



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

October 2020

Werner, Peppmeier and Fast Re-elected to the Southwest Iowa REC Board of Directors

On September 10, 2020, the Election Committee appointed by the Southwest Iowa REC Board of Directors met at 5:00 p.m. at the Lenox Community Center to count the ballots received for the 2020 director election. The committee reported that 756 ballots had been received. The committee concluded their task and certified the election results.

At 6:30 p.m., Board President Marilyn Werner called the annual meeting to order with the only business item being the director election. After opening remarks, President Werner asked John A. Overholtzer to present the Report of the Nominating Committee. President Werner then asked cooperative attorney, Amanda James from the law firm of Sullivan & Ward, to report the director election results. Attorney James reported that the following had been elected to serve a three (3) year term:



Region 1, District 2
Marilyn Werner



Region 1, At-Large
Ken Peppmeier



Region 2, District 6
Kay Fast

President Werner then adjourned the meeting.

Thank you to John A. Overholtzer, Mary K. Overholtzer, Joe Kernen, Lisa Kernen, Chad Ide, Francine Ide, Catherine Fulton, and Fred Berggren for serving on the Election Committee this year and also to director candidates, Curtis Greene, Rusty Zimmerman, and Colene Roberts for running for a director position.

A video of the short (approx. 5 minute) annual meeting can be seen on our Facebook page and website.



Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters: **Save up to 15%** on your monthly electric bill

Source: Iowa Energy Center



Power On: October is National Co-op Month

Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” To me, this principle is the essential DNA of Southwest Iowa REC, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both

challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and Southwest Iowa REC has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees practiced social distancing, implemented enhanced cleaning procedures and worked in their respective office location to limit exposure to other crews. Unnecessary travel was eliminated and required meetings were held via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. In addition, we decided to not hold the annual meeting in-person but instead modified our Bylaws so that the mail-in ballots received would count

toward the quorum for the purpose of completing the director elections. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.



Phil Kinser

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. The patronage capital refund was approved and paid out several months early this year to help lower your electric bill. We also passed along timely information from our government officials and others on programs that could provide assistance to our members. Our Facebook page, website and monthly newsletter were invaluable for staying connected to you.

I tell you about all of these efforts not to boast about Southwest Iowa REC but to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here too.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

Southwest Iowa REC was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On.



WHY DO CO-OPS ADVERTISE?

Proactive communication is essential in any industry or business, and it's especially important for Southwest Iowa REC to communicate often with our members who own the co-op. In fact, the core principles of our cooperative business model include concern for community and keeping our members informed and educated. We use a variety of communication methods such as our monthly newsletter, radio announcements, social media posts, and our website. All serve as effective ways for us to quickly communicate important information with you regarding safety, energy efficiency, cooperative business and regulatory notices.

Here are a few other reasons we advertise:

1. Safety Awareness

As your electric cooperative, we have a duty to keep you safe from the dangers of electricity. Preventative safety messages are a top priority in our public communications efforts. For example, we remind farmers to watch out for electric lines and poles during planting and harvest seasons. We encourage members to call 8-1-1 before digging so underground utilities can be properly located. Throughout the year, we tell members to "look up and live" as they use ladders and tall equipment around the house, garage or farm.

2. Energy Efficiency

At Southwest Iowa REC, we're committed to helping our members use energy wisely. We provide multiple resources to help you find ways to reduce that electricity bill and become more energy efficient, but we need to promote those resources so you know about them. We communicate through various methods to let you know about rebates and incentives for energy efficient products.

3. Cooperative Business

As an owner of the electric cooperative, you need to know important information about the financial condition of the business and when to elect directors of the board. We publish an annual report which includes important information about the cooperative.

4. Regulatory Notices

We are required to communicate with our cooperative members regarding specific state and federal regulations. Communicating frequently with our members is an important business function that helps Southwest Iowa REC achieve our mission of powering lives and empowering communities.



ONLINE REBATE SUBMITTAL NOW AVAILABLE

You can now submit your rebates

online! Southwest Iowa REC is pleased to announce that our website now contains easy-

to-use online rebates for members and contractors for residential use. These forms can be found on our website home screen (top right corner) or under the member service tab of our website. This new process makes it easier for our members to submit their rebate information and get reimbursed more quickly. The forms may still be printed off, or be requested from one of our offices and submitted manually. For more information. Please visit our website at swiarec.coop/rebates or contact one of our offices at 888-220-4869.



Directors receiving their service awards recently



Pictured from left to right: Dale Walkup - 40 years; Ken Peppmeier - 10 years; Deena Moore - 5 years; Mark Herzberg - 10 years; and Jason Smith - 5 years

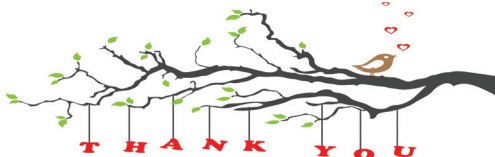
Bravo!

Thank you so much for supporting the Senior champion showmanship award at the Montgomery County fair. It means a lot to win this award and I worked really hard to earn it.

Alexa McCunn

Dear Southwest Iowa REC,
Thank you for awarding me with a scholarship. This will help when paying for college.

Sincerely,
Ryker Hickman



Welcome Connor Giles!



Connor Giles began as an Apprentice Linemen in the Mount Ayr office on September 2nd, 2020.

Caramel Apple Dump Cake



Caramel Apple Dump Cake: sweet tender apples are swirled with caramel and topped with a spiced cake in this easy to make dump cake with just FIVE ingredients!

- 2- 20 oz cans apple pie filling
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 & 1/2 cup Caramel squares candies (sliced in half)



The X RECIPE

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 3/4 cup butter

Optional toppings:
Caramel sauce
vanilla ice cream

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 13×9 casserole dish and set aside.
2. In a medium sized bowl, mix together apple pie filling, cinnamon and nutmeg. Pour into the casserole dish and smooth with a spatula.
3. Arrange caramel squares on top of apple filling layer and then top with yellow cake mix. Smooth cake mix into an even layer.
4. Pour melted butter evenly on top of the cake mix. You can add more cinnamon on top of the butter if you would like (I do!).
5. Bake for 45 minutes or until the top is lightly browned and the edges are bubbling.
6. Scoop into serving bowls and top with ice cream and caramel sauce, if desired.

Connor is from Mount Ayr, Iowa and graduated from Northwest Iowa Community College with an Associates of Applied Science in Power and Powerline Technology and has his Associates of Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology from Southwestern Community College. Connor previously worked for Southwest Iowa REC during the summer months in 2017 and was a recipient of one of our \$1,000 linemen scholarships. Welcome Connor!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use.

When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: www.energystar.gov

2020 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0028/kwh



Find us on Facebook

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Kay Fast, Treasurer

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