

CURRENT CONNECTION

February 2018

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Calhoun County REC

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Do You Have Plans for College?

Calhoun County REC is offering up to three \$500 scholarships

Any graduating high school senior, whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative, is eligible for the Calhoun County REC scholarship. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2018. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen.

How Do You Apply?

Applications are available at your area high school guidance counselor's office or at the REC office in Rockwell City. Applications can also be downloaded on Calhoun County REC's website at www.calhounrec.coop. Return completed application to our office on or before **April 6, 2018, by 4:30 p.m.** with the following:



1. Letter of recommendation from a teacher, advisor or counselor 10C16EA
 2. Essay answering: *How are electric cooperatives different from other electric utilities?* (minimum 250 words)
- Mail to Calhoun County REC, 1015 Tonawanda, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579.

Al's Corner Oil Co. / Sparky's One Stop Honored with Iowa Venture Award

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunication companies, honored seven distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines.

Al's Corner Oil Co. / Sparky's One Stop was recognized for their recent \$3 million investment to construct the Sparky's One Stop travel plaza at the intersection of US Highway 20 and Iowa Highway 4 near Rockwell City. This year, Al's Corner Oil Co. celebrates their 80th anniversary of opening the original and first gas station in Carroll, IA. This three-generation company now has businesses in 27 locations, is a leader in establishing E85 and blender pump sites, and also runs a direct farm delivery business and propane service for over 2,000 rural accounts. Al's Corner Oil Co. / Sparky's One Stop was nominated for an Iowa Venture Award by Calhoun County Rural Electric Cooperative.

"IADG, on behalf of our sponsors, is proud to recognize these outstanding companies," said Rand Fisher, president of Iowa Area Development Group. "Their innovation, vision, courage, and social responsibility have made an impressive impact on their communities, regions and the State of Iowa."



Pictured (l to r) Rand Fisher, President, IADG; Adm Mgr/Mbr Srv Rep Keaton Hildreth, Calhoun County REC; Tera Peterson, Tia Tiefenthaler, Collin Tiefenthaler, Mark Tiefenthaler all of Al's Corner Oil/Sparky's One Stop Shop; Bill Northey, IA Secretary of Ag; CEO Roxanne Carisch, Calhoun County REC; and Jim Vermeer, VP Business Development of Corn Belt



Youth Tour Opportunity!

Calhoun County REC will be offering high school sophomores and juniors an opportunity to be selected for a trip to Washington D.C. June 8-14, 2018. Students must submit an application including a 250-500 word essay explaining how electric cooperatives are different from other electric utilities. **Applications are due on or before March 9, 2018.** The top three applicants will also participate in a personal interview process. The first place winner will represent Calhoun County REC at the 2018 Iowa Youth Tour and be awarded a \$500 scholarship. Second and third place winners will each receive a \$250 scholarship. This contest is available to students in the local area school districts. For more information contact Keaton Hildreth at khildreth@calhounrec.coop or by calling the office at 712-297-7112.

Scholarships Offered

Administered by Northwest Iowa Community College

Corn Belt Power is partnering with the Northwest Iowa Community College to offer up to four \$500 scholarships. Applicants must be enrolled in one of the following technical programs at Northwest Iowa Community College: **Electrical Technology, Powerline, Powerline Technology or Substation Technician.** Recipients may be either first or second year students, but are eligible for only one scholarship. Each scholarship will be split equally between the first two semesters of enrollment after receiving the scholarship. Scholarship proceeds may be used for tuition, fees and books. To be considered a candidate for the Corn Belt Cooperative Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Reside in a county served by a member cooperative of Corn Belt Power
2. Achieve a high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
3. Accepted as a full time student in one of the identified programs at Northwest Iowa Community college
4. **File scholarship applications with the Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by March 1, 2018**
5. Maintain 2.5 minimum grade point average; eligibility shall be reviewed each semester.

All applicants are required to submit a letter of reference from a high school instructor, guidance counselor, current employer or manager of a member electric cooperative with their applications. This reference should address the applicant's potential for success in the program chosen for enrollment. The primary criteria for the award will be the candidate's potential for success and grade point average. For an application form please contact Sheila Van Engen at (800) 352-4907, ext. 246, or svanengen@nwicc.edu

Administered by Iowa Lakes Community College

Corn Belt Power is partnering with Iowa Lakes Community College to offer a scholarship opportunity to students who study wind energy and turbine technology. Applicants must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program at Iowa Lakes Community College. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to an individual who has met the requirements set forth. Recipients may be either first or second year students, but are eligible for only one scholarship. Each scholarship will be split equally between the first two semesters of enrollment after receiving the scholarship. Scholarship proceeds may be used for tuition, fees and books. To be considered a candidate for the Corn Belt Cooperative Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Achieve a high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Accepted as a full time student in the identified program at Iowa Lakes Community College
3. Must be an Iowa resident
4. **File scholarship application with Iowa Lakes Community College by April 1, 2018**
5. Maintain 2.5 minimum grade point average; eligibility shall be reviewed each semester.

The primary criteria for the award will be the candidate's potential for success and grade point average. For more information please contact Jolene Rogers at (800) 242-5106, ext. 4491 or vroger@iowalakes.edu

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CREAMY POTATO SOUP

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 Tbl butter | 3 medium potatoes peeled and cubed |
| ½ cup chopped onion | 1 ½ cups milk |
| 1 stalk celery chopped (1/2 cup) | 1 Tbl chopped parsley |
| 1 ¾ cups chicken broth | |

DIRECTIONS:

Heat the butter in a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and celery and cook until tender. Stir the broth and potatoes in the saucepan and heat to a boil. Reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook for 15 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. Place half of the broth mixture and half of the milk in a blender or food processor. Cover and blend until smooth. Repeat with the remaining broth mixture and remaining milk. Return to the saucepan and heat through. Season to taste. Sprinkle with the parsley before serving. 13C10LA



REMINDER:

Due on or before February 14th

If you or a member of your family plans to attend college or technical school next fall, don't forget to contact your electric cooperative for scholarship opportunities.

We are taking applications for a \$1,000 Basin scholarship available from **Basin Electric Power Cooperative**.

Contact Lonnie at
712-297-7112

Focused on serving you...

Line patrol a part of our reliability plan

As the weather gets too cold for line construction, your electric cooperative linemen switch gears and begin line patrol. Line patrol involves line crews driving lines in selected townships and taking note of how lines, poles and equipment are holding up. Trouble areas, such as trees growing too close to poles and wires, are marked down as potential candidates for repair when construction season comes around again. So if you see electric cooperative vehicles come into your yard, they are likely checking equipment up to the meter and transformer. Likewise, if you see cooperative trucks driving slowly on the road, take care when you pass. Your linemen are out ensuring that you have the most reliable service possible by making sure the lines, transformers and equipment on your distribution system are in working order. Line patrol is another duty performed by your electric co-op to show how they work to serve you winter, spring, summer, fall, plus every day and night in between.



By the Numbers: 2017 Operations

THE NUMBERS ARE IN AFTER ANOTHER YEAR OF construction and maintenance on Calhoun County REC's 758 miles of line. In 2017 Calhoun County REC built service for:

- 2 new homes
- 3 grain bins
- 1 ag building
- 16 hog confinements

59 System improvements
14.4 Miles of line rebuilt



Mike Terwilliger
Line Superintendent

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

Merrills Petzenhauser and Rudy Kopecky spotted their location numbers. Michael McGivney missed his 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. **

CEO Comments

Patronage checks were mailed on December 14th to member-owners who purchased electricity from the Cooperative in the year 2000. Allocation and retirement (return) of patronage to member-owners is an important difference between electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. Calhoun County REC does not have stockholders and does not pay dividends. 23S16LA

At the end of each year, after all of the Cooperative's bills have been paid and all expenses considered, the amount of money that is left over is called a margin. Margins provide equity for the Cooperative and are allocated to the member-owners in proportion to their purchases of electricity during the year. Calhoun County REC returns excess margins on a schedule determined by the Board of Directors. This is done in the form of patronage.

Each year the decision to return patronage is made based on the financial stability of the Cooperative. The Board selects if, how and when patronage is returned to the membership. In 2017 the amount returned was in relation to the individual member-owner's amount of electricity used with the Cooperative in the year 2000.

If you have questions about your patronage check, please contact the office at 712-297-7112 or info@calhounrec.coop.



CEO
Roxanne
Carisch

Calhoun County REC discuss important issues at Welcome Back Reception

Over 150 directors, managers and staff members from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with state legislators and policy makers on January 9th during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception at the State Historical Building in downtown Des Moines. Other guests of honor included: Governor Kim Reynolds, Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg, Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Auditor of State Mary Mosiman, Attorney General Tom Miller, Iowa Utilities Board Member Nick Wagner, and Iowa Department of Economic Development Director Debi Durham. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, the Iowa Communications Alliance and the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa, hosted the annual reception.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including items central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, the directors, managers, and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues allowing Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives to continue providing safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans.

Electric cooperative representatives from all parts of the state will come to the state capitol in the next couple of months to visit with their legislators once again. The annual REC Day on the Hill will be held on March 14, 2018, at the capitol.



(from left) Administrative Mgr/Member Srv Rep Keaton Hildreth, Representative Mike Sexton, Governor Kim Reynolds and Director Steve Boedecker



Calhoun County REC

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 



-- Directors --

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

Roxanne Carisch, CEO

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or 712-297-7112
for outages and emergencies only.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.