



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

October 2021

Wanted: Youth Leadership Academy



Are you a rural Iowa high school student with a passion for leadership?

Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Learn more at IowaYouthTour.com



High school students in rural Iowa who are interested in public service and leadership. Attend our October zoom sessions for a chance to win AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship! Be inspired to advocate for important issues and find out how locally owned electric cooperatives empower communities and power lives. Learn more about the Iowa Youth Leadership Academy at www.IowaYouthTour.com



Employee Updates:



Retirement:

Danny Stamps retired on September 24th, 2021 from the Corning location after 40 years of service. Congratulations Danny and enjoy retirement!



New hire:

Justin Murphy was hired on September 7th, 2021 as the Line Superintendent. Justin and his family reside in Mount Ayr. He is a graduate of Minnesota West Powerline program and has worked within the electrical field for the past 23 years, including Rideta Electric/Southwest Iowa REC and CIPCO. Justin is happy to be back with Southwest Iowa REC and is looking forward to the future. In his spare time, his family enjoys camping and attending their daughters' school activities.



Corning Line Foreman:

Les Helvie has accepted the position of Line Foreman in the Corning location. Congratulations Les!



CEO's COMMENTS:

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

We have a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive.

In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Southwest Iowa REC was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So, 80-plus years ago, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Southwest Iowa REC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us

to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Southwest Iowa REC. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Southwest Iowa REC is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which I'll elaborate on in a future column.



Phil Kinser

Annual Meeting Recap

THANK YOU! to the members and guests that attended the Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 9th at the Lenox Community Center. A smaller but enthusiastic crowd of members and guests gathered to enjoy a rib-eye steak sandwich meal, prize giveaways, and the business meeting of your Cooperative. The main business item was the election of four (4) directors to a 3-year term each. Jason Smith, Dale Walkup, Deena Moore and Dana Morgan were re-elected to the Board of Directors. Congratulations to those candidates for being re-elected to the board and to the other candidates that ran for a board seat.

A big thank you to the Nominating Committee of John A. Overholtzer, Carolyn Burroughs, and Charles Abarr for selecting the slate of candidates and to the Election Committee of John A. and Mary K. Overholtzer, Carolyn Burroughs, Joe and Lisa Kernen, Tina Boswell, Dick Jackson, and Charles Abarr for counting the ballots and certifying the election.



Pictured left to right: Winner of 6 months of Free Electricity- Doyle Handcock, Marilyn Werner- Southwest Iowa REC Board President and Grand prize winner of 1 year of Free Electricity- Charles Abarr

Board Approves \$360,000 Patronage Refund

The Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved payment of patronage dividends in 2021. We will return 100% of the remaining dividends allocated to the members for the year 2004 and 10% of the current allocation for 2020. The total payment will be approximately \$360,000.

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.



Thank you to everyone that attended our 2021 Annual Meeting. We felt we had a great turnout and shared some useful information. Congratulations to all our door prize winners.

2021-2022 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2021-2022 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

If you are not sure where to apply, Dial 2-1-1, or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to contact your local community action agency, or write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Capitol Complex
Des Moines, IA 50319

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$25,760
2	\$34,840
3	\$43,920
4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080
6	\$71,160
7	\$80,240
8	\$89,320

For households with more than eight members, add \$9,080 for each additional member.

2021-2022 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEN TO APPLY:

- **Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:**
October 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022
- **All other households:**
November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022

WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 19 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP RECIPIENTS:

Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

Grilled Pizza with Gorgonzola Figs, Balsamic Onions

Ingredients:

- 1 red onion- very thinly sliced into rings
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- pinch salt
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- pinch pepper
- 1 teaspoon sugar or honey
- 16 ounces pizza dough, divided into two balls (or divide into 4)
- 1 garlic clove- smashed
- 1 cup grated mozzarella
- 1 cup crumbled gorgonzola cheese- or try cambazola...even better!
- 8 figs- quartered
- handful arugula



Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 450 F or set Grill to high heat
2. Let dough rest on a floured surface 20 minutes.
3. In a large skillet, saute onion in oil, over medium high heat, stirring frequently 3 minutes. Lower heat to medium, add a pinch salt. Continue sautéing 10 minutes or so until onions begin to caramelize and become soft. Add balsamic, sugar and pepper. Continue to cook about 3-4 more minutes, until balsamic reduces. Set aside.
4. Divide dough and stretch into 2 or 4 very thin ovals or rounds.
5. If grilling, place directly onto the hot grate, and grill 2 to 3 minutes (until you develop nice grill marks) and flip and grill other side. Set aside and repeat, or if grill is large enough feel free to do more than one at a time.
6. Rub each crust with smashed garlic, divide and sprinkle the cheeses, top with figs and onions and either place in a hot oven to finish or return to the grill, placing on top of a sheet pan.
7. Notes: Alternatively, you can bake the pizza in the oven on a sheet pan or hot pizza stone, topping the raw dough with cheeses and figs, then placing in the oven. Bake until the pizzas are cooked through, about 9-11 minutes, remembering that the thinner the crust, the faster they will cook.
8. Pull out from the oven top, place on a wood board, sprinkle with arugula, cut and serve immediately.

Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.

October is
National Co-op Month!



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

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

GOOD TO KNOW!



ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Southwest Iowa REC all share something in common:

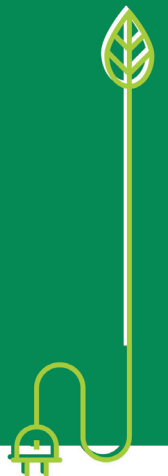
We're all cooperatives!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov



Find us on
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415 Broad Ave., Stanton, IA 51573

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