



APRIL DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

District 4 – Darcy Maulsby



Director Maulsby has been a member of Calhoun County ECA since 2006 and was first elected in 2022 to serve on CCECA's Board of Directors. Darcy lives between Lake City and Yetter with her husband, J., and owns her own marketing/communications business. She earned her MBA from Iowa State University and assists with the corn and soybean operation on her family's

Century Farm. Darcy has authored several non-fiction Iowa history books and even finds time to write a monthly column for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's magazine, Iowa Electric Cooperative Living.

As a director for CCECA, Darcy recently completed the last required course for the Certified Cooperative Director (CCD) program. To achieve this milestone, she was required to attend five courses that focused on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. Achieving CCD would seem fairly easy to the average person, however the opportunity to attend all five classes does not come up every year. Many of the courses Darcy has attended are those that are only offered every other or every third year.

Darcy was asked to provide her perspective on the following three topics:

1. After serving as a cooperative director, what is something you would like your fellow members to know about the co-op or the electric industry?

Before I became a director, I took it for granted that the power would come on when I flipped the switch. There's so

much more to the story, though. The electrical industry is an incredibly complex, dynamic business. It's amazing how many people and resources it takes to bring reliable electricity to our homes, farms and businesses. I'm proud that electric co-ops are leaders in addressing key issues facing the electrical industry today, such as the growing demand for electricity, cybersecurity, and finding the best ways to use renewable energy and traditional energy sources so you have the electricity you need, when you need it.

2. What trend or issue are you most concerned about in the year ahead for the co-op or the electric industry?

Headlines like "Electricity Shortage Warnings Grow Across U.S." in major news outlets like the Wall Street Journal definitely catch my eye. Power-generating capacity is struggling to keep up with demand in some parts of America, due to soaring energy demand from the tech industry, electric vehicles and more. The Calhoun County ECA is working closely with Corn Belt Power Cooperative in Humboldt, as well as Basin Electric Power Cooperative (a generation-and-transmission cooperative in North Dakota) to find practical solutions so we can continue to provide a reliable power supply for our members.

3. What do you appreciate about the cooperative now that you serve as a director on the board?

We're blessed to have some of the most dedicated, skilled employees in the electric co-op industry, including some of the best linemen in the state, who truly care about our rural communities. I also appreciate how our directors follow the mission statement that's displayed prominently on the wall of the board room: "Every decision I make shall be based on what's best for the member-owners of this cooperative."

Electric Heat Rate Switches to Summer Season



Provided by: Richard Hall – Manager of Member Services & IT

The Electric Heat Rate season ends with energy used through April 30th. The rate will adjust from \$0.053/kWh to \$0.095/kWh, as usual. The reduced rate for electric heat will return October 1st. If you have questions about the Electric Heating Rate or are thinking about installing electric heat, contact our Manager of Member Services & IT, Richard Hall for qualifications and available rebates.



REC Day on the Hill | Iowa's rural electric cooperatives advocate for power reliability during 2024

The sun was shining on more than 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives (RECs) as they convened at the Iowa Capitol on March 12 to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event.

"Our annual advocacy day at the capitol is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowans and rural economic development," remarked Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

Representatives from Calhoun County Electric Cooperative including CEO Keaton Hildreth, Board President Jim Miller, and Board Vice President Steve Boedecker joined the statewide advocacy effort. "Visiting the Iowa Capitol is a grassroots effort to ensure we, as locally controlled electric cooperatives, have a voice in the overall political conversation," said Hildreth. "Having a good working relationship with our elected officials is key when it comes to potential legislation concerning our industry. We appreciate the work that is done in Des Moines by our legislators and aim to be a resource on behalf of our member-consumers."

storage technologies.

Also related to reliability, advocates talked with their legislators about Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) and the potential pitfalls of requiring Iowa utilities to file IRPs as part of contested case proceedings before the Iowa Utilities Board. IRPs will increase administrative and legal fees which must ultimately be paid by ratepayers. In other states, IRPs have served as a pathway to the premature closure of carbon-based power generation facilities which negatively impacts electric reliability.



L to R: Director Steve Boedecker, Representative Mike Sexton, Director Jim Miller.



L to R: Basin Electric Senior Legislative Representative Jean Schafer, CCECA CEO Keaton Hildreth, Senator Tim Kraayenbrink.

Advocates asked elected officials to ensure reliable electric service for Iowans by supporting an "all-of-the-above" electric generation strategy. Specifically, Iowa's electric cooperatives believe it's time to update the state's 2001 advanced ratemaking principles (ARPs) to stipulate an all-of-the-above approach and include nuclear and energy

Additionally, co-op representatives discussed the issue of "right of first refusal" which allows incumbent, established utilities to have the first option to construct, maintain and operate electric transmission projects. Iowa's electric co-ops are best prepared to respond locally to weather-related outages because we have a proven track record of restoring power quickly and safely.

During the advocacy event, representatives educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model, which includes local ownership, democratic governance, and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, digital metering advancements, investments in technology, safety innovations, energy efficiency efforts and vegetation management work.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa's electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at www.iaruralpower.org.

Lineman Appreciation Day – April 18th

When people flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on.

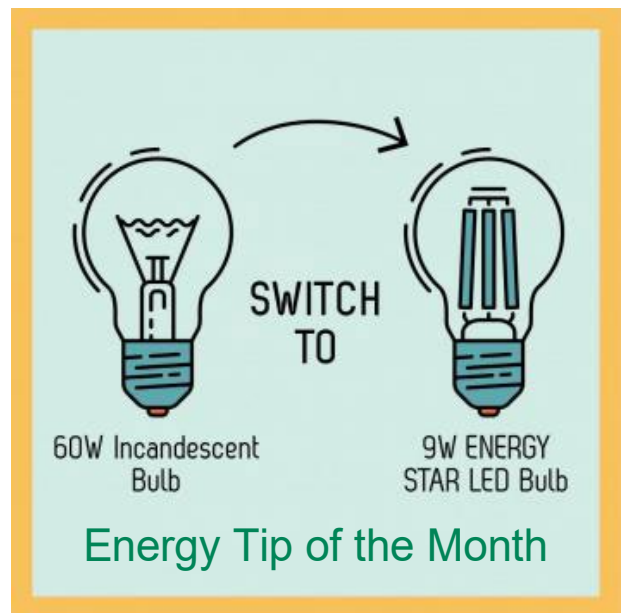
Electric linemen provide an essential service: They work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances that cause the power to go out. The six linemen at CCECA are responsible for nearly 1,700 electric services across almost 760 miles of power lines within our service territory.

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

We thank our linemen who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.



L to R: Jared Kuhlers, Doug LeMonds, Ben Wiederin, Reid Galloway, Chad Krukow, Bret McAlister



Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 CCECA Scholarships. We would like to congratulate those who were selected this year. Each of the four recipients will receive a \$500 scholarship after the completion of their first semester of college.



Congrats to our 2024 scholarship winners!

Our scholarship program supports two of our cooperative principles: Education, Training and Information, and Concern for Community. As part of the scholarship application, students were asked to explain how CCECA makes an impact on the local community.



Nathan Burley is the son of Nick and Rita Burley. Nick is a senior at South Central Calhoun. He plans to attend Iowa State University.



Luke Gerdes is the son of Steve and Mishelle Gerdes. Luke is a senior at Pocahontas Area. He plans to attend Iowa Central Community College.



Samantha Potts is the daughter of Rod and Shannon Potts. Samantha is a senior at Potts Academy and South Central Calhoun. She plans to attend Iowa State University.



Emily Schroeder is the daughter of Matt and Erin Schroeder. Emily is a senior at Manson Northwest Webster. She plans to attend Iowa Central Community College for nursing.

Reach Us

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(Monday-Friday)

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**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**
**IOWA ONE-CALL
AT 811 OR
(800) 292-8989
BEFORE YOU DIG**



1. April _____ is Lineman Appreciation Day.
2. Linemen at CCECA are responsible for nearly _____ electric services across almost _____ miles of power lines within our service territory
3. How many students will receive scholarships from CCECA? _____

Name _____



Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. **Send your answer to memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop, clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: www.calhounrec.coop/member-challenge-submission.** You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline!

Entries for this issue **must be received by May 1st**. Three names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will receive a **\$10 credit** on their account. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least 4 times throughout the year, will be eligible for a \$100 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Pre-Paid Debit card, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

Congratulations February winners:

Ronald & Joyce Weiss, Ron Carlson, Donna Klocke

EASY WAYS TO PAY BILL:

Online: Access through www.calhounrec.coop and pay online 24/7.

Mobile App: Download our app

Auto Bill Pay (ACH): Deduct from your bank account. Find the form on our website or stop by the office.

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