtain their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate.

Criteria of a board member as identified by NRECA includes:

- Be an independent thinker, but capable of cooperating
- Acquire the knowledge necessary to cope with issues of a modern electric utility, including finance, management and communications
- Possess the character and demeanor that will reflect favorably on behalf of the Cooperative
- Be willing to listen and learn 14C26DA
- Subordinate personal and other business interests to the needs of the cooperative when making decisions
- Be willing to commit adequate time to the work of the board, to be an effective member and properly discharge duties of the board of directors

Requirements:

- Receive electric service from the Cooperative
- Cannot be an immediate relative to any staff working at the Cooperative



by CEO
Roxanne
Carisch

Electric Co-ops and a Culture of Safety

There is a Children's book titled, *Safety Ist, Safety Always*. As you can imagine, it encompasses many of the traditional safety lessons parents should teach their children.

We drill youngsters about safety from an early age because we know how important it is to protect ourselves and those we care about.

Up until 2007, there was an alarming national trend among electric co-ops, which was the fact that the number of "lost time" accidents was increasing. Lost time is defined as anything resulting in an employee missing time at work. These accidents could range from a sprained ankle to the ultimate tragedy of a fatality.

This is why Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, which insures the vast majority of electric co-ops nationwide, initiated a campaign called a "Culture of Safety." It was designed to create a much greater awareness about safety issues at all electric co-ops.

Through the use of strategy labs across the country, Federated brought together co-op CEOs and general managers, operations supervisors, safety directors and linemen to better understand how each group viewed safety. In doing so, differences in perceptions regarding safety within cooperatives were identified, allowing for much needed conversations and evaluations of how to raise awareness and improve local safety cultures. The "Speak Up, Listen Up" program is designed to empower anyone who sees a potentially unsafe situation to Speak Up and encourages everyone to Listen Up to their concerns. The results have been dramatic, with more than a 30 percent decline in the number of accidents over the past nine years.

Calhoun County REC participated in Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange's "Culture of Safety" program and has also embraced the "Speak Up, Listen Up" program. As a result, a Safety Committee has been established and a much greater emphasis has been placed on safety awareness, accident/incident

investigation and crew inspections/ observations.

As a member, you too have a role. If you see any potentially dangerous situations or practices, you should report them as soon as possible to Calhoun County REC.

The implementation and success of the Culture of Safety program demonstrates a very important point. If we are intentional about our actions, we can indeed change the culture in our organizations. The same is true for our families, our teams and any groups we may belong to.

We also know that living our cooperative principles and values is equally important. We have the best business model because it puts you, the member-owner, at the center of our efforts.

We look forward to being your safe electricity provider and energy advisor long into the future.

Looking Out
for You

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

OVERNIGHT COUNTRY SAUSAGE AND HASH BROWN CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (16 oz) bulk hot pork sausage
- 10 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 bag (20 oz) refrigerated O'Brien hash browns (about 4 1/2 cups)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese (6 oz)



DIRECTIONS:

Spray 13x9-inch (3-quart) baking dish with cooking spray. In 8-inch skillet, cook sausage over medium heat 5 to 7 minutes or until no longer pink; drain.

In large bowl, beat eggs, milk, Dijon mustard and pepper with whisk until mixed well. Stir in hash browns, 1 cup of the cheese and the cooked sausage. Pour mixture in baking dish; cover and refrigerate at least 8 hours but no longer than 12 hours.

Heat oven to 350°F. Remove dish from refrigerator, uncover and top with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake 45 to 55 minutes or until center is just set. Cool 10 minutes before serving.

Happy
Father's
Day

June 19

The Calhoun County REC
office will be closed
Monday, July 4th to observe
Independence Day.

For outage and emergencies
only call 712-297-7112
or 800-821-4879

It's A Boy

On April 25, 2016 First Class Lineman Chad Krukow and his wife Krissi became proud parents of a baby boy. Elliot was born weighing in at 9 lbs 6 oz and was 23 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to Chad and Krissi!



Utilit-e Online™

On-line payment options coming soon!

Keep watching for more on this topic in the months to come.



June is
lightning safety month.
Be aware of
changing weather.

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

Dan Otto spotted his location number and will receive a **\$10** credit on his electric bill. Blaine Hepp and Nate Thompson missed their opportunity to receive a **\$10** electric bill credit.

Don't forget to read the newsletter and check for your location number. If your location number is spotted, call Calhoun County REC by the 15th of the month and receive a **\$10** credit on your next electric bill.

* Location numbers are located on billing statements. *

Save the Date: Annual Meeting Set for September 7th

Plans are well underway for this year's Annual Meeting. **Calhoun County REC's Annual Meeting will be held at the Rockwell City Community Center (please note change of location) on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.** The general business session will be called to order at 7:00 p.m. In addition to reports being presented that cover our 2015 operations, a major item of business will be the election of two directors to serve a three-year term each. Directors whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting in September are:

- District #4 – LaVerne Arndt
- District #6 – Terry Finley

A nominating committee will be named at the June board meeting and given the task of nominating qualified candidates to run for each of these positions. Once the slate of candidates is chosen, members will be given the opportunity to vote by mail or at the Annual Meeting September 7th. A detailed explanation of the nominating and election process will be provided in the next newsletter.

Proposed Change to the Articles of Incorporation to be Presented to Members for the 2016 Annual Meeting

Modification of Length of Term Limits for Directors - As a member owned cooperative organization, the membership has the opportunity to nominate director candidates for their district and also vote for the director candidate of their choice.

The Board of Directors has the responsibility of periodically reviewing the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative to determine if any modifications are in order. For the past several years and at the 2015 Strategic Planning Session, in depth discussion and review was held in regard to increasing the Director term limitation policy from four-3 year terms to six- 3 year terms.

When term limits were approved at the 1997 Annual meeting, twelve years seemed like a fairly long and workable time period. However, as we are now starting to see, very qualified and dedicated directors will be going off the board due to term limitations at a time when we are facing increasingly challenging issues.

Following very good discussion the last few months, the board has decided to present a proposal to the members at this year's annual meeting that would address these issues. The proposal would modify Article VIII, Section 4 of the Articles of Incorporation by increasing the maximum number of consecutive three year terms a Director is allowed to serve from four to six. **The Board wants to emphasize that every three years membership will still have an opportunity to nominate and vote for the candidate of their choice in their respective district up for election. We feel it is important for member-owners to have a voice every three years in this valuable democratic process.**

There will be a full letter of explanation for this proposed change mailed to members in July with your electric billing. 06C03HA

Calhoun County REC donates to County Exposition

Calhoun County REC supports the Calhoun County Expo. "We are dedicated in demonstrating our "Commitment to Community" as one of our Touchstone Energy core values," explains CEO Roxanne Carisch.

Pictured (l to r) Calhoun County REC Staff Assistant Lonnie Holder and Calhoun County Fair Board Member Kalyn Anderson



-- Directors --

Jim Miller, President	Fonda
Terry Finley, V. President	Auburn
Jason McKenney, Secretary	Somers
John Wahl, Treasurer	Rockwell City
LaVerne Arndt	Sac City
Beryl Birkland	Gowrie
Ron Hanson	Pomeroy

-- Office Hours --

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Telephone: 712-297-7112 or
Toll Free: 800-821-4879
Fax: 712-297-7211
e-mail: info@calhounrec.coop
www.calhounrec.coop
After 4:30 p.m. call 800-821-4879
or 712-297-7112
for outages and emergencies only.