



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

July 2019

Youth Tour Presentation – Anika Wenstrand



Anika Wenstrand, daughter of John and Teresa Wenstrand of Stanton, was selected to represent Southwest Iowa REC on this year’s Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Anika, a student at Stanton Community Schools, was selected by an independent committee through an essay and interview process. She represented Southwest Iowa REC on an expense paid trip to our Nation’s Capital June 14-20 with more than 1,500 students from all over the country. While there, Anika

met with legislators, toured historic sites, museums and memorials, met other student leaders, and learned more about the history of the electric cooperative business model. Anika will be giving a presentation on her trip during the Annual Meeting.



Nominating Committee Meets



From left to right: John A. Overholtzer, Danny Peterson, Glenn Payton – not pictured Joe Kernan

The Board appointed Nominating Committee of John A. Overholtzer, Glenn Payton, Danny Peterson, and Joe Kernan met on Wednesday, June 19th and nominated the following members of the Cooperative for the office of Director for the ensuing term of three (3) years each, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held September 5, 2019:

Region 1 - District No. 4:

Richard “Dick” Ballantyne (i);
Terry Barnes

Region 2 – District No. 8:

Fred Hossle, Greg Wallin

Region 2 – At-Large:

Mark Herzberg (i), Jed Palmer
(i)incumbent director

John A. Overholtzer
Chairman – Nominating Committee

CEO's COMMENTS:

Save money with restored state geothermal tax credit

If you're looking for an energy efficient upgrade that will save you money on your electric bills, consider a geothermal heating and cooling system. With a state tax credit back in place, this HVAC option is more affordable than ever!

Governor Reynolds recently signed HF 779 into law, which reinstated a geothermal tax credit that was eliminated in 2018. Geothermal heat pumps installed on residential property in Iowa are again eligible for a tax credit equal to 20% of the Federal tax credit. With the Federal tax credit set at 30% of the installation cost until the end of the year, the state tax credit is currently equal to 6% of the installation cost; this state tax credit can be applied retroactively to January 1 of 2019. We're thankful to the Iowa Geothermal Association for leading this effort along with State Senator Waylon Brown (District 26) and State Representative Jane Bloomingdale (District 51) for championing this cause. The Iowa

Association of Electric Cooperatives also supported this initiative and organized electric cooperative advocates across the state to contact their local legislators.

Why is a geothermal heat pump so energy efficient?

A geothermal heat pump (sometimes also referred to as a ground source heat pump) is a highly efficient renewable energy technology that is used for both residential and commercial buildings. Geothermal heat pumps are used for space heating and cooling, as well as water heating. The technology relies on the fact that the earth (beneath the surface) remains at a relatively constant temperature throughout the year, warmer than the air above it during the winter and cooler in the summer, very much like a cave. The geothermal heat pump takes advantage of this by efficiently transferring heat stored in the earth or in ground water into a building during the winter and transferring it out of the building and back into the ground during the summer. The ground acts as a heat source in winter and a heat sink in summer.

Using a geothermal system is also great for your wallet!

Data from the Environmental Protection Agency shows that homeowners save 30-70% on heating costs and 20-50% on cooling costs by using geothermal heat pumps compared to other conventional systems. This translates to roughly \$400 to \$1,500 in annual savings. Installing a geothermal system involves adding an underground loop system, which makes the installation cost more expensive upfront compared to conventional HVAC systems. Homeowners can utilize federal and state geothermal tax credits to help offset these installation costs. Southwest Iowa REC also offers rebates for qualifying geothermal installations as well as discounted rates for qualifying electric heat installations.

To learn more about geothermal heat pumps and the costs involved, please contact Tim Pfeiffer, Director of Member Services at tim.pfeiffer@swiarec.coop or 888-220-4869 x8927. We'll explain the installation process and answer your questions. At Southwest Iowa REC, we're here to help you use energy wisely!



Phil Kinser

New Iowa Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit

Taxpayers can now apply for the Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit with the Department of Revenue for those who have a geothermal heat pump installed on their residence on or after January 1, 2019. Deadline to submit an application is May 1 following the year of installation.

Taxpayers must apply and receive approval for the Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit with the Department before claiming the tax credit for tax year 2019 and later. Claims made on the IA 1040 without an award will be denied.

Tax credits are only allowed on residential properties located in Iowa to the resident of the home where the geothermal heat pump was installed. The Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Completing an application does not guarantee you will be awarded a Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit; application approvals are contingent upon availability of tax credits in that particular tax year.

The application for the Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit can only be completed within the Tax Credit Award, Claim & Transfer Administration System (CACTAS). Visit the Geothermal Heat Pump Tax Credit page on the Department's website for full details.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Revenue is to serve Iowans and support state government by collecting all taxes required by law, but no more.



Good luck to all the 4-H'ers in the surrounding county fairs this summer!

2018 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report

By: Dale Walkup, Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors



Dale Walkup

2018 was a year of breaking new ground for CIPCO. The dynamic level of change taking place for the organization was

unheard of; yet I'm proud of how we handled the challenges and opportunities. I believe CIPCO is well-positioned to serve its members now and well into the future. I'm privileged to serve as your representative on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors.

CIPCO began the year with the unplanned announcement of Duane Arnold Energy Center's early closure. This carbon-free resource currently provides 33 percent of our energy portfolio and will take time to replace. However, forward planning by CIPCO led to the launch of Heartland Divide Wind, a 103.5 MW wind farm from which CIPCO is purchasing 100 percent of the output. It is now our largest wind project. CIPCO's continued goal of providing a diverse, 24/7 energy portfolio led to two additional generation announcements in 2018. We will be working with Clēnera LLC as they develop Wapello Solar, a 100 MW facility on 850 acres in Louisa County. The new project incorporates the latest solar technologies and will be the largest solar site in Iowa. Finally, the existing Summit Lake Generating Station in Creston is undergoing an \$85 million repowering project. The modernization project for the 70-year old plant will add 55 MW of efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines into CIPCO's portfolio, while retiring the steam engines.

Southwest Iowa REC and CIPCO are committed to providing safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our members across the system. Ensuring the quality

of our transmission lines is an important part of the commitment, which is why CIPCO implemented the New-To-Replace-Old program in 1986 with a goal to reconstruct the original 34.5 kV subtransmission system, work that is nearly complete. In 1995, the program was expanded to include the 69 kV system. To date, more than 650 miles of 34.5 kV line and 180 miles of 69 kV line has been replaced. Together with new technology and sound operating and maintenance programs, NTRO helps ensure that our power supply system achieves the high degree of reliability our consumer-members expect.

Financial strength is integral to our success. CIPCO's financial strength has led to strong credit ratings, rates that are stable and among the lowest among G&Ts in the Midwest, and access to borrowing capital to complete system upgrades and enhancements cost effectively. The unexpected early closure of DAEC highlights actions taken over many years to manage risk and position CIPCO to withstand the loss of such an important generation resource. Because of these actions, CIPCO was able to absorb the impairment loss caused by the planned early closure and keep rates stable. CIPCO's 2018 average system rate was the lowest in more than 10 years.

Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains committed to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. During 2018, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$419,334.48 to Southwest Iowa REC.

In today's energy conscious world, CIPCO and Southwest Iowa REC are committed to ensuring members are using energy wisely and utilizing

available options to reduce excess energy consumption. As a result of these efforts, CIPCO and its member systems issued energy-efficiency rebates that saved approximately 12,764,812 million kWh of energy. In comparison, the average house uses nearly 11,000 kWh a year according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That includes 372,345 kWh savings for Southwest Iowa REC members.

I'm proud of the actions taken in 2018 to secure CIPCO's position in the rural electric industry. Our actions have strengthened CIPCO's commitment to provide cost-effective, safe and reliable energy to power our communities, state and economy into the future.

Mike Stargell Retired



Mike Stargell, Line Foreman in Corning, retired on May 31st after 42+ years of service to the members of Southwest Iowa REC. A retirement open house was held at the Corning office with many of Mike's friends, family, co workers and community members stopping by to wish him good luck. We wish Mike the best in his future endeavors. Congratulations Mike!

Introducing Dustin Smith!



Dustin Smith began as an Apprentice Lineman in the Corning office on June 4th. Dustin is from Bedford Iowa and recently graduated from Pratt Community College. On his time off, Dustin enjoys hunting, fishing, rodeo and playing pool. Welcome Dustin!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: energy.gov

Red, White & Blue Cheesecake Salad



This berry cheesecake dessert is perfect for summer picnic plans with strawberries, blueberries and cream cheese filling.

Ingredients – Gluten Free – Serves 12-14

Produce

- 1 pint Blueberries
- 2 lbs Strawberries
- 1 Pinch Salt
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract

Baking & Spices

- 1 large (16-oz.) tub Cool whip
- 2 cups Powdered sugar
- 1 package of cream cheese (room temp)
- 4 cups mini marshmallows

Instructions

Remove stems from berries. Cut strawberries into small pieces (similar in size with the mini marshmallows) then set aside. You

need to prep your berries before mixing the cheese care mixture as it will start to set up quickly.

In a very large bowl, beat cream cheese, vanilla, salt and powdered sugar until smooth and creamy. Add cool whip. Fold in strawberries, blueberries and mini marshmallows then transfer in to resealable container. Refrigerate and enjoy!



Bravo! Thank you for making Relay for Life

event a success. Together, we honored all cancer survivors and remembered all loved ones lost. With your support, we were able to take action against this terrible disease.

- Gary Reedy, Chief Executive Officer for American Cancer Society

Thank you for choosing me for your scholarship. I will use it for college tuition!

- Hayley Whittington

Thank you for investing in my future by providing funds to help with my college expense. I am one step closer to achieving my goal.

- Hunter Poston

I wish to express the gratitude of our school and community in your participation in our Awards Day program at the Stanton Community Schools. We have a great group of seniors that will be attending colleges. Thank you!

- Sheila Mainquint, Counselor

I want to thank you for the retirement open house and the service award. It was a very good place to work through all the years. Look at the changes that have taken place in 42 years!

- Mike Stargell, Retired Line Foreman

Thank you so much for printing my recipe in last month's newsletter! I hope anyone who tries it really enjoys it as much as our family does!

- Anita Mittag

2019 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0029/kwh



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Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.