

Southwest lines

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A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

February 2022

Iowa's Electric Cooperatives Discuss Important Issues at Legislative Reception



Pictured above left to right are CEO Phil Kinser, Director Deena Moore, Representative Cecil Dolecheck, Representative Tom Moore, Senator Amy Sinclair, Senator Tom Shipley, Line Superintendent Justin Murphy, Board President Marilyn Werner and Director of Finance & Admin. Services Sarah Newton.

More than 160 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with nearly 90 state legislators on January 11 during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa. The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2022 Legislative Session

to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. For example, as the Legislature and Governor prioritize tax cuts this session, we're asking for a correction to a 2018 legislative oversight that left electric cooperatives out of a tax exemption on digital good and services. This unfair tax burden has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in increased taxes for rural electric cooperatives.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural

economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, electric co-op directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues. Collectively, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives provide affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties every day.

Scholarships Reminder



Southwest Iowa REC will once again be offering scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year to graduating high school seniors.

We will be awarding fourteen (14) \$500 scholarships. In addition, three (3) \$1,000 scholarships will be available for students planning to attend an Accredited Lineman School or electrical trade program.

Completed applications and a photo must be received at the REC Office by March 1, 2022 to be eligible.

Working with Local Legislators



Phil Kinser, CEO

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Southwest Iowa REC, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

Southwest Iowa REC is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

Providing industry guidance and expertise

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists,” yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why Southwest Iowa REC provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who’ve been in the energy industry for many years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering

not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees and staff, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.



Co-op as a convener

In addition, we periodically invite legislators and their staff to the co-op for tours so they can see first-hand how we operate and can view our operations. On January 6, 2022, Southwest Iowa REC and CIPCO hosted a tour of the recently repowered Summit Lake generating plant north of Creston. We were pleased that Representative Tom Moore, Senator Tom Shipley and Senator Mark Costello joined us to see the expansion project and upgrades. With the installation of three efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines, the repowered

facility will produce 110 MW of power to assist during peak energy use.

Representing your best interests

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our consumer-members. This means we are able to cultivate and foster positive, productive

relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we’re advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We’re proud to power your life and bring good things to the community.



We hope you’ll continue to advise Southwest Iowa REC on matters of importance so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.



Students can apply now for a trip to Washington, D.C., from June 18-24!

Local high school students interested in public service & government are encouraged to apply now! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



**2022 Washington D.C. Youth Tour
June 18-24, 2022**

Contact your local Southwest Iowa REC office for an application or visit www.swiarec.coop

Your Privacy is Important

At Southwest Iowa REC, we recognize that a key element of the member-cooperative relationship is the trust that you place with us to respect the privacy and confidentiality of your personal information. We are committed to providing you with the highest quality of electric service. While personal information about you is fundamental to our ability to do this, your privacy is also very important to us.

Therefore, Southwest Iowa REC will not disclose to non-affiliated third parties any information, including personal financial or consumption histories, without the expressed consent of the member/consumer. The Cooperative does reserve the right to use information for purposes relevant to prudent engineering and design practices and power procurement practices, which are consistent with the industry requirements, and for the betterment of the Cooperative and its membership, as a whole.

We restrict access to non-public personal information for all member-consumers to only those employees or affiliates who need to know specific information to provide products and services to the member/consumer. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that, to the best of our abilities, provide prudent and sufficient protection for all non-public personal information.

Information shall not be released to any third party until such time as the member/consumer approves, in writing, such authorization. Forms for the release of information may be obtained from the Cooperative office.

Southwest Iowa REC may collect non-public personal information from the following:

- a. Information we receive from you on applications or forms.
- b. Information regarding payment histories, consumption history, demand history or capacity requirements.



ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.



ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages



Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

SCAM! Alert!

Beware of phone scams!!

Every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams — from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money. Some seem very friendly — calling you by your first name, making small talk, and asking about your family. They may claim to work for a company you trust, or they may send mail or place ads to convince you to call them. Keep these tips in mind when dealing with questionable phone calls.

Fraud prevention tips:

- The REC would never contact member by phone and ask for their account number. If someone calls you asking for sensitive information including your utility account number, SSN, credit card number or bank account details, please hang up and call the REC directly to verify the call. (Do not use any phone number supplied by the possible scammer; call the REC using one of the phone numbers we have provided to you.)
- Do not accept offers from anyone, including those claiming to be REC employees, to pay your bill or provide any other service for a fee. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- REC members who have delinquent accounts receive multiple notifications over the course of several weeks prior to electric service disconnection – never just a single notification immediately before disconnection.
- If a REC lineman or member service rep comes to your door, they should be

Favorite Recipe: Lemon Cake

Lemon Cake

- 1 box lemon cake mix
- 1 pkg Jello lemon instant pudding
- 4 eggs
- ¼ C. vegetable oil
- ¼ C. water

Icing:

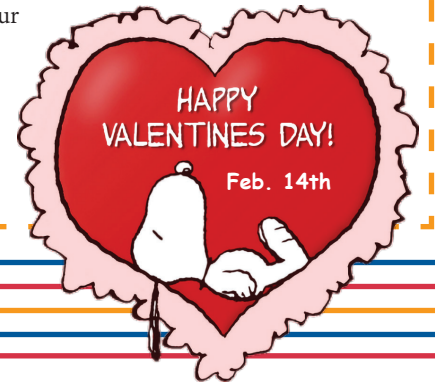
- ¼ C. orange juice
- 2 C. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbs. vegetable oil

Cake:

- 1) Mix cake mix and pudding together in large mixing bowl.
- 2) Add eggs, vegetable oil, and water. Beat 10 minutes.
- 3) Bake at 350° for 40 minutes.
- 4) While cake is baking prepare icing.
- 5) While cake is still warm, prick cake with fork and pour icing mixture over cake.

Icing:

- 1) Mix orange juice, powdered sugar, and vegetable oil together. Mix well.



wearing REC apparel and have a marked vehicle with proper identification. If something seems suspicious, keep your door shut and call the REC office to verify that someone has been sent to your address.

- If you receive a suspicious call or believe you may be a victim of fraud or attempted fraud, call the REC and local law enforcement right away to report the incident.

You can find some additional resources online through the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Information resource site:

<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams>

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy



2021 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0030/kwh



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