

# Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

October 2019

## THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR ANNUAL MEETING!



Youth tour winner, Anika Wenstrand, giving her presentation.

### Take Survey for Chance to Win one of 2 - \$100 Bill Credits!



We want to hear your voice – visit this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8929D3M> to participate in our member feedback survey. In celebration of National Co-op month, the survey will only be available through the month of October. If you don't have internet access, stop by one of our three offices to fill out a paper survey or request to have one sent to you. Two lucky members will have their names randomly drawn to win a \$100 bill credit!

**Congratulations to Willard Herzberg and Mary & John Overholtzer for being our FREE Electricity winners!! Willard won one year of FREE electricity and Mary & John won 6 months of FREE electricity!**



Pictured from left to right: Marilyn Werner, Board President, electricity winner Willard Herzberg and Phil Kinser, SWIAREC General Manager and CEO.



Pictured from left to right: Marilyn Werner, Board President, electricity winners Mary and John Overholtzer and Phil Kinser, SWIAREC General Manager and CEO.

## Board Adopts Changes to Bylaws

The Board of Directors has the responsibility of periodically reviewing the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Cooperative to determine if any modifications are in order. At the August board meeting, the Board identified several areas where it felt the Bylaws should be modified and approved amendments to the Bylaws. The full text of the amended Bylaws may be requested from the Cooperative if desired; but a summary of the revisions are noted below:

- There were several amendments made to eliminate language that was no longer applicable. Much of this language dealt with the composition of the Board and the manner in which the Board would be reduced in size following a prior consolidation. Since the Board has already been reduced in size, all of this language was able to be removed. Your Board presently consists of ten members who serve staggered 3-year terms.
- Another amendment removed language related to the designation of both a Chief Executive Officer and a Chief Operating Officer. This too was the result of the prior consolidation and ensured the managers of the two consolidating entities would have appropriate roles. Due to a retirement several years ago, there is now just a CEO, so that language was removed.
- Provisions concerning joint memberships were modified to be consistent with State law, so it references "spouses" instead of "husband and wife".

- The amendments expanded the language describing the eligibility requirements for Directors. The bylaws previously only required Directors to be members who lived within the district they represented and have the legal ability to enter into binding contracts. The Bylaws did not really contain any restrictions or other qualification details. The amendments adopted by the Board include restrictions on the eligibility of individuals who: have been adjudged to be guilty of a felony within 5 years prior to nomination; are employees or former employees of the Cooperative; are relatives of Board members or employees; have financial or business interests that create a conflict with the Cooperative; or have violated the law or cooperative policy, or who have materially failed to satisfy his or her duties as a Director.
  - Language has been added to allow for Directors to receive notice of meeting electronically.
  - The language describing other organizations to which the Cooperative may become a member has been modified to more flexible.
  - Other clean-up items were included to make the Bylaws consistent with the Articles of Incorporation concerning retirement of patronage dividends.
- Should you have any questions regarding the amendments adopted by the Board, please do not hesitate to call or stop by the office. As previously noted, the full text of the revised Bylaws can be obtained from the office.

## Annual Meeting Recap

THANK YOU! to the members and guests that attended the Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 5th at the Lenox Community Center. A large and enthusiastic crowd of members and guests gathered to enjoy a ribeye steak sandwich meal, prize giveaways, and the business meeting of your Cooperative. The main business item was the election of three (3) directors to a 3-year term each. Mark Herzberg was re-elected to the Board of Directors. Newly elected directors are Terry Barnes and Fred Hossle. Congratulations to those candidates for being elected to the board and to the other candidates that ran for a board seat.



Phil Kinser

We would like to thank outgoing directors Dennis Meier and Richard "Dick" Ballantyne for their years of service on the board. A big thank you to the Nominating Committee of John A. Overholtzer, Glenn Payton, Joe Kernen and Danny Peterson for selecting the slate of candidates and to the Election Committee of John A. and Mary K. Overholtzer, Doug and Julie Wallace, Joe and Lisa Kernen, Danny Peterson, and Corey Moore for counting the ballots and certifying the election. During the board's reorganization meeting, the following directors were elected officers: Marilyn Werner, President; Mark Herzberg, Vice President; Ken Peppmeier, Secretary; and Kay Fast, Treasurer.

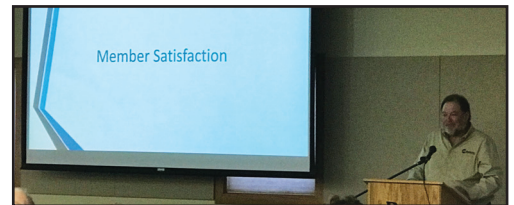




## BOARD APPROVES \$320,000 PATRONAGE REFUND

The Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved payment of patronage dividends in 2019. We will return 100% of the remaining dividends allocated to the members for the year 2002; 20% of the allocation for 2003; and 10% of the current allocation for 2018. The total payment will be approximately \$320,000. Dividends will be distributed to you in October and will appear as a CREDIT ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL for those who are still active members of the cooperative. Former members will receive a check. There are substantial savings to the cooperative in applying these dividends to your account versus mailing out checks. If you have questions regarding the taxability of these dividends, please consult your tax preparer. Patronage

dividends reduce the net cost of electricity to members. It is one of the principles that provide the basis for the cooperative business model. Our current policy on patronage dividends allows the board flexibility in the amount of patronage that will be returned to the members. There are several factors to be considered when determining this amount, such as the co-ops current cash position, equity level and major improvements needed to keep the system in good condition and provide all members with reliable electric service. Deferred patronage dividends are used by the cooperative to help finance major construction and maintenance projects. This allows us to reduce the total amount of long-term financing that is required, thus reducing the total interest expense.



## RECare Customer Contribution Fund

Southwest Iowa REC's RECare program makes it easy to help Cooperative neighbors in need this winter. While some federal and state dollars exist to help, there are still shortfalls.

Consider a monthly contribution to our RECare program. Your contribution – whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month – when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping those who can't afford winter's heating bills. To help, fill out the form:

### Consumer Authorization Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

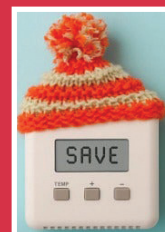
Mail to:

RECare - SW Iowa REC  
1801 Grove Ave.  
P.O. Box 367  
Corning, IA 50841

RECare - SW Iowa REC  
1502 W. South Street  
P.O. Box 391  
Mount Ayr, IA 50854

RECare - SW Iowa REC  
415 Broad Ave.  
P.O. Box 460  
Stanton, IA 51573

## ATTENTION ELECTRIC HEAT USERS:



Heat Plus rates  
went into effect  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

# Bravo!

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our Feed the Pack program. We are excited to get this program going and greatly appreciate your support for the youth.

Feed the Pack

REC, Thank you for the state fair t-shirts that I wore during my presentation.

Cale Clark

Thank you for sponsoring the champion pen of three trophy for market goats at the Union county fair.

Logan Findley

Thank you for supporting the Iowa State Fair by sponsoring the exhibitor shirts. I had fun doing my share-the-fun skit at the fair.

Rose Nippert

Thank you for supporting the Montgomery county fair by sponsoring the champion senior poultry showmanship award. I enjoy working with my chickens and ducks.

Rose Nippert

Thank you for the T-shirts, I enjoyed playing the piano at share-the-fun.

Joshua LeRette

Thank you for providing the t-shirts for share-the-fun at 2019 Iowa State Fair! We performed piano solos.

Henry & Madeline Bevington

Thank you for the t-shirts. It was really fun going there and presenting about bees.

Ellie Wetzel

Rec, Thank you for the interesting program about solar and wind farms at annual meeting. Most of all, we thank you for your electrical service and for all you do for your customers, especially in the difficult times.

John & Mary Overholtzer

SWIREC, thank you so much for the generous scholarship. My money will go towards my education.

Myles Greene

## Philly Cheese Steak Stuffed Pepper



1 pound 85 % lean ground beef  
1 tsp dijon mustard  
1 tsp garlic salt  
1 Tbs Worcestershire sauce  
4 green bell peppers medium  
8 oz bella mushrooms sliced

1. Cut tops off of the peppers and use a spoon to scrape out the inside, removing seeds and pithy ribs.
2. Place in a microwave safe baking dish, cover with plastic wrap and microwave for 3-4 minutes.
3. Remove the plastic wrap, and pour off any accumulated water.
4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and place rack to the middle position.
5. Meanwhile, heat a skillet over medium heat.
6. When hot, add oil.
7. Stir in the mushrooms, cook for 2-3 minutes.
8. Add the onion and stir, cooking until they turn opaque and the mushrooms have cooked 2-3 minutes.



## The X REcipe

1/2 cup onions chopped fine  
1 tbsp olive oil  
8 slices Provolone cheese  
Pepper to taste

9. Remove the mixture from the skillet.
10. Add the ground beef to the skillet, along with the dijon mustard, garlic salt, and worcestershire sauce.
11. Break it up while cooking, cook through.
12. Once cooked through, add the mushroom mixture back to the skillet and season with enough salt and pepper to your preference.
13. Lightly season the peppers with salt and pepper.
14. Place 1 slice of provolone cheese in the bottom of a pepper, and evenly divide the ground beef mixture among them.
15. Bake for 20 minutes.
16. Top with the remaining provolone cheese and broil to melt and brown the cheese (2-3 minutes).



Dear REC, Without your scholarship, I would not have been able to attend college. I've only been in college a short while but my experiences have been amazing. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Clarissa Hoffman

I want to thank you for the free electricity that I won at the Annual Meeting. It is very much appreciated.

Willard Herzberg

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source:energy.gov

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



Find us on Facebook

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**Board of Directors**  
Marilyn Werner, President  
Mark Herzberg, Vice President  
Ken Peppmeier, Secretary  
Kay Fast, Treasurer  
Fred Hossle  
Dana Morgan  
Jason Smith  
Deena Moore  
Terry Barnes  
Dale Walkup  
Phil Kinser, CEO